

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

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 8 Members of the public attended

- 1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** David Sugden
- 2) TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** Katie Corrigan spoke about the Chapter50 project from Age UK.
Mr Gardner highlighted several local initiatives that might benefit the Parish Council and the Area. He asked could the Chairs Annual Report focus on the 10 priorities set out on the Councils website. Cllr Rodgers explained that it would be up to the new Council if they wished to keep those priorities or set new ones, but it was agreed that engaging with the local community was important.
- 3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Savory – Planning Matters
- 4) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 12th February 2025:** Minutes were agreed as a true record
- 5) MATTERS ARISING:**
 - i) New Toilets –The toilets are now open
 - ii) Website – The website is currently being developed. Any photographs that people may have can be forwarded to the Clerk.
 - iii) Christmas – Cllr Rodgers suggested looking into up lighting the trees at St Anne’s as an alternative solution and Cllr Savory suggested having a Christmas Tree near the entrance.
 - iv) Flagpole – Nothing to report
 - v) Wear Bridge Repairs – Works are due to commence in early May. Cllr Savory requested that workers from the Creative World company be allowed to park at the Recreation Ground when the bridge is closed – this was agreed and vehicle number plates would be supplied to the Clerk.
 - vi) Parish Council Elections – As there were only 8 nominations there won’t be an election. The Council will need to co-opt to fill the remaining 3 seats.
- 6) CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - i) Letters to Heaven Post Box – Charlotte Lee has asked if she could install a Letters To Heaven postbox in the Recreation Ground. Councillors considered this and concerns were raised regarding the confidentiality of the contents, future maintenance/vandalism and the perception that it was the Parish Council’s responsibility. The request was declined.
 - ii) Crepe Expectations Complaint – Georgia Craggs has expressed her concerns over the parking & location of the Crepe Van in the Market Place. It was agreed to contact Crepe Expectations and ask that they do not block the pedestrian dropped kerbs, but they would still be encouraged to trade in the Market Place.
 - iii) Overnight Camping in the Recreation Ground – Mrs Watt had written and attended the meeting to complain about an incident of overnight camping in the overflow car park of the Recreation Ground. She requested that the main gate be closed, Cllr

Rodgers pointed out that they usually are but as the Council rely on volunteers it was not always possible. It would be difficult to police any further incidents and the Parish Council have no authority to move people on, however the situation would be monitored. Cllr Savory would also speak to the Police beat officer.

7) MAINTENANCE WORKS:

- a) St Anne's Hall– Nothing to report
- b) Recreation Ground – The skatepark sign needs replacing, it was agreed Cllr Savory would approach the two local schools to design a new sign.
- c) Town Hall – Nothing to report
- d) Demesne Mill – Gillian Calvert has given the noticeboard a spring clean and has requested residents do not stick notices on the outside of the glass as it makes it very difficult to clean. A resident has requested a memorial plaque be placed on a seat in the Demesne Mill, this was agreed.
- e) Thornley Woods – The damaged fencing has been repaired.
- f) Allotments – The pipework to the tap has been damaged underground, this will be repaired when a contractor can fit it in.
- g) Angate Street Toilets – Anti-social behaviour has been occurring again, with alcohol being consumed. It was agreed this would be monitored with a possibility of revising opening times. The Community Police have agreed to carryout a walk around the town to highlight any further areas.

- 8) Policy Reviews** - Annual review of policies took place and these were agreed. It was also agreed that policies would be reviewed annually.

9) Finance

- i) Payments & Reports for March 2025 – Agreed

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

Date of next meeting – May 13th 2025 to held at the Town Hall, Wolsingham at 7pm