

WOLSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD
TUESDAY 10TH June 2025
7.00 PM
Town Hall, Wolsingham

PRESENT: I Rodgers, A Bonar, S Bittlestone, A Savory, D Brown, J Bartram,
P Gardner, J Bell, Sarah-Ann Baxter(Clerk)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 4 Members of the public attended

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Y Bell, H Yeulet

- 1) TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** Foodie Book Club (CIC), Lee Majhen-Todd spoke to the Council with regards to what the Club is about. It provides a community lunch every two months, held at St Anne's Hall, and is organising the North East Great Sausage Roll-off on 30/08/25 at the Charles Atwood. If any residents would like to get involved please contact Lee at fbc.enquiries@outlook.com
- 2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Savory – Planning Matters
- 3) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 13th May 2025:** Minutes were agreed as a true record
- 4) MATTERS ARISING:**
 - i)** New Toilets –The toilet doors, having been vandalised, are not operating correctly and teenagers are congregating outside and causing some mess/damage inside the toilets. This is being looked into with the contractor and CCTV will be installed. Cllr Savory will raise the nuisance behaviour with the head teacher of Wolsingham School.

ACTION SAB
 - ii)** Website – New website can go live but still requires some tweaks, the Clerk advised it would be sensible to keep the hold website visible for the time being as there are live public notices currently being displayed.
 - iii)** Christmas – Cllr Savory and Cllr Yeulet have met to make a plan for the Christmas events, if anyone would like to be involved please initially contact the Clerk. Cllr Savory has contacted DCC regarding the broken Christmas light.
 - iv)** Flagpole – It was agreed in principle to erecting a flagpole in the Market Place, however further investigation with regards to Planning permission will be looked into.

ACTION SAB
 - v)** Parish Council Elections/Co-option – Two candidates have been appointed, Julie Bartram & David Brown. As the two other candidates withdrew, it was agreed the empty Councillor seat would be readvertised later in the year.
 - vi)** Skatepark Signage – Awaiting designs from both schools.

ACTION AS
 - vii)** Waskerley Beck – Clerk read out a reply from the Environment Agency, who are still investigating the fuel spillage. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the EA again for an update. Cllr Gardner highlighted the Thriving Catchments project run by the EA and suggested the Council may want to get involved.
- 5) CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - 6i)** FreshWater Watch project - Victoria Routledge has offered to be involved in this project where volunteers monitor the water quality of their local watercourses. Councillors agreed for Victoria to carry out this project on behalf of the Parish Council and look forward to seeing the results of the monitoring.

6ii) Weardale Community Event Project – Alison Hirst highlighted this event which is taking place on 30/07/25 at St Thomas’s Hall, Stanhope.

6) MAINTENANCE WORKS:

- a) St Anne’s Hall– Fire Safety inspections have been carried out and highlighted that a Fire Zone Plan is required. The Clerk highlighted the quote given was £750 per hall. Council agreed this should be done but could the cost be looked into. The Clerk informed the Council that a new fridge for St Anne’s is also being looked into.
ACTION SAB
- b) Recreation Ground – The Clerk will look into getting a quote for a second gate into the play park area, as recommended by the Play Park Inspector. Cllr Savory highlighted the issue with dogs being in the play area and will contact the Neighbourhood Warden regarding extra checks.
ACTION SAB, AS
- c) Town Hall – Fire Safety inspections have been carried out and highlighted that a Fire Zone Plan is required. The Clerk highlighted the quote given was £750 per hall. Council agreed this should be done but could the cost be looked into. **ACTION SAB**
- d) Demesne Mill – The parking meter has had the printer replaced free of charge. The Chair highlighted that the white lining needs improving and could this be looked into.
ACTION SAB
- e) Thornley Woods – Nothing to report
- f) Allotments – Nothing to report
- g) Angate Street Toilets – Nothing to report

- 7) **Recreation Flower Bed** – Cllr Savory raised the issue of the flower bed near the entrance gates to St Anne’s car park, and suggested the school be approached as part of the pupils activity week. It was agreed this was a great idea and that the Council would pay for any plants required.
- 8) **Allotment Boundary Hedge** – Cllr Yvonne Bell raised the issue of the removal of the boundary hedge adjacent to the Mill Isle allotments and its replacement with a wooden fence. Council agreed as the person responsible had received permission from the previous Clerk, and that the work was completed to a acceptable standard it would not be appropriate to ask for it to be removed. However any further works to any of the Parish Council boundaries must be agreed by the Council prior to any works commencing.
- 9) **Public Footpath No.167** – The Clerk had received the decision notice on the appeal against the making of an Order to add footpath No.167 onto the Public Rights of Way Definitive Map and Statement, which was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Order is confirmed and the footpath will become a public right of way. Cllr Savory pointed out that the path is not yet open and will only become so once all of the necessary procedures have been carried out. A copy of the Planning Inspectorate’s decision letter is available on the parish council’s website.

10) Finance

- i) Payments & Reports for May 2025 – Agreed. It was also agreed to transfer £50,000 from the current account into the Barclay Savings account, as although this is used for monthly bills it would be sensible for it to be accumulating some interest until it is needed.
- ii) Tree Work Quotes – The Clerk provided the quotes for the Demesne Mill and the copse in the Recreation Ground, it was agreed that these works should be completed prior to the new tree survey being carried out. Cllr Savory agreed to look into grants for this

work. Cllr Gardner highlighted the tree growth from the wall at the back of St Anne's houses, however any damage caused by the trees is believed to be the responsibility of the house owners and not the Parish Council.

11) PLANNING – There were no comments with regard to planning matters

Date of next meeting – July 8th 2025 to held at the Thornley Village Hall, Thornley at 7pm