

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 13 JULY 2026**

**Present:** Councillor J Miller (Chair)  
Councillors J Huntington, L Johnson, B Miller,  
L Stewart, C Stogdale, L White

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Craggs and E Carr.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor L Johnson declared an interest in minute number 7(1) and 8.

**3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 June 2026, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.**

**4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair welcomed M Hill who was present at the meeting to outline her concerns in relation to road safety on the A181 and discuss proposed traffic calming zones on this stretch of road.

M Hill advised that she had been concerned about road safety on the A181 for several years, particularly at the A181 junctions at Wheatley Hill, Thornley, Cassop and Shadforth.

M Hill was proposing that 40MPH traffic calming zones be introduced at the A181 junctions at Wheatley Hill, Thornley and Cassop and Shadforth as well as the entrance and exit to the Jet garage on the A181.

This issue had been raised with Thornley Parish Council, who supported the proposals and, it was proposed to meet with Cassop cum Quarrington Parish Council as soon as possible.

M Hill outlined the following objectives she was looking to achieve.

- Support for the initiative from Wheatley Hill, Thornley and Cassop cum Quarrington Parish Councils.
- Develop a working party with representatives from each parish area.
- Hold a public meeting in September at Thornley Parish Centre to launch the initiative and residents' petition.
- Present the petition to G Morris MP to seek a National Highways Review of the proposals for changes on the A181.

M Hill was hoping to meet with all 3 Parish Councils during July/August 2026 to seek their support. Following this, it was hoped to arrange a public meeting in September to launch the initiative and petition. Once the petition process was completed a meeting would be sought with G Morris MP in October 2026.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the road safety issues related to the A181 following which the Parish Council agreed to support the proposals put forward.

**RESOLVED** that Wheatley Hill Parish Council support the proposals put forward by M Hill and further developments be awaited.

**5 POLICE MATTERS**

There was no Police report.

**6 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

There was no County Councillors report.

Members raised the issue of Section 106 money that would be available following the completion of the new housing developments in Wheatley Hill. The Chair advised that this was an issue that would need to be discussed by the Parish Council at a future meeting.

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

**7 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Requests for Financial Assistance - NeuroAware CIC**

The Clerk reported that a request for financial assistance from NeuroAware CIC was deferred at the last meeting to allow for more information to be sought from the applicant, details of which were outlined to Members.

It was suggested that a donation of £215 be made from the Section 137 budget. The payment was to be split with £120 paid direct to NeuroAware CIC and £95 paid direct to The Greenhills for room hire, food and drink once a date for the event was confirmed.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £215 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

**(2) Wheatley Hill (Parking and Waiting Restrictions) Traffic Regulation Order**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council which outlined proposals to be considered as part of an amendment to the Wheatley Hill, Wingate, Quarrington Hill & Deaf Hill (Parking and Waiting Restrictions) Traffic Regulation Order.

The proposals related to Wheatley Hill included the following:

**Church Park**

To introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions (double yellow lines) either side of the junction from Church Park onto the B1279 Front Street, to address obstructive parking and improve visibility for safe ingress/egress.

**Fred Peart Square**

To introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions either side of the junction from Wheatley Terrace North into Fred Peart Square, to address obstructive parking and improve visibility for the safe movement of all road users.

**Front Street**

To introduce a 'loading only' bay (between the hours of 8am - 6pm, Monday - Saturday) to accommodate the loading/unloading of goods to business' in the area. The current lack of formal loading provision at this location meant goods vehicles must unload from the live carriageway to the detriment of traffic flow and road safety.

**Johnson Estate**

To introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions either side of the junctions from Johnson Estate onto East View North and East View South, to address obstructive parking and improve visibility for safe ingress/egress.

**The Avenue**

To introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions either side of The Avenue, to prevent obstructive parking and improve access/traffic flow.

**Watson Close**

To introduce 'no waiting at any time' restrictions on Watson Close West, to prevent obstructive parking and enhance visibility for road users approaching the blind bend.

**Wheatley Hill Primary School**

To extend existing 'no stopping' restrictions and amend the timings from Monday - Friday, 8am - 6pm to Monday - Friday, 8am - 9am and 2pm - 4pm to prevent obstructive parking and enhance visibility on the approach to the existing school crossing patrol during peak school times (drop off/pick up).

The Chair pointed out that over the years the Parish Council had raised concerns in relation to road safety and parking at many of these locations. Whilst the restrictions were welcomed there was concern that unless adequate resources were available to police and enforce the restrictions they would be ineffective and fail to produce the desired results.

**RESOLVED** that the concerns related to enforcement of the proposals be forwarded to Durham County Council.

**(3) New Community Woodland**

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council which gave details of an area of land between Wheatley Hill and Thornley that had been identified as a desirable site for the creation of a new Community Woodland.

The new woodland would be designed and planted in consultation with the community so that it provided new potentially life enhancing elements for residents from informal recreation, venues for group activities, educational features, cleaner air and many more possible outcomes in the medium and long term as the woodland matured. The woodland would be planted on an 80-acre site over the next 2 years, starting early winter 2027. It would be planted with native broadleaved trees, have lots of new paths, and would be protected from misuse using many boundary features aimed at preventing access by unauthorised motor vehicles.

The Woodland Creation Officer had offered to attend a Parish Council meeting and/or provide a guided walk around the site.

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

**(4) Shotton Colts**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Shotton Colts Football Club to use the Parish Councils small football pitch for the 2026/2027 football season.

**RESOLVED** that approval be granted for Shotton Colts Football Club to use the small football pitch for the 2026/2027 football season.

**8 PLANNING APPLICATION**

DM/26/00825/FPA – Erection of one and a half storey detached garage with one bedroom annex to first floor and relocation of access road to side of new garage and associated works at 1 The Old Hospital, Bankdam Farm, Wheatley Hill DH6 3LX.

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

## 9 CLERKS REPORT

### (1) Allotments

#### (i) Allotment Sub Committee - 9 July 2026

The Clerk reported that an Allotment Sub Committee was held on 9 July 2026.

Members were advised that overall, the site was in good order. There were 3 plots that were in a poor condition, overgrown and untidy. Letters had been issued to the 3 tenants advising that the poor condition of their plots was a breach of their tenancy agreement and if not rectified could lead to the termination of their tenancy.

There were currently 2 people on the waiting list and 3 vacant plots on the site.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

#### (ii) Plot 16

The Clerk reported that plot 16 had been handed back to the Parish Council. The plot was offered to the next applicant on the waiting list, applicant number 3/2026 who accepted the tenancy.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (2) Summer hanging Baskets

The Clerk reported that the 9 hanging baskets purchased for the Aged Miners Bungalows, from Horns, cost £403.65 including VAT.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (3) Annual Insurance Premium 2026/2027

The Clerk reported that Zurich Municipal had provided a quotation of £5,471.88 for the 2026/27 annual insurance. The policy and quotation would be reviewed and paid.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (4) Cuppa with a Copper

The Clerk reported that the next meeting would be held on 23 July 2026 at 1.30pm in Wheatley House.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (5) PACT Meeting

The Clerk reported that the last PACT meeting was held on 9 July 2026 and no further dates had been provided by the Police.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the Police in relation to dates for the PACT meetings.

## 10 MEMBER ISSUES

### Overgrown Hedges

Members reported that the track running adjacent to the primary school field was overgrown with

hedges and needed to be cut back.

**RESOLVED** that the issue be reported.

## 11 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated together with figures for all income and expenditure at 30 June 2026.

| PAYMENT          | TO                        | DETAIL                             | COST             | VAT          | TOTAL            |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Direct Debit     | British Gas               | Electric - Heritage Centre         | 73.99            | 3.69         | 77.68            |
| Direct Debit     | British Gas               | Gas - Heritage Centre              | 8.13             | 2.31         | 10.44            |
| Internet Banking | ROSPA Play Safety         | Football Field Inspection          | 83.00            | 16.60        | 99.60            |
| Internet Banking | CDS Security & Fire       | Callout Charge                     | 99.00            | 19.80        | 118.80           |
| Debit Card       | Jet Retail Uk Ltd         | Machine Fuel                       | 121.02           | 24.21        | 145.23           |
| Internet Banking | Anglian Water Business    | Water - Allotments                 | 25.91            |              | 25.91            |
| Internet Banking | J Davies                  | Reimbursements - Cemetery Supplies | 16.84            |              | 16.84            |
| Internet Banking | Zurich Municipal          | Annual Insurance Premium           | 5,471.88         |              | 5,471.88         |
| Internet Banking | J Thompson                | Telephone Allowance                | 25.00            |              | 25.00            |
| Debit Card       | Amazon                    | Ink - Cemetery                     | 18.74            | 3.75         | 22.49            |
| Debit Card       | Amazon                    | Wheelbarrow                        | 43.82            | 8.77         | 52.59            |
| Debit Card       | The Family Cobbler        | Keys - Allotments                  | 6.25             | 1.25         | 7.50             |
| Debit Card       | Wheatley Hill Post Office | Envelopes                          | 1.99             |              | 1.99             |
| Internet Banking | Payroll                   | Wages - July 2026                  | 5,823.74         |              | 5,823.74         |
| Internet Banking | HMRC/DCC                  | PAYE/Pension - July 2026           | 3,755.65         |              | 3,755.65         |
| Internet Banking | JAC's Accountancy Limited | Payroll Services - July 2026       | 51.67            | 10.33        | 62.00            |
| Direct Debit     | British Telecom           | Telephone/Internet                 | 33.68            | 6.74         | 40.42            |
| Invoice 110      | Co-Op Bank                | Charges                            | 14.45            |              | 14.45            |
|                  |                           | <b>TOTAL</b>                       | <b>15,674.76</b> | <b>97.45</b> | <b>15,772.21</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