

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2025**

**Present:** Councillor J Collingwood (Chair)  
Councillors E Carr, M Goyns, J Huntington,  
B Miller, C Stogdale, L White

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Miller and L Stewart.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.**

**4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There was no public present at the meeting.

**5 POLICE MATTERS**

The Police advised that 88 incidents were reported in Wheatley Hill during January 2025 and included the following.

Criminal Damage - 6

Burglary - 8

Theft - 8

Suspicious Activity - 7

ASB - 2

Harassment - 5

Domestic - 13

Concern - 4

Incomplete 999 calls - 7

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**6 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor J Miller provided a written report on the following parish and countywide issues.

- CCTV was an ongoing problem. Councillor Miller intended to raise the issue at Director level at Durham County Council and make a complaint. Councillor Miller would also be raising the issue with scrutiny and advised the Parish Council to do the same.
- The PACT Meeting held on 23 January 2025 was well attended. Preventative equipment was distributed at the meeting and if anyone would like any additional equipment this could be arranged via Councillor Miller.
- Street lighting in East View was reported as being permanently off and had been repaired.
- There had been an increase in burglaries and Councillor Miller had met with the Inspector on the night of the burglaries. Further updates would be provided as they became available.

- A planning application had been submitted to install alley gates to the rear of Alexandra Terrace. This was part of the Targeted Development Plan that was created 3 years ago to tackle the increase in anti-social behaviour in the village.
- Councillor Miller had provided £500 financial assistance to the Wheatley Hill Banner Appeal.
- A damaged road sign at the entrance to Wheatley Hill had been reported and was scheduled to be repaired.
- Various concerns in relation to planning matters had been passed onto enforcement.
- Councillor Miller had requested an update into the missing handrail at Watson Close which would be replaced by Believe Housing.

Councillor Miller advised that the pre-election period, known as Purdah, would be starting soon in the run up to the County and Parish Council elections on 1 May 2025. Councillor Miller advised that he would continue to represent the area up until the 1 May and this would not change the way issues were reported to him.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

## **7 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **(1) Request for Financial Assistance**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Wheatley Hill Banner Appeal.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £330 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

### **(2) HMOs and Article 4 Directions**

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the Parish Council contacted the Chief Executive and Leader of Durham County Council outlining the Parish Councils concerns in relation to HMOs and asking the County Council to apply for Article 4 Directions.

Members were advised that both the Chief Executive and Leader of Durham County Council had responded, details of which were outlined.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

### **(3) PACT Meetings**

The Clerk reported that PACT meetings would be held on the following dates in 2025. All meetings were scheduled to be held at 6pm in Wheatley Hill Community Centre.

23 January 2025

20 March 2025

29 May 2025

24 July 2025

18 September 2025

27 November 2025

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

## **8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

DM/24/03412/FPA – Installation of alley gates and metal fence between 8 and 27 Alexandra Terrace at land to the North of 8 – 27 Alexandra Terrace, Wheatley Hill.

DM/25/00074/VOC – Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) pursuant of planning permission DM/22/00865/FPA to relocate plots 1 and 2 in line with plots 3 and 4 at site of former 3 to 5 Front Street, Wheatley Hill.

DM/25/00187/FPA – Construction of single storey multi-use hall within existing playground at Wheatley Hill Primary School, Wheatley Hill.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

## 9 CLERKS REPORT

### (1) Safer Streets 5

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had previously agreed to accept £10,000 offered under Safer Streets 5 to provide a CCTV camera on the Front Street in Wheatley Hill.

Durham County Council had advised that to enable the camera to be installed the Parish Council would need to set up an unmetered Northern Powergrid (NPG) electricity account to cover the cost of the electric for the camera.

Members were advised that NPG had advised that following an overhaul of electricity meters they no longer allowed unmetered accounts. They could provide the Parish Council with an MPAN number, but the Parish Council were unable to do anything with it.

NPG advised that there were 2 options if the Parish Council wished to proceed. NPG could provide Durham County Council with the MPAN number. Durham County Council would then give the MPAN number to their own supplier and invoice the Parish Council for the electricity used by the camera. Alternatively, the County Council could declare the camera belonged to them. NPG would then provide them with a formula to work out how much electricity the camera used to allow them to invoice the Parish Council.

The Clerk had advised the County Council of the situation regarding the unmetered account and they were unable to agree to either of the options suggested. Without an unmetered electric supply the Parish Council was unable to proceed with the purchase of the camera.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and all parties involved be notified that the Parish Council would not be proceeding with the purchase of the CCTV camera.

## 10 MEMBER ISSUES

### (1) “No stopping” Sign

Members reported that the “No stopping” road sign at St Godrics school was lying on the footpath.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

## 11 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures for all income and expenditure at 31 January 2025.

PAYMENT	PAYABLE TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
Direct Debit	E-on Next	Gas - Heritage Centre	49.73	2.49	52.22
Direct Debit	E-on Next	Electric - Heritage Centre	54.59	3.23	67.82
Internet Banking	Durham County Council	Machine Repairs	331.28	66.26	397.54

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Internet Banking	Madhouse Media		Website Hosting and Support		400.00	80.00	480.00
Internet Banking	Madhouse Media		Domain Renewal .gov.uk		75.00	15.00	90.00
Debit Card	Jet Retail Uk Ltd		Machine Fuel		122.86	24.57	147.43
Internet Banking	J Thompson		Reimbursements		35.93	1.74	37.67
Internet Banking	J Thompson		Telephone Allowance		25.00		25.00
Internet Banking	Wheatley Hill Banner Appeal		Section 137 Donation		330.00		330.00
Internet Banking	JAC's Accountancy Limited		Payroll Services - February 2025		30.00	6.00	36.00
Internet Banking	Payroll		Wages - February 2025		5,742.61		5,742.61
Internet Banking	HMRC/DCC		PAYE/Pension - February 2025		3,625.35		3,625.35
Direct Debit	British Telecom		Telephone/Internet		35.33	7.07	42.40
Invoice 93	Co-Op Bank		Charges		13.05		13.05
					<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,870.73</b>	<b>206.36 11,087.09</b>

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and the payments be approved.

## 12 RISK MANAGEMENT

The Clerk advised that there was nothing to report.

..... Signed

.....Dated