

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
9th April 2024

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor D Hales, Councillor C Hales,
Councillor Jordan, Councillor Savage,
Councillor Jackson, Councillor Berry,
Emma McCann (DTC) (Minutes)

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Helen Cogdon Town Clerk, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor McArdle, Councillor Smith, and Councillor Tinsley.
Proposed Councillor Savage
Seconded Councillor Berry

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in matters appearing on the agenda and the nature of their interest.
None declared.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident agenda items requested through the Clerk.
None received.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING 12TH MARCH 2024

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12th March 2024, as written, and circulated were agreed as a true record.
Councillor D Hales signed the minutes.
Proposed Councillor Berry
Seconded Councillor Jackson

MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

None.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS

New Planning Applications

- DM/24/00758/FPA - Unit 1 Brockwell Court, Low Willington Industrial Estate, Willington - Change of use to dog day care and training centre with creation external exercise area and alteration to insert external door

Previous Planning Application Decisions

- DM/24/00241/FPA - 18 Cherry Tree Drive, Sunnybrow - Garage conversion and front extension

Approved 18 March 2024

- DM/24/00225/TPO - 10 Church View, Willington - 1. Sycamore - crown reduce/reshape the height by 4m balance the sides to shape and crown thin by 15% - (CWUDC-3-1971)

Refused 15 March 2024

Previous Planning Applications Waiting Decisions

- DRC/22/00261 - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive, Willington - Discharge of Conditions 5 (Construction Management Plan and Method Statement), 6 - (coal mining legacy), 8 (off-site highways), 10 (Arboricultural Impact Assessment), 14 (contaminated land) and 16 (archaeology) pursuant to planning permission DM/18/03443/OUT (erection of up to 200 dwellings).
- DM/23/02084/DRC - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive Willington - Discharge of Conditions 7 (drainage) and 9 (pedestrian, cycle, and bus infrastructure) pursuant to DM/18/03443/OUT (as amended by DM/23/02103/NMA) in relation to Phase 1
- DM/23/02085/DRC - Land Adjacent To (East) Ash Drive Willington - Discharge of Conditions 3 (internal highway network), 4 (materials), 5 (surface treatments) and 6 (landscaping scheme) pursuant to DM/21/04140/RM
- DM/24/00171/RM - Land to The East of Ash Drive, Durham Road, Willington - Reserved matters application (appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale) within parts of Phases 1 and 2 for the erection of up to 112 No. dwellings with associated landscaping and engineering works pursuant to DM/18/03443/OUT
- DM/24/00170/FPA - Land to The East of Ashfield Drive Durham Road Willington - Erection of up to 20 dwellings with associated access, car parking, landscaping, engineering, and infrastructure

6. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION (MARCH 2024)

The DTC reported,

The Council began in March 2024 with a starting balance of £7,785.18.

There was expenditure of £7,928.72 and credits of £4,491.06, leaving an end balance of £4,347.52.

Proposed Councillor Berry

Seconded Councillor Jackson

7. TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET REPORT AND APPROVE FINANCIAL DECISIONS (MARCH 2024)

The DTC reported,

The budget for 2023-2024 had increased to £136,249.00.

There is a Spend to Date of £135,766.96 and Committed Costs of £520.00. This leaves an Available Resource on Budget of -£37.96.

There are some headings outside the budget which are also overspent. This is due to unsuccessful funding applications.

Proposed Councillor Berry

Seconded Councillor C Hales

The Service Level Agreement has been received for the provision of monitoring and maintenance services for the CCTV equipment within the town.

This will be £3,617.85 +VAT.

Proposed Councillor Jordan

Seconded Councillor Berry

One of the cameras is still waiting to be reinstalled. There are two options, one to install back on the original premises £1,400 but if this is not an opportunity, it will be installed on the column for £2900. This will be confirmed when the options are investigated.

8. RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

Councillor Savage reminded other members that the Northumbria in Bloom Spring Judging will take place next Wednesday (17th April 2024). She asked if members are available on the day, could they pop in at 11.30am to meet the judges. All the planters have been replanted with spring flowers.

Councillor Jackson let members know that he has ordered the hanging baskets for the town which include 21 for the columns and 28 for the businesses. Any businesses with a second basket have agreed to pay £10 each towards the cost of the second basket. Total cost is approximately £1,185 which is £5 per basket cheaper than last year. Watering of the baskets will be on top of this amount. Councillor Jackson was out on Sunday with a contractor turning some of the brackets on the columns.

Councillor Jordan explained the men's club is quiet at the moment. They had purchased a TV, dominoes, dart board etc. A phone was bought, and a phone number circulated for if people needed someone to talk to. Flyers were also made with contact details. Councillor Jordan also said she has been working in partnership with North East Kitchen Solutions to provide a free event for the children of the town. It is open to all children up to the age of 12 and will include mascots, face painting, activities, and food. Arthur Burnham is also providing fruit baskets.

Councillor Berry said she has been in contact with Northumbrian Water again regarding the water bills and she is hoping for a partial refund on allotment water bills. She has emailed the DTC, Councillor C Hales and Councillor D Hales regarding the hazardous allotment track at Oakenshaw. This is causing major impacts to the whole site. Councillor Berry has been looking into signage for the allotment gates at Oakenshaw. The signage would be made of wood by a local resident who would only need the cost of materials. Labour and installation would be free. This will be discussed further in a meeting with herself, Councillor C Hales and the DTC this Thursday.

Councillor D Hales informed members she had attended a Teams meeting with Councillor Smith and Liz at the Rural Design Centre following the AAP event held at the Cricket Club recently. A funding application will be made for some remedial works to be undertaken at the council offices which will include the roof. Discussions are also underway about improving the facilities within the building.

Councillor D Hales and Councillor Smith met with William Clark from Murphys Shows, and he handed a donation of £400.00 to the Council following the Autumnus Mabon event in September 2023 where he provided all of the shows for the event. Discussions are being made regarding an event for September 2024 and William Clark has expressed that he is available to attend.

Councillor D Hales expressed thanks to Councillor C Hales, Councillor Smith and Councillor Berry for hand delivering the annual allotment paperwork to tenants. This saved almost £100 worth of postage costs. The DTC said money was also saved by printing the allotment newsletters in house this year instead of having them professionally printed.

The Easter Event on Thursday 4th April was a great success. This included snacks and lunch, arts and craft activities, and small petting animals from Crazy Creatures North East. The handlers were incredible with the children and involved them with everything. Everyone had a lovely time.

The 5th June is designated 'Thank You' day. We are going to put in place a small event within the Town Council offices to thank unsung heroes in our area. Nominations will be requested in due course.

It will be 80 years on 6th June since D Day. An event is being organised which will include beacon lighting, flag raising and more. A programme of events will be drafted and circulated to members in due course.

9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT

Councillor Gunn commented on support for shopping locally and participating in any campaign.

Information was provided regarding the DCC Press release on funding for upgrades to the A690 between Crook and Neville’s Cross. There had been no consultation with Willington and Hunwick County Councillors, GWTC or residents regarding the priorities for Willington which Councillors Gunn and Tinsley had pressed for with Senior DCC Officers previously. These include the junction of the A690 and Hunwick Lane, the S bends in Low Willington, Stoney Bank junction, additional pedestrian crossings and footpath alignment and condition improvements on the High Street. Councillors Gunn and Tinsley have held a meeting with the DCC Senior Officer to discuss the reasons for the lack of any improvements to Willington and are pursuing these matters further. Councillor Gunn provide a briefing paper which is posted on their Cllr FB page.

Cllr Gunn also reported on Neighbourhood Budget spend of both herself and Councillor Tinsley which included North Dene improvements, traffic calming on Rockingham Road, birds mouth fencing to prevent unauthorised parking, and speeding on Hunwick Lane.

10. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

An application was received from Willington AFC. Total project cost is £700.00. Following a water leak last season, the female toilets have needed refurbishment to maintain adequate levels of hygiene and cleanliness. The project would include wall and floor tiling, installing a new toilet basin to replace the damaged basin that was responsible for the leak. They have already sourced a new toilet, floor and wall tiles but still need some additional materials such as skirting and box section, tile adhesive and grouting. They will need to hire the services of a competent tradesperson to carry out the required works.

Documents provided include:
Fully completed application form.
Club Constitution – unsigned.

The Club have not been able to provide any accounts as the previous regime in charge did not lodge their accounts before the new committee took over at last year’s AGM. They have also not provided a budget as they have had insufficient time to get exact quotations together before submission of their application. They are confident that the costings provided are close to what they would expect.

Resolved1. To approve in principle.

We need to have signed copy of the constitution and a copy of the budget report. Also, to arrange a meeting with the Clubs Chair to discuss matters.

Proposed Councillor C Hales
Seconded Councillor Jackson

Willington District Angling Club have submitted a request for funding. Total project cost is £2,200.

The Club has fished the River Wear at Willington for more than 60 years. The river will be stocked in two parts of 250 fish approximately 6 weeks apart. First stocking April/May 2024 and second stocking in June.

The funding will be used to pay for the supply of fish and delivery. Labour is to be provided free by the members.

Documents provided include:
Signed Constitution
Signed Accounts

The Club has not provided a Community Fund Application Form before this meeting, but the details are the same as the application form they submitted for the 11th July 2023 meeting.

Resolved2. To approve in principle.

We need to receive the completed and signed application form.

Proposed Councillor Berry

Seconded Councillor C Hales

Oakenshaw Community Association has applied for funding towards their Summer Fete in July 2024. The total project cost is around £3,500. This will include a large marquee to hold up to 100 people, children's games and music, quiz/bingo, hog roast and refreshments, singer vocalist and a magician.

Documents provided include:

Fully completed application form

Unsigned Accounts

Unsigned Constitution

Resolved3. To approve in principle.

We require the accounts and constitution to be signed. Also, we need a breakdown of the budget to show actual costs.

11. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS

None received.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The Welcome Space is now up and running again in the office. This will be open to all on Monday and Tuesday every week from 10am till 1pm. Monday will be craft days as the craft club is on Monday too. Tuesday will be games, puzzles, TV, reading etc. Hot sausage or bacon sandwiches will be provided to anyone who attends.

The owners of the building of Spectrum Leisure have been in contact regarding the future of the building and would like to arrange a meeting with Councillors to discuss. A meeting will be arranged to hear views.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2024 at 6pm followed by the Annual Meeting of the Council.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Council will be confirmed following the Annual Meeting.