



**5. REPRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS :**

There were no residents in attendance

**6. MINUTES :**

**Agreed that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2005 (a copy of which had been sent previously to each member) be Approved and Signed as a correct record.**

**7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT :**

Taking up Brian Graham's points on refuse disposal, County Councillor Carroll explained that the costs of landfill were rising and capacity was reducing. Digestors, operating by using microbes, were able to cope with most types of waste. Government legislation was being sought to encourage manufacturers to recycle their own waste products, and possibly to re-introduce the old style brown paper shopping bags to replace plastic. More landfill sites were still needed, and Brian Graham asked that more disposal facilities were needed for Wear Valley, since present sites were often too distant. County Councillor Carroll undertook to take this up with the County Council, and understood that a household amenity site was being considered in the Wolsingham area..

**8. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS :**

a) Councillor R.Grogan

Councillor Grogan reported that the District Council was awaiting Government go-ahead for the transfer of its housing stock to the ALMO organisation, and to provide the necessary finance to bring the houses to an acceptable standard, some £27m in all. He felt that Home Housing's ASBO policy was still progressing well. He also advised the meeting that the replacement public seat was now in place at the end of Bridge Street, thanks to the efforts of Ken McGurk of Groundwork.

b) Councillor J.Gale

Councillor Gale reported that the initial problems with the wheely bins were gradually being overcome, but that fly tipping was still a problem. He felt that liaison with the County Council as the disposal authority was essential. He further reported that the new surface on the recreation area was due to be painted in the very near future.

**9. REFURBISHMENT OF WATER MAINS :**

The Chairman reported on further meetings with Northumbrian Water, Durham County Highways and McAlpines. Progress with the work was steady but satisfactory, and was currently centred near the Church Lane junction with the A68. There were still problems with the traffic lights at the Smith Street junction, and this problem needed to be addressed. Concern was expressed at what appeared to be an oil spillage in High Street, near the Chinese takeaway, and the Contractors undertook to investigate this. Contractors were still confident of an earlier finish to the project than had originally been expected. The Chairman's report was Noted,

**10. LAND ADJOINING MILLENNIUM GREEN :**

Councillor Flynn reported on a meeting which she and the Clerk had attended with the Council's Solicitor, to consider the draft form of contract which had been submitted by the County Council. A number of issues regarding public footpaths in the vicinity were raised, as well as some environmental concerns. The Solicitor undertook to clarify these matters with the County Council. At his request, and in order to progress the matter it was

**Agreed : That the Council re-affirm its intention to proceed with the project.**

**11. WEAR VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL – PARISH COUNCIL FORUM :**

The meeting considered as Appendix 1 the report by the Clerk on the proposal by the District Council to establish a Forum to act as a consultation process. The proposal had been recommended to the Council, but not yet confirmed. The report was Noted.

**12. BATHS BUS :**

The Clerk reported that only one quotation from the four requested had been received in connection with the cost of the hire of a 31 seat coach on six Wednesdays during the school holiday period. The quotation was in the sum of £110 per trip, which the Clerk revealed had been submitted by Weardale Motor Services of Stanhope.

**Agreed : That the quotation in the sum of £110 per trip submitted by Weardale Motor Services be accepted.**

**13. FLY TIPPING – HIGH STOOP :**

The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from the District Council, which indicated that an inspection had been undertaken, and minor levels of tipping had been found, which had been dealt with by the street cleansing team. The response revealed that this area was the subject of a weekly check by the District Council, when any illegal deposits were removed. The report was Noted.

**14. DRY STONE WALLING :**

The Clerk reported that a member had handed him a leaflet from the Dry Stone Walling Association of Great Britain, and had suggested that consideration might be given to the arranging of (say) a weekend course for interested persons.

**Agreed : That the provision of such a course be investigated.**

**15. WEAR VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK :**

The Clerk reported verbally on the receipt of a document setting out the details of this programme, which would eventually replace the existing District Local Plan system. A main feature of the programme was the extension of the public consultation process, and the comments of individual parish councils were sought. In view of the short consultation period, it was

**Agreed : a) That the Clerk respond appropriately to the document.**

**b) That further consideration be given to this matter at the July meeting.**

**16. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – URBAN & RURAL RENAISSANCE :**

The Clerk reported that following correspondence on this matter, an invitation had been received to attend a meeting with Chris Tunstall, the County Council's Assistant Chief Executive (Environment & Change) to discuss the points raised. The meeting would take place at County Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Agreed : That the meeting be attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk.**

**17. TRAFFIC SPEED – A68 :**

The Clerk reported receipt of correspondence from Durham Constabulary setting out details and results of the recent survey. The report was Noted.

**18. SECTION 137 APPLICATION :**

The Clerk submitted an application from the County of Durham School Benevolent Fund for a contribution towards its scheme to provide winter clothing for needy children in the county.

**Agreed : That the application be Received.**

**19. COMMUNITY FUND – APPLICATIONS :**

The Clerk submitted a joint application from the Community Association and the Community Partnership for assistance towards two outings to Hamsterley Forest for young people during the Summer holidays. It was felt that the applications contained inadequate information to allow a decision to be made, and it was

**Agreed : a) That more detailed information be requested.**

**b) That a meeting of the Finance Committee be convened to consider the application further.**

**20. PLANNING MATTERS :**

The following new applications were Noted without comment :

- a) Proposed (outline) dwelling on land between 34/35 Coronation Avenue
- b) Proposed 2x4 bedroomed houses and 2x3 bedroomed houses – Campbell Street
- c) Proposed gantry sign and flagpoles – Ridley Exhausts, Smith Street
- d) Proposed house – Plot 5, Naismith Mews
- e) Proposed listed building consent – Tow Law Auction Mart
- f) Proposed change of use from commercial to domestic – 32 High Street
- g) Proposed change of use from shops to dwelling – 12 Castle Bank

**21. QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY :**

The Clerk reported that Dr. Judith Bush of Newcastle University had now indicated that she would attend the July meeting of the Council to submit her findings and to respond to members' queries. The report was Noted.

**22. COUNCILLOR OLIVE BROWN – WEAR VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL :**

At the Chairman's suggestion, it was

**Agreed :That a letter of appreciation be sent to Councillor Brown to mark her ten years of service as Leader of the District Council.**

**23. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT :**

**Agreed : That Approval be given for the payment of Invoices Nos. 014 to 021 in the sum of £ 2248.63**

**24. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT :**

- a) The Chairman mooted the idea of a dedicated Town Council web site, and suggested that the matter be investigated.
- b) The Chairman suggested that a review of the Clerk's hours of duty be undertaken, in the light of the increase in Parish/Town Councils' workload, and that initially, this be carried out at the forthcoming meeting of the Finance Committee

**25. CLERK'S REPORT :**

- a) The Clerk reported briefly on the recent meeting with Max Colby, Acting Head of Community Services at Wear Valley District Council, in connection with the proposed development of the recreation area, and advised members of the action which was pending to secure funding for a feasibility study, which had been agreed in principle.

**26. DATE OF NEXT MEETING :**

It was Noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Council would be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005.