

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 14th DECEMBER 2020

Present: Councillors E Mason (Chair), S Williams, J Cairns, J Bradley, J Higgins, H Smith

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Daly and P Mason.

The Chairman welcomed Heidi Smith who was attending her first meeting as a Councillor who signed a declaration of acceptance of office and a notification of pecuniary and other interests.

2020/12/14/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no representatives of the public present.

2020/12/14/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 12th October 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

2020/12/14/03

POLICE MATTERS

While there was no Police presence the Clerk presented a summary of a crime report covering the period from 3 November to 3 December 2020 which included incidents summarised as follows:

- 7 reports of anti-social behaviour- environmental
- 7 reports of anti-social behaviour- nuisance
- 1 report of ant-social behaviour- personal
- 1 theft from a vehicle
- 3 thefts of a vehicle
- 4 vehicle damage
- 2 burglaries
- 5 criminal damages

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

2020/12/14/04

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting he had been liaising with the Vicar at the Holy the Church regarding the installation of Christmas decorations in the church yard. The Vicar had underestimated the work and costs involved. The Clerk advised that he had managed to negotiate a discount of £300 for the materials and installation works but there had still been a shortfall of approximately £2000 from the total cost of £3000. The Clerk advised that following discussions with the Chairman it had been

agreed to meet the shortfall.

Members felt the Church decorations were a great addition to the village and following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the financial contribution be endorsed.

2020/12/14/05

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Former Park Keepers Cottage/CIC

The Clerk advised the works had commenced at the cottage although there remained a financial shortfall towards the cost of all of the works required. After engagement from County Councillor Higgins it was hoped that £89k of section 106 monies could be brought forward from the Bellway housing development off Wellfield Road.

It was noted that a formal application had been submitted by the CIC to Durham County Council and after brief discussion it was **RESOLVED** Parish Council offer its full support to the application.

(2) Seat Wellfield Road

RESOLVED it be noted that Avant Homes had agreed to install a seat at southern side of Wellfield Road.

(3) Market Crescent Allotment

The Clerk referred to a particular allotment at Market Crescent and advised that a formal surrender of it was to take place on 22 December with a tenancy for an alternative plot signed the same day. It was noted that a pre-allocation inspection of the new allotment was to take place and photographic evidence would be taken.

A Member stated that had been some adverse comments from some in the community regarding the decision to allocate an alternative allotment.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and further progress be awaited.

(4) Fencing at the Park

The Clerk advised that with the support of County Councillor Higgins an application had been submitted for AAP funding for fencing and a gate to be installed at the park adjacent to the RC Primary School which would prevent vehicular access to open space grassed areas.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and further progress be awaited..

(5) Flag Pole

RESOLVED it be noted initial installation works for a flag pole adjacent to the war memorial were to take place on Friday 18 December.

(6) S19/20 Audit

The Clerk presented the findings from the 19/20 external audit. It was noted that while there were no financial concerns the audit had been qualified on the basis of web site non-compliance. It was noted the web site was now in place.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

2020/12/14/06 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no planning applications to consider.

2020/12/14/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

2020/12/14/08 **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Npower- Pit Wheel

Cheque No. 405562 £64.56

Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies

Cheque No. 405563 £39.39

Par Petroleum- Fuel

Cheque No.405564 £171.87

Clerk- Refunf of Scarecrow Competition Prizes

Cheque No.405565 £65.00

Clerk- October Office Allowance

Cheque No. 405566 £50

Great North Air Ambulance - Donation

Cheque No. 405567 £300.00

TSL- Line Marker Etc

Cheque No. 405568	£208.80
Park Keeper— Mileage Refund	
Cheque No. 405569	£47.70
Durham CC- Trade Waste Account	
Cheque No. 405570	£277.16
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No. 405571	£72.24
Clerk- Allotment Postage Refund	
Cheque No. 405572	£34.45
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No. 405573	£11.47
Andrew Newton Ltd- Sip Hire	
Cheque No. 405574	£200.00
Clerk- November Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 405576	£50.00
Andrew Newton Ltd- Skip Hire	
Cheque No. 405578	£240.00
Wingate Community Association- Refund for Wreaths	
Cheque No. 405580	£88.00
Peart Fencing- NRW Allotments	
Cheque No. 405581	£4014.00
Wingate Community Association- Annual Funding	
Cheque No. 405582	£11,000.00
J Dinning- Internal Audit	

Cheque No. 405583	£400.00
LITE- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No. 405584	£5310.00
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 405585	£126.33
Durham CC- Machine Repairs	
Cheque No. 405586	£172.41
Horns Garden Centre- Flowers Etc	
Cheque No. 405587	£256.89
TSL- Fertilizer Etc	
Cheque No. 405588	£180.00
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No. 405589	£72.24
Park Keeper- Sanitizer Refund	
Cheque No. 405590	£10.00
Clerk- Honorarium	
Cheque No. 405591	£1000
TSL- Fertilizer Etc	
Cheque No. 405592	£960.00
MKM- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 405593	£59.93
Playdale Ltd- Equipment Repairs	
Cheque No.405595	£3414.54
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	

Cheque No. 405596	£18.22
Harbro Electrical- Church Lights	
Cheque No. 405597	£3600
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 405598	£43.11
Wingate Primary School- Xmas Donation	
Cheque No. 405601	£50.00
Wingate RC Primary- Xmas Donation	
Cheque No. 405602	£50.00
Gulley House- Xmas Donation	
Cheque No. 405603	£50.00
Charlton House- Xmas Donation	
Cheque No. 405604	£50.00
Park Keepers- Telephone Calls Etc	
Cheque No. 405605	£45.00
Clerk- December Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 405606	£50.00
Clerk0 Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 405607	£45.00

2020/12/14/09

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Highways Issues**

Issues relating to pot holes at various places on the front street area were raised which County Councillor Higgins advised had been taken up with Durham County Council although he suspected that there could be problems with parts of the front street surface more generally. Speeding issues were discussed in relation to Wellfield Road and the potential for speed bumps to be installed. County Councillor Higgins further advised he would take this up with Durham County Council and confirmed that road marking relating to the Avent housing development would not in place until the road was able to be adopted by the County Council.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and further progress be awaited.

(2) Christmas Decorations

It was noted that the Parish Council's three year contract for the supply and installation of Christmas decorative lighting was in its final year. A Member suggested consideration be given to extending the lights to the Wellfield Road and Durham Road areas.

RESOLVED that Christmas decorative lighting be considered at a future meeting including the potential for additional decorations on Wellfield Road and Durham Road.

(3) Park

Dog fouling on the football pitches was noted which was blamed on irresponsible dog walkers. It was noted that some of the football line markings were not straight.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and the Clerk liaise with the Park Keeper.

(4) Sensory Group

A Member reported a local sensory group had numerous hampers available as well as children's toys for those in need. Grant funding was potentially available for seed planting with further details awaited.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(5) Dog Fouling- Cross Row

A Member reported persistent dog fouling in the Cross Row area. Discussion followed about reporting it but it was noted that Dog Wardens requested specific details before investigating complaints.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(6) Vicar

Following discussion about the ongoing hard work of the Vicar at the Holy Trinity Church it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk arrange for a gift in recognition on

behalf of the community.

(c) **County Councillor**

County Councillor Higgins gave a comprehensive update on ongoing activities. It was noted that the front street park area was being cleared with the grassed area and seats to remain. There was a potential for fencing in the future. The Clerk advised that a local GP practice had offered to make a financial contribution to the works and he stated he would pass the details on to County Councillor Higgins.

County Councillor Higgins gave further updates on matters relating to pot holes and speeding at Wellfield Road which had been raised as part of the consideration of the planning application relating to the second phase of the housing development. He suggested that speed bumps could be funded from his neighborhood budget although supporting evidence on need would be needed.

Discussion followed on the open space area at Kings Road and it being used by quad bikes. It was suggested it could become a play area and could be fenced off or have boulders installed around it to limit access. Reference was made to section 106 monies potentially available for recreational facilities in the village. It was suggested that further consideration be given to this at a future meeting.

County Councillor gave updates on two planning applications. It was noted that a proposal from a resident for open space to become a private garden at Moore Lane had been refused and the owner of land adjacent to the Community Centre was considering a planning application for a residential facility.

It was noted that progress on a village regeneration project was still awaited.

Following general discussion County Councillor Higgins was thanked for his report and it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

2020/12/14/10

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2020/12/14/11

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED the press and public be excluded from the following item of business due to the disclosure of financial information.

2020/12/14/12

PRECEPT 2021/22

Following consideration of both a written and verbal report from the Clerk it was **RESOLVED** the precept for 2021/22 be £155,672.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE