

WOLSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD
TUESDAY 8TH July 2025
7.00 PM
Town Hall, Wolsingham

PRESENT: I Rodgers, A Bonar, Y Bell, S Bittlestone, A Savory, H Yeulet, J Bartram,
J Bell, Sarah-Ann Baxter(Clerk)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 5 Members of the public attended

- 1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** D Brown, P Gardner
- 2) TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** John Keenan asked if 40mph buffer zones could be considered for the entrances to the village and he also raised the issues of the parking near Angate Street Toilets and on Hound Hill. It was agreed that Cllr Savory would bring both of these matters to the attention of Durham County Council as the highway authority.
- 3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Savory – Planning Matters, Cllr Bittlestone relating to an issue in correspondence.
- 4) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10th June 2025:** Minutes were agreed as a true record
- 5) MATTERS ARISING:**
 - i) New Toilets – Cllr J Bell raised the issue of the toilet doors not functioning correctly, this is a continuing issue which the contractor is trying to resolve. CCTV is now operating.
 - ii) Website – The Clerk has spoken to the website provider and it may be possible to provide an online booking system, this was agreed to in principle. The old website will now be deactivated.
 - iii) Christmas – Working group to be organised to include residents and representatives from the WI and Wolsingham School. **ACTION AS & HY**
 - iv) Flagpole – No update
 - v) Skatepark Signage – Awaiting designs from both schools. **ACTION AS**
 - vi) Waskerley Beck – No update
 - vii) Fire Zone Plans – It was agreed to go ahead with Peterlee Fire Services.
- 6) CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - 5i)** Bronia Gardner raised the issue of seats being installed in Angate Square, however since her correspondence the seats have been removed Cllr Savory to investigate.
 - 5ii)** Enid Martin raised the issue of indiscriminate parking in the lane and in front of 24-26 Market Place from the owners & users of the Black Bull. Councillors confirmed that the residents did not have a sole right to park in front of the property, but it was agreed, that as this area of land is owned by the Parish Council a letter would be written to the owners & manager of the Black Bull regarding the parking and placement of the waste bin. Cllr J Bell also suggested that the Parish Council could consider selling the land to the residents. **ACTION SAB**

7) MAINTENANCE WORKS:

- a) St Anne's Hall– The contractor is to measure the door for the replacement
- b) Recreation Ground – DCC have increased the contract for grass cutting considerably, it was agreed the Clerk would try and get other quotes before a decision was made. The Clerk reported that temporary TPO's had been put in place by DCC and that a further application would need to be submitted for any further tree works.

ACTION SAB

- c) Town Hall – Nothing to Report
- d) Demesne Mill – The tree works have been agreed by DCC
- e) Thornley Woods – Cllr Rodgers highlighted that the ragwort is again beginning to be a problem.

ACTION SAB

- f) Allotments – Cllr J Bell agreed to undertake the allotment inspection, Cllr Y Bell highlighted the rabbit issue, it was agreed that plot holders could place netting around the beds as necessary.
- g) Angate Street Toilets – Nothing to report

- 8) **Demesne Mill Wall** – Cllr Savory, on behalf of Alan Vipond, raised the issue of the state of the Demesne Wall along the entrance of the car park. The Clerk explained that the title deeds show that this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but is the responsibility of the residents of the St Anne's development.

- 9) **Churchyard Maintenance** - Cllr Savory, on behalf of Alan Vipond, raised the issue of the state of the open churchyard. The Clerk explained the responsibility for this area is the Parochial Church Council and not the Parish Council.

- 10) **DCC Toilet** - Cllr Savory informed the meeting that DCC would like to demolish their toilet in the recreation ground car park. This matter was discussed with pros and cons for keeping it open, it was felt it would inevitably be closed but would it be possible that DCC could provide some sort of contribution to the upkeep of the current toilets in Wolsingham.

ACTION AS

- 11) **Meeting Dates** – It was agreed that no meeting be held in April to allow the Clerk to concentrate on end of year finances and audit.

- 12) **Tree Work** - As discussed above

13) Finance

- i) Payments & Reports for June 2025 – Agreed.
- ii) Cllr J Bell raised the issue of cars not paying when parked in the overflow car park, it was agreed to consider a second parking meter at a later date.

- 14) **PLANNING** – There were no comments with regard to planning matters

Date of next meeting – September 9th 2025 to held at the Town Hall, Wolsingham at 7pm