

**MINUTES OF THE 1058th WHEELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 4 DECEMBER 2023
AT WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL, WEST VIEW, WHEELTON**

PRESENT: Councillors Harper (Chair), Mrs Berry, Dickenson, Mrs France, Hayes, and Wheale.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs J Carr (Parish Clerk) and two members of the Public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Scambler and County Councillor Cullens.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councilor Mrs Berry declared a non-pecuniary interest in /12/23 Cheque for S Berry.

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING 6 NOVEMBER 2023

138/12/23 The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the County Council Public Rights of Way Officer and County Councillor Cullens had both advised that an enforcement notice had been issued regarding removing the gate across the FP0921008 footpath.

The Clerk advised that she had enquired about other Parish Council's Dog Poo Bins and had a variety of responses. The general cost of refilling the bins was approximately £1,000 per year. There was also the cost of the original bins and the installation to take into account. Most of the Parishes had advised that the bins were restocked by Councillors, and some did it when they were empty and some once a week. The majority of responses had said that although they had reduced the amount of fouling, they had not removed it totally and nearly all of the Council's had said that the bins were emptied very quickly. It was thought that people were taking as many as they could and not just using them for emergencies, so they were empty for a large amount of the time. Councillors agreed not to progress with the project for the time being.

POLICE REPORT

The Clerk advised that there was no report from the Police.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

139/12/23 Councillor Hayes reported that he had been approached by a number of residents about the replacement of the barriers on the A674 which were knocked down in the recent accident. The barriers were also very rusty so would benefit from the barriers still in place being painted in a reflective paint. The Clerk was requested to contact the County Council to ascertain when the barriers would be replaced and whether they could be painted in a reflective paint.

Councillor Mrs Berry reported that the pothole on Meadow Street had been repaired but there was another one developing lower down the road.

Councillors confirmed that the Motorbike had been removed from Whins Lane but there was now a Motorhome parked there that had not moved for a few days.

ENHANCING WHEELTON

a) Traffic Matters

Councillors Harper and Haynes advised that work was ongoing to repair finger post at the War Memorial. The site visit was still outstanding.

b) Recreation Area Enhancement

140/12/23 The Clerk advised that the Tree Survey would be undertaken in January 2024. The Tree Surgeon had reported that the tree was not deemed to be at risk of falling down but that he would investigate further during the tree survey. The Clerk was requested to write to Mr Melrose to advise of what was being done.

c) War Memorial

The Clerk reported that the contractor had confirmed that he would be undertaking the pointing of the War Memorial steps but did not have a date yet.

141/12/23 Councillors discussed laying the wreaths at the Remembrance Service and considered whether something should be provided to stop the wreaths from blowing away. It was agreed not to put hooks on the memorial but to request that the Clerk investigates a board that the wreaths could be fixed to and stored inside the memorial once the wreaths were removed.

PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning applications to review.

The Clerk advised that there were 5 parcels of land along the A674 that the County Council had compulsory purchased when the A674 bypass was built but were now surplus to requirements so would be sold off, with first refusal being given to the previous landowners or their descendants.

142/12/23 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should request further information.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENTS

143/12/23 All accounts were authorised for payment:

Mrs J Carr – Salary December – £678.32
Inland Revenue – Salary Deductions December - £169.40
Mrs J Carr – Stationery and Newsletter - £237.04
Replacement Cheque – Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall – rent - £374.00
Replacement Cheque – Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall – Grant - £700.00
Heapey and Wheelton Village Hall – Rent 2023/24 - £374,00
S Berry – Grounds Maintenance - £920.00

DD Easy Websites – Web Hosting and Support December – £27.60

ACCOUNTS

144/12/23 Councillors RESOLVED to accept the Bank Reconciliation, Receipts and Payments, Income and Expenditure and CIL Reconciliation reports to June 2023 as circulated.

GRANT PAYMENTS

The Clerk advised that Chorley Shopmobility had responded, advising how many Wheelton residents had used the service.

145/12/23 Councillors RESOLVED to advised that there was no grant funding allocated this year but that the Council would review the matter in the next financial years accounts.

CIL STATEMENT

146/12/23 Councillors noted the CIL Statement circulated showing the balance outstanding and previously spent.

PRECEPT

147/12/23 The Parish Council RESOLVED to set the precept at £16,197 which would be a 5% increase on last year.

CAROLS AROUND THE TREE

The Clerk reported that the PA System, Narrator, Choir and Refreshment providers had all confirmed their attendance.

The Parish Council RESOLVED that Councillor Harper would take the lead for the event and a new set of LED lights would be purchased for the tree.

HEAPEY AND WHEELTON VILLAGE HALL

148/12/23 The Clerk reported that the Management Committee of the Village Hall had advised that a number of them were due to resign from the committee due to the other employment workload. It was noted that there was a Village Hall Committee meeting scheduled for the following day and it was therefore agreed to include this item on the agenda for the next meeting as a priority.

Councillor Dickenson left the meeting at 9.20pm.

The Clerk left the meeting for the next item.

CLERKS PERFORMANCE REVIEW

On the Clerks return, she was informed that she had had a successful performance review and was doing very well ensuring that the Council was running lawfully and efficiently.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- Temporary road closure on Harbour Lane, Wheelton from 7 December 2023 to 14 December 2023.
- Village Hall Committee Meeting – Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 8.00pm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8 January 2023 at 8.00pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Minutes approved and accepted as correct.

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Chair

Dated