

**GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting**  
**13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Carr  
Councillor Todd, Councillor Townsend, Councillor Elgie,  
Emma Mennouni, Community Services Officer (minutes)

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**1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Greensmith, Councillor Smith, Councillor Etherington, Councillor Graham and Town Clerk Helen Cogdon.

Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Carr

**2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

**Members are reminded to update their Declaration of personal and prejudicial interest register as and when required, as soon as is reasonably possible.**

Councillor Cogdon declared an interest in items 10 and 11.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Residents Agenda Items requested through the Clerk.**

A request to speak was submitted to the Town Clerk regarding dog fouling issues in the area. The person was not in attendance at the meeting but Councillor Tinsley explained the issue to be that of Toxocariasis which is an infection caused by roundworm parasites. It's spread from animals to humans through contact with infected faeces. Councillor Cogdon said that it is a Durham County Council matter and there is a big awareness of the issue. He explained how the Town Council had undertaken a campaign which involved the local primary schools, Scoop the Dog mascot came to promote the Responsible Dog Ownership Scheme where he went up and down the High Street with staff and local primary school children and also we held a free microchipping sessions as part of the project.

It was suggested to keep passing these issues back to Neighbourhood Services for the Wardens to monitor.

**4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

**Item 8.** Councillor Todd explained it was him personally who had received the letter from the Teaching Assistants and not Willington Community Action.

**Item 8.** County Councillor Gunn said she had not said Mike Barton, Chief Constable is not deployed on an hourly basis.

The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 as printed and circulated were then approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Todd

## **Matters arising (for information only)**

None

### **5. TO CONSIDER NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- **Castle View, 4 Stockley House Farm, Oakenshaw – Single storey rear extension**  
*For Information Only – Consultation End Date: 16 December 2015 – No comments received.*
- **17 Burn Place, Willington – Retention of shed to front**  
*For Information Only – Consultation End Date: 6 January 2016 – No comments received. Councillor Todd declared an interest as he knows the resident personally.*
- **6 New Row, Oakenshaw – Conservatory to front – No objections**

### **6. CONFIRMATION OF OUTSTANDING PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS**

#### **Willington Cricket Club, Manor Road, Willington – Erection of machinery garage**

- 21 Cumberland Terrace, Willington – Single storey rear extension  
*Approved*
- Milkup Bank Farm, Willington – Extensions and refurbishment to farmhouse  
*Approved*
- Goodwell Field Cottage, Brancepeth – Conversion of game larder to garage, 2no. rooflights to northern elevation, chimney stack  
*Approved*
- 27 Denewood Close, Willington – Retention of wrought iron fence 1m high  
*Approved*
- 28 Abbots Green, Willington – Two storey and single storey extensions to rear including doors to gable elevation  
*Approved*
- Low Willington, Crook – Variation of condition 24 of application 3/2003/0029 (approved plans condition) to substitute 20no. dwellings  
*Approved*
- Development site to the South and East of Willington Cricket Club, Manor Road, Willington – Provision of 3no. additional dwellings on site  
*Approved*

### **7. CONSIDERATION OF THE ALLOTMENT REPORT**

In Councillor Graham's absence Emma Mennouni reported that it was quiet at the allotment sites and no issues have been raised. Invoices will be going out first week in March 2016. Information will be collected ready to produce the allotment newsletter which will be sent out with the invoices.

### **8. TO RECEIVE THE TOWN COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT**

Councillor Cogdon said that due to the bad weather there had been many complaints about potholes. The pothole on Cumberland Tce that was reported recently was repaired today. The water board has also been in the street this week looking at the piping.

Councillor Carr said he had heard issues of residents having trouble with their TV signal. For information purposes he said if anyone else is having the same problems,

they could contact the FreeView Helpline on 0808 1313800 and they will offer help and advice and also filters if necessary.

Councillor Todd said that two residents had contacted him about the land to the back of their property asking if there were any developments. The land to the rear of High Street is untarmacked but it is also an unadopted road and the issues with traffic are getting worse. Councillor Todd asked Councillor Tinsley if he could contact the residents directly to discuss this issue. Councillor Tinsley said he will invite residents to come speak to him regarding this issue.

Councillor Tinsley said the footpath has collapsed at the North Dene. There is a problem with the footpath at the South Dene. The new culvert is fine despite the rainfall we have had.

He thanked everyone who was involved in the Carol Service. Also to the Masonic Hall for allowing us to have our refreshments there, the Methodist Church for hosting the Service and to DCC for the work they have done to provide the switch on.

An application has been submitted to the AAP for CCTV to be provided in Willington. Both him and County Councillor Gunn are putting money into this and Ron Hogg, the Police and Crime Commissioner will also put some money into it. We have applied for 20k from the AAP. This amount will provide 4 strategic CCTV cameras which will be monitored from Chilton Depot. The cameras will relay to handheld devices. Once the project is finished it will be passed to DCC for maintenance and upkeep etc. The ongoing costs to GWTC will be minimal, approximately £1500 per year.

Councillor Tinsley displayed a draft floor plan for The Market. He discussed the draft plan as to meeting space, office space, waiting area and toilets. He explained we will get the whole floor space downstairs, cellar, 1 outbuilding and also the back yard space.

Councillor Cogdon said we would need to look at a Lone Working Policy in the event of staff having to work alone. This is for health, safety and protection. It was suggested to have a controlled system for opening the office doors. The back yard is used by the residents upstairs but our area will be restricted.

The building work will start in February then following that the decorating and we hope to be in by end of March / April.

Solicitors are drawing up a lease at the moment.

We will be taking the signage from the front of this office to put up.

Councillor Tinsley said he will be getting the keys shortly so we will arrange a time that is convenient to view The Market and visualise the plans.

Councillor Cogdon said it is an exciting time and will raise the profile of the council even more.

Oakenshaw Nature Reserve still has an issue of the pond leaking. It will cost around 15k to repair. OCA are trying to come to some agreement on this issue before the lease will be agreed.

Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner will be in Willington tomorrow. He will be at the Library from 3pm then having a walkabout around the Town Green and possibly the Childrens Centre. He will be present in the Town Council office between 4pm-5pm.

The Christmas Pantomime has been booked for 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2016 at Willington Working Mens Club.

Proposed dates for upcoming events;

21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 – Halloween

6<sup>th</sup> November 2016 – Remembrance Sunday

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016 – Christmas Carol Service

There will also be an official opening of the new Town Council office once we have relocated.

As discussed previously, £21k has been earmarked from s106 for recreational use. This will involve replacing the old equipment on the Town Green. The costs are coming in at around £40-45k for the works. County Councillors are putting £7k each. GWTC will need to decide if they want to pay the shortfall to complete the works. This will be brought to another meeting once final costs have been given.

Councillor Carr asked if there were any plans related to the playground to the rear of Trinity Gardens.

## **9. TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS MONTHLY REPORT**

County Councillor Gunn said herself and Councillor Tinsley have had regular meetings with Father David to discuss what is happening in the area.

They have also had a meeting regarding the Teaching Assistants after receiving many letters. Nothing has been decided yet.

DCC meeting is next Wednesday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer published the government spending review on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The impact of the review on Local Government looks like it will be far reaching in terms of future funding levels.

The amount of funding reductions for 2016.17 to 19/20 will be circa 70million but could also be as high as circa 85million

There is to be a 3.9% reduction per year in real terms to public health grant.

Durham Local children's safeguarding board has prioritised work on child sexual exploitation since 2011. In the last 6 months a new training tactic to identify and disrupt offenders and working with AAP and schools to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation has been put in place.

There have been successful bids to the Childrens social care innovation fund.

Councillor Tinsley stated that there is a non-binding poll taking place across the county and all registered electors are able to complete the 4no. questions regarding the plans to have a directly elected Mayor for the North East. The deadline for responses is 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016. All councillors are encouraged to 'spread the word' about the poll and encourage residents to give their opinions on this important decision.

**10. TO APPROVE THE BANK RECONCILIATION**

The Bank Reconciliation starting 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 was £19,450.06 with credits of £1,981.00 and minus debits of £11,496.72 leaving a balance of £9,934.34 on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

Proposed Councillor Tinsley  
Seconded Councillor Carr

**11. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET REPORT**

The budget for 2015/16 has increased to £118,917 due to grant income for Christmas Lighting and the Pantomime. Spend to date £81,194.76 with a further £1138.50 committed. Leaving an available resource on budget of £36,583.74

Proposed Councillor Carr  
Seconded Councillor Todd

**12. TO CONSIDER COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS**

A Community Fund application for £500 was received from the Willington Methodist Church as they are seeking financial support towards the installation of a video and audio system that would be available in the community room for training and conference purposes.

This was **APPROVED**

Proposed Councillor Todd  
Seconded Councillor Tinsley

**13. TO CONSIDER CIVIC FUND APPLICATIONS**

Willington Luncheon Club will move into the new Methodist Church on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and would like to celebrate this event by providing a meal for its members so therefore they are requesting a donation from the Civic Fund. In February 2016 the Club will have been in existence for 14 years which is a notable achievement for the volunteers.

**Resolved1.** To approve £50.00

Proposed Councillor Carr  
Seconded Councillor Todd

A letter of thanks has been received from Durham Cathedral for their £50.00 donation.

An email was received from North of England Brass Band Championships thanking the council for their donation of £50.00.

**14. APPROVAL OF THE 2016/17 PRECEPT REQUEST**

A draft budget was presented to councillors in order to set the precept for 2016/2017. A precept request of £87,732.16 was agreed with an LCTRS Grant of £9,265.

Proposed Councillor Carr  
Seconded Councillor Todd

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)**

- A card was received from Willington Methodist Church thanking the council for the donation of £25 for room hire and hosting the Civic Carol Service. A total of £104.50 was also received during the offering at the Service.

- Residents to have their say on police funding. Ron Hogg, Police and Crime Commissioner proposes an increase of 1.99% to the amount of Council Tax which goes towards the police service. Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016, members of the public can have their say during consultations. Emma Mennouni will email members the details.
- Willington Methodist will officially open their new community building on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016. Staff and members have been invited to an opening ceremony at 2.30pm.
- Parkside Academy have been involved with Willington Primary School, Sunnybrow Primary School and St Stephens Primary School to do a song writing competition. Each school will each perform a song about either the area or their school and compete with each other. Members have been invited to attend the show on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 where the three schools will perform. Emma Mennouni will email members the final details once it has all been confirmed.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 at 6.30 pm**