

GREATER WILLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Ordinary Meeting
3rd September 2014

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Tinsley, Councillor Henfrey, Councillor Graham,
Councillor Smith, Councillor Etherington, Councillor Todd,
Councillor Carr, Councillor Cogdon, Councillor Buckham
Helen Cogdon Town Clerk,
Emma Mennouni Community Services Officer
County Councillor Gunn

Councillor Tinsley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Bennett and Councillor Greensmith.

Acceptance of apologies were proposed by Councillor Tinsley and seconded by Councillor Henfrey.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk had received no requests to speak.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ORDINARY MEETING

2ND JULY 2014

The minutes of the 2nd July 2014 as printed and circulated were approved and taken as a true record.

Proposed Councillor Carr

Seconded Councillor Henfrey

Matters arising (for information only)

None

5. TO CONSIDER THE ALLOTMENT REPORT

Councillor Graham said;

The hedge will be cut at Oakenshaw allotments this week.

Plot 47 has now been let and there is a waiting list.

Plot 35 is untidy. The tenant has been bringing pvc windows onto the garden.

The Springfield Hedge might not be cut. Improvements are needed to the top road on the site.

6. TO RECEIVE TOWN COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Etherington said;

The first draft copy of the Newsletter is now ready for members to comment on. The draft was tabled.

He said the Black Path Walk Leaflet is now complete and printed. This was tabled.

Councillor Etherington thanked volunteers who had worked with staff, including Caroline Lee. Photographs were supplied by David Coates, John Simpson and Stephen Longhorn from Willington Past and Present and Helen Cogdon.

Councillor Smith said;

She had received complaints from residents in Kensington Terrace regarding anti social behaviour. She sees this as a concern and feels that elderly and vulnerable people living in the street should be supported.

Councillor Graham said;

He thought that St Thomas Close Community Garden was an excellent job.

He had reported a broken seat on North Lane. D.C.C had removed the seating boards and not replaced them and left the concrete sides. He would like the seat returned.

The Clerk said Neighbourhood services have said this is a Highways responsibility.

Councillor Graham asked the County Councillors to work on this.

Councillor Buckham said he would progress the matter.

Councillor Graham said there was a refuse bin on the garage roof next to the Springfield allotments.

Councillor Henfrey said;

He had received requests from residents to site 30mph signs on Hunwick Lane.

Councillor Gunn informed the meeting that she had discussed this matter with D.C.C Traffic Officers and also the access to Sunnybrow School and the roundabout.

Councillor Todd said;

He also had concerns regarding speeding in Sunnybrow. He had attended previous meetings with the Durham Constabulary and D.C.C. which also included the road down to the Brown Trout. They had carried out speed monitoring with the speed camera sponsored by GWTC.

Councillor Tinsley suggested that this is reported to the PACT Meeting to be looked at by Community Speed Watch.

Councillor Gunn said;
The flashing signs at Hunwick School cost 6k.
Speed checks can also be done by D.C.C

Councillor Cogdon said;
The Green Dog Walking Scheme is expected to return late September.
This will involve a further two week programme with the Neighbourhood Wardens. To include targeted patrols and issue of Golden tickets leading to a prize draw.

The WWI Heritage Project. Staff are working with residents to create a database of information about those listed on the War Memorial. This will be updated in the office window as well as they work through the list with volunteers.

Posters asking people to get involved have been displayed around the town .We have six residents sharing their family history and involved in research so far.

In order to get younger people to understand the sacrifice made in the First World War. We propose to meet the costs of producing a WW1 Commemorative Coin to give to our primary school children to keep the memory of brave servicemen and women from our area alive. This will cost £639.00 excluding vat.

The intention is to personalise the coin with the G.W.T.C village names and having surveyed a selection of residents they have asked for a winding wheel or safety lamp design on the back to support the mining background and the role miners played in the war.

Artwork is being produced with Insignia who have been very helpful so far.

Plans to produce a Miners Memorial are underway.

Councillor Cogdon has met with the stonemason who has sketched some designs in response to our requirements.

He proposed to acquire stone from a local quarry and a plaque with an appropriate tribute or a list of miners that should be honoured and put on public display with dignity and respect.

Councillor Cogdon said It is good news that the Walk Leaflet has been published. He thanked Councillor Etherington for his design work saying that he knew how complicated the Walk Leaflets could be to produce. It was great to have the support and interest of volunteers. He said that staff had once again shown imagination by representing past and present along the route to produce something different.

Another Walk Leaflet will be produced when as and when time is

available.

He said we have been meeting with Clare Hubbard, D.C.C Civic Pride to arrange bulb planting with the schools.

Parkside propose to plant the quadrangle and look at a shared area with St Stephens Primary School.

The other schools will be invited to choose a planting area.

Work planned for late October 2014

With regard to St Thomas Close Community Garden

Councillor Cogdon thanked staff for producing such an innovative design.

Also Colin Curry, Jeff Talbot and Alan, D.C.C Neighbourhoods for their work on site.

He said the response has been so positive that D.C.C are talking about reproducing it in other areas across the County.

A big thank you also to residents who took part in the household survey and told us what their priorities were for how it should be used.

Also tenants from Rosedale and Victoria Allotment Association who were able to recycle the old paving flags.

The seats have arrived today and Officers have suggested that as they are quality benches, additional anchorage is used for security, this will cost £150.

Also that the fence is double boarded as there is currently a step rail as part of the construction, the additional cost maybe up to £150.

Councillor Cogdon declared an interest in the following report as he is employed by D.C.C.

He said that he was pleased to announce that the D.C.C Sustainable Transport Department has made a successful bid to secure £840,000 to bring the Local Motion team to work in Willington, Crook and Spennymoor. G.W.T.C had supported the application and offered to assist the introduction of Local Motion into the area. Local Motion means Move Everybody Get Active. Work will start initially in schools, more details will follow soon.

He asked for any questions and approval of his report. The report was seconded by Councillor Carr.

Councillor Carr said;

It is planned to finalise the book design by end of September. The next meeting is on

the 9th September 2014 with Clare Young. All are welcome to attend.

He is pleased to say that pupils are keen to have a say on the final layout.

As it was such a success we will be promoting the Halloween Spooky High Street for the second year.

Also introducing more community activity and involvement through Halloween Competitions in the Newsletter.

7. TO RECEIVE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Councillor Gunn said,

With regard to the Housing Stock Transfer there was a 52% turnout with 82% voting in favour. This will be progressed through Cabinet next week.

The D.C.C Financial Plan 15-16 and 17-18 has been produced following receipt of the indicative allocations contained within the Chancellors Budget Statement.

136.9 million savings are to be delivered by 2019.

The planned total savings are 224.4 million.

D.C.C. have approved the land transfer to S.L.A.M and Crook Community Partnership subject to agreements and a Business Plan.

Councillor Gunn said she was aware that the Town Council had discussed this in previously but for information the WW1 Commemorative paving stone for George McKean will be delivered to D.C.C and then put on temporary display at the D.L.I.

The flagstone that contains a QR reader will be laid where they lived.

D.C.C will be continuing its Lumiere Festival for 2015 which although costly has a 5.8 million impact on Durham and has created an international conference.

It is to return due to public demand.

The review of the Childrens Centres is to end on the 28th October 2014. Forty eight homes have been identified for further measures. Willington will not be affected.

The centres involved are those who have not achieved a good level of development against national standards.

Councillor Gunn said consultation is starting on smoke free play areas. The Clerk confirmed that the survey had been received and will be submitted.

The ongoing consultation on fixed play areas is planned to end mid October.

Councillor Gunn is working with D.C.C Highways regarding parking around schools and child safety.

Councillor Graham thanked Councillor Gunn for a full and comprehensive report.

He welcomed back Councillor Buckham and said that he hoped that we would now all benefit from his return

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

Councillor Tinsley said;

The Licensing and installation of Rev David Spokes will be held at St Stephens Church on the 20th September 2014, at 4.30pm. Guests have received a formal invitation.

The Town Council will host a Garden Party for St Thomas Close residents on the

10th September 2014, at 4pm. Everyone is welcome.

A press release is being organised.

With regard to Remembrance Sunday. Members and staff are meeting with Catherine Stannard, RBL poppy organiser and Lynn Bennett. To offer wreath collection and poppy box distribution services from office.

The Remembrance Day service will be held on the 9th November 2014.

There will be a commemorative Planetree planting ceremony with a commemorative plaque, prior to the service at the War Memorial.

The service will be led by Reverend David Spokes.

Brancepeth and Aycliffe Band are confirmed.

Hatton Traffic Management will organise road closure.

Town Council will cover the costs of the event.

The Annual Civic Service will also be held at St Stephens Church on the 5th October 2014, at 3pm. Invitations are being circulated. Guests are requested to be seated by 2.45pm.

A draft programme is being produced. St Stephens Primary School Children are to be part of the service.

Refreshments will be served afterwards at the Church.

Everyone is most welcome.

The Civic Carol Service will be held on the 12th December 2014 at the Phoenix Christian Centre 5.45 with Rev David Parry.

The Order of service being developed this may include the Brancepeth and Aycliffe Brass Band Playing music with the Christian Centre Band.

This will be followed by Switch On of the Christmas Tree Lights on the Town Green. Refreshments are to be served at the Masonic Lodge.

Project planning work has started on phase two of the Town Green Play Area this is targeted at the twelve plus age range. Staff have started

gathering design advice. Councillor Tinsley is to attend meeting to discuss potential grant funding.

Councillor Tinsley said that he would like to thank Councillor Henfrey, Deputy Town Mayor and Margaret for representing G.W.T.C at Civic functions whilst he was on other business and on holiday. Councillor Henfrey has shown considerable effort and commitment throughout July and August attending Bishop Auckland Town Council, Shildon Town Council, Wellington Care Home, The Borough of Darlington, Ferryhill Town Council and The Borough of Hartlepool. This is much appreciated.

Finally Councillor Tinsley said he was sorry to announce the sad news of the death of Councillor Pauline Charlton, D.C.C Deputy Chairman on the 26th August 2014.

He said he had met Pauline, who had served her community for a number of years.

The Clerk has sent a Condolence Card to her two children, as she had lost her husband the previous year.

9. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 7.00 pm