

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Community and Environment Committee

5th January 2010
Minutes of meeting

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor Sewell, Chairman
 Councillor Graham,
 Councillor Townsend, Councillor Pinkney, Councillor Kingston
 Helen Cogdon (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Smith, Councillor Myers, Councillor Brunskill

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were stated.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk said that Mr Keith Taylor (Resident) had sent his apologies, due to the bad weather. Mr Taylor had told the Clerk that he had been informed by Mr Stephen Jones D.C.C Southern Area Traffic Office; that the number of accidents reported on Stockley Lane since 2007 had been minimal. He will forward a copy of the correspondence to the Clerk for member's information. He said there would appear to be an issue on accident reporting as he disputed the figures provided.

The Clerk said following members instructions, she had invited Mr Jones to this evenings meeting and Mr Jones had emailed; saying he was happy to meet members during office hours and proposed a site visit accompanied by Durham Constabulary.

Resolved: The Clerk coordinates a site meeting.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the council held on 3rd November 2009, as printed and circulated were taken as read, confirmed as a true record.

Proposed by Councillor Pinkney

Seconded by Councillor Sewell

4.1. MATTERS ARISING

None

5. WALK LEAFLET INTERPRETATION BOARDS

The Clerk tabled the Greater Willington Circular Walk Leaflet for member's information. She said this had been produced through partnership working with Willington Walking Group who had taken the photographs.

Councillor Sewell said a meeting with Bruce Ferguson Countryside Management Services, Councillor Townsend and the Clerk had discussed the proposed design and content of the Interpretation Boards.

The Clerk said the proposal was for four boards at The Cenotaph, Rocking Tub, The Roman Road and Jubilee Meadows. Two Boards will be historical in

content and two on wildlife / flora and fauna. She said that she had submitted an A.A.P application for £1500 and a P3 application for £4113. The council's financial commitment to the project will be IRO £2612. This was **AGREED**. The Clerk said that she is producing a work brief for Mr Ferguson. The Boards will reflect what we would like people to remember about visiting our area. Councillor Townsend congratulated the Clerk on the Walk Leaflet saying it will help promote the area.

Resolved: To promote the Walk Leaflet in the Wear Valley Mercury and the Northern Echo.

6. SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENTS

The Clerk tabled the draft Shop Front Improvement Application Form and Guidelines for the Major and Minor Grant Scheme for member's information. She said that promotion of the scheme had been well received and sixteen expression of interest forms had been returned. She circulated the register of interested businesses for member's information. She said that this may be a good start from which to develop a Business Forum as all but one respondent had said they were willing to attend future meetings. Councillor Kingston supported this proposal.

The Clerk said the process of awarding grants would be dealt with in order of completed applications. Once the annual budget for the scheme had been reached any outstanding applications will be carried over to the next financial year. New applications will be accepted throughout the year.

Consideration was given to the next meeting. The Clerk said it was hoped to form a working group and explain to participants the requirements of the Minor Grant Scheme. Councillor Townsend suggested guest speakers who can support business development and a buffet.

The Clerk said she had been informed from Val Robson D.C.C that the Willington area was within the Urban Renaissance Rural Budget for next year however she needed to discuss this with relevant officers.

Resolved: The Clerk finalises the Application Form and Guidelines for the Minor Grant Scheme.

The Clerk coordinates the first Shop Front Public meeting in early February at 6pm.

To have the Major Grant Scheme in place by June 2010.

7. ALLOTMENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Councillor Graham said he had been working in Oakenshaw to relet the vacant plots. There was still an issue to be resolved regarding a plot with a pigeon loft that was not cultivated.

The Clerk said the new tenants at Oakenshaw were;

No 4. Mrs R Burrill

No 8 Mr J Fairhurst

No 9 Mr R Fairhurst

No 11 Mr Spencer joint tenancy with Mr Cummings

No 15 Mr Spencer joint tenancy with Mrs Mongomerie. Mr Spencer plans to vacate in the financial year.

Councillor Graham said the Clerk had received a request to provide additional car parking on the site. Members felt car parking in the vicinity was adequate at the moment however they recognised the need to for car access at the top of

the site. Oakenshaw had received two years allocation of investment in improvements to date and fencing of the new plots was the council's next consideration.

It was **AGREED** that funding will be prioritised for Park Top in the next financial year where improvements are needed to cut back footpath on slope, provide steps and a handrail and gate off access.

Councillor Graham said the Springfeild Drainage Scheme had been a success. Councillor Sewell said that due to recent weather conditions. Springfeild had lived up to its name and been mostly under water. This had been raised at the last Town Council meeting. After some discussion it had been agreed as an emergency measure to proceed with works. A meeting had been held with Charles Headley the adjoining farmer and a contractor brought in. It is hoped that this longstanding flooding problem has now been resolved. The improvements have cost £5750.

This was noted and **APPROVED**.

The Clerk said the Allotment Plot numbers were in the office and she would devise an appropriate method to distribute them to the tenants.

8. YOUTH REPORT

In the absence of Councillor Brunskill the Youth Report was deferred.

Councillor Sewell said the Aspire Youth Project had held its opening night just before Christmas.

9. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS / EVENTS

Councillor Sewell said apart from the Christmas Lights timer switching on fifteen minutes early it was good to see the beginning of a Christmas lighting scheme in Willington. He said the project had centred on the Town Green in year one but it was hoped to extend outwards from there into other parts of the Town.

The Clerk said she will investigate any discounts that may be available this month to see if motifs can be secured at reduced costs for next year.

The Clerk reported that The Christmas Motifs had cost £946 and the Structural Work £8841 inclusive of v.a.t.

She suggested that the Civic Carol Service is planned to follow the Christmas Lights Switch On this year and that The Civic Carol Service should be combined with the Community Carol event to hold one joint event. She proposed the first of December 2010 at 4pm. She said that civic dignitaries had difficulty attending the number of services they are invited to each weekend in December so a mid week event may be more convenient.

This was **AGREED** in principal. To be raised at the joint meeting.

The Clerk said she had submitted an A.A.P application on behalf of the W.C.A for Community Events to secure £2500. There will be a financial commitment from the council of Lights £10000, Easter in the Community, Summer Fete and Picnic in the Park £7000.

Events meeting will be held the second Wednesday of the month at 6.30 pm.

The next event to be planned is Easter in the Community. The date of the Summer Fete is to be agreed.

10. NEWSLETTER

The Clerk tabled the news articles and photographs compiled to date saying that there were fourteen items covered so far including a write up on planning meetings and yellow notices. The Newsletter will be completed as soon as possible. She thanked Duncan Leatherdale , W.V. Mercury and Lisa Metcalf W.C.A, for their help so far.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Pinkney said she was concerned about the state of unmade road in the area i.e. those in Sunnybrow and at the back of the High Street. Members agreed and the issue was considered. The Clerk said that; as the roads were unadopted, no one apart from the householder, was responsible. The council would not be able to meet the costs to make up roads from the precept. Councillor Kingston said it will be expensive to bring the roads up to adoptable standards for D.C.C.

Resolved: That Councillor Pinkney lists the unadopted road in the area and brings this information to the next meeting to discuss further.

Councillor Sewell said he had received an enquiry via Margaret Metcalf asking when bins should be put out for collection and brought back onto householders' property. Also if Street Wardens had any authority to enforce action on those who do not comply. Reported problem areas seem to be Hall Tce, North Tce, Commercial Street, Jubilee Tce and roads around The Victoria Club.

Resolved : To investigate further.

The Clerk tabled the draft Timetable of meetings for member's consideration, if there are any issues please contact the Clerk to amend.

Councillor Sewell reminded members that meeting had been arranged for the 12th January 2010 at 6.30 pm to discuss filling the councillor vacancy resulting from Councillor Sinclair's dismissal.

The Clerk said she had circulated a briefing note on the 15th December 2010 to give notice of this meeting and attached information for members that explained the legal process that will be used to fill the vacancy.

Councillor Sewell asked all members to attend and said that Sharon Spence will be acting as advisor.

Resolved: That a declaration of vacancy will be made.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

2nd March 2010, 18.30 hrs, Community Resource Centre.

Signed

Dated 02.03.10

