

**WOLSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY 12TH February 2025
7.00 PM
Town Hall, Wolsingham**

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 13 Members of the public attended

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Helen Yeulet, David Sugden

2) TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

Judith Elliott reported an incident with a dog chasing children at the skatepark, she had reported this to the Police but asked if fencing could be erected around the skatepark and also enquired as to the Council's Safe Guarding policy. Cllr Savory advised she would contact the Neighbourhood Warden and the Council will consider more signage. It was generally thought fencing the skatepark would not be practical or cost effective.

Ian Watson asked if any further updates were available regarding the trees at the Steelworks site. Cllr Savory advised that the trees had been removed due to the level of contamination & showed Mr Watson the proposed Landscaping plan with the proposed new trees.

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr Savory – Planning Matters

4) MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14th January 2025: Minutes were agreed as a true record

5) MATTERS ARISING:

- i) New Toilets –S106 funding has been approved for the footpath, the Clerk will contact the contractor. **Action SAB**
- ii) Website – The working group will correlate the information to go on the new website. **Action SAB, DS, SB**
- iii) Christmas – Cllr Savory having spoken to DCC advised that to light the trees in St Anne's would be more than £20,000 which would be a complicated project due to electrical supply, health of trees, future maintenance etc. It was agreed the date for Christmas events this year would be 28/11/25.

iv) Flagpole – No update

6) CORRESPONDENCE: None

7) MAINTENANCE WORKS:

- a) St Anne's Hall– Issue with alarm system due to the storm & power cut, which has now been sorted. Thanks to the Caretaker & Robert Hopkinson for their help with this issue over the weekend.
- b) Recreation Ground – Nothing to report
- c) Town Hall – The library staff had smelt gas in the staff room, this has been investigated by heating engineers and no issue found.
- d) Demesne Mill – Parking meter has not been functioning, an Engineer is attending next week.
- e) Thornley Woods – Clerk to chase up estimate for fencing works. **Action SAB**
- f) Allotments – One plot has become vacant.
- g) Angate Street Toilets – Nothing to report.

- 8) Playground Inspection Report – A copy had been sent to each Councillor. It was agreed that the playground equipment will need updating, but it will be up to the new Council in May to decide what takes priority & how funding is spent. There is likely to be funding available from AAP & S106 monies.
- 9) Wear Bridge Repairs – The Clerk has written twice to DCC to obtain an update without any success. Cllr Savory confirmed there was no agreed date for the works to commence. David Ramsey asked if the bridge would remain open to cyclists & walkers during the works. Cllr Savory confirmed access has been considered but would provide an update.

Action AS

10) Finance

- i) Payments & Reports for January 2025 – Agreed.

11) PLANNING – DM/24/03451/FPA – Proposed 2 no. semi-detached dwellings at Chapel Walls, Uppertown, Wolsingham.

Representations were made by four residents who were objecting to the development. Issues included original planning was for one house this new application is for two, size & location of the proposed dwellings, extra traffic, lack of parking, drainage issues, amenity of neighbours, design not in keeping. They asked could they have the support of the Parish Council, it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit a comment on the planning portal raising the concerns of the residents.

No further comments were made regarding planning.

Date of next meeting – March 11th 2025 to held at the Town Hall, Wolsingham at 7pm