

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 10th MAY 2021**

**Present:** Councillors P Daly (Chair), E Mason, S Williams, J Bradley,  
P Mason, H Smith, T Smith

County Councillor J Higgins

2021/05/10/01

**APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR PERSON**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor P Daly be appointed Chairperson for the ensuing year.

2021/05/10/02

**APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR PERSON**

**RESOLVED** that Councillor J Bradley be appointed Vice Chairperson for the ensuing year.

2021/05/10/03

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no representatives of the public present.

2021/05/10/04

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman outlined that a representative of the Nursery School had approached him regarding the boundary of the new facility at the former Park Keepers cottage. The Clerk advised that the boundary had been agreed as part of the lease signed in the previous October and permission for a small extension had been agreed at the previous meeting.

It was noted that Councillor H Smith had not received the agenda for the previous meeting.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

2021/05/10/05

**POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

The Clerk presented a summary of a crime report covering the period from 1 April to 1 May 2021 which included incidents summarised as follows:

23 reports of anti-social behaviour in total

- 10 reports of anti-social nuisance behaviour
- 12 reports of anti-social environmental behaviour
- 1 report of anti-social personal behaviour

It was noted that most anti-social behaviour related to off road quad or motor

bikes.

0 theft from a vehicle  
2 thefts of a vehicle  
2 vehicle damage  
0 burglaries

Overall the police had advised that crime a year to present was down 28% with incidents down 8% a year to date.

The Clerk advised that he had met again with County Councillor Higgins, officer representation from Durham County Council, the Acting Crime Commissioner, the MP, the Peterlee Police Inspector and the Deputy Chief Constable. At the meeting the Police further extended its commitment to dealing with any issues in Wingate and had given an update of its activities.

Increased patrols were continuing and residents were being asked to sign up to a 'Keep in the Know' initiative. Specific individuals were being targeted recognising that crime and anti-social behaviour was being committed by a small minority. While resources were stretched across the County specialist resources were still being deployed in Wingate. Monthly meetings with one particular resident who had been the victim of a serious crime were continuing.

The Police advised there was a balance between hard edge and soft edge Policing. Too much Police presence could cause alarm and fear and so other longer term initiatives were also required. Multi agency meetings had taken place and others were to continue. A strategy to deal with arson problems across the county was being put in place but for Wingate specifically youth activities and street games projects were being looked into.

The Anti-Social Intervention Team was noted as being engaged and overall anti-social behaviour in Wingate was reducing while increasing in some neighbouring villages. Meetings with Believe Housing and some private landlords were ongoing. Intelligence gathering was seen as being key and it was increasing including through the use of a drone. However, information and evidence from those in the community was noted as being needed.

Officers from Durham County Council they were only involved in one anti-social behavioural issue which related to the former TSB square.

Communication from the MP regarding his commitment to supporting the community was awaited as was communication from the Police and Crime Commissioner

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted and further progress be awaited.

2021/05/10/06

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

### (1) Section 106 Monies, Recreational Facilities

The Clerk advised that following the last meeting he had liaised with County Councillor Higgins and a meeting with Believe Housing had been requested to discuss land ownership issues and potential sites in order that further community consultation could be undertaken.

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

### (2) Park

The Clerk gave an update on activities at the park. It was noted that partly due to Covid and poor weather there was going to be a delay in the delivery of plants for hanging baskets, beds and tubs although it was anticipated that it would be only by two to three weeks.

It noted that there had been further vandalism at the park, a security light had been broken which had resulted in problems in being open security shutters to the welfare unit and a park bench had been damaged. He stated that it was clear from the rubbish that was being left youths were gathering at the park presumably as an alternative to the front street. Matters had been reported to the Police.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the information given be noted and further progress be awaited.

### (3) Market Crescent Allotment

The Clerk advised that a derelict allotment at Market Crescent was now cleared and palisade fencing was to be installed later in the month together with wooden posts around the boundary. Grass seed would then cover the area.

**RESOLVED** the information given be note.

2021/05/10/07

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting when suggestions to consider additional Christmas decorations in the Wellfield Road and Durham Road areas and when costs for an additional 20 columns had been considered for indicative purposes.

The Clerk further advised that depending on the start and end points there were approximately 20 columns on Wellfield Road and approximately 10 on Durham Road and 30 columns in total would cost approximately an additional £18k. None of the additional columns had been included in the precept that had been agreed in December 2020 and including a further 30 columns for Christmas decorations was not affordable. He advised that there

was limited scope within the precept for additional capital projects not budgeted for. He reminded Members of two of the Parish Councils two biggest risks which were included in its risk register, lack of reserves and old water supply at the park which would be very expensive to replace.

The Clerk also reminded Members of some of the detail within the precept. Only £2k had been allocated to allotment clearance and fencing works but costs already known for Market Crescent and the Woodmans Cottage site were likely to be nearer £8k. He referred to the previous meeting when he had outlined the increasing need for resurfacing works to the car park adjacent to the new nursery facility. It was noted that £4k for this was included in the precept. The Clerk stated that the only two areas of flexible funding in the precept was £4k allocated for Parish Council elections which did not take place and £3k for additional seating, signs and bins at the park.

The Clerk stated that while additional Christmas decorations would inevitably be attractive, Members needed to recognise the Christmas period lasted only 4 weeks

Members discussed the proposals and while recognising the attraction of additional decorative lighting it was **RESOLVED** that due to lack of budget nothing further be installed in the current year..

2021/05/10/08

#### **WINGATE WOMBLES**

The Clerk referred to a written report circulated with the agenda which he proceeded to present outlining a proposal to create a community led informal Wingate Wombles group aimed at addressing anti-social behaviour through litter picking. The proposals included the provision of 60 litter pickers and handihoops to be provided free of charge on a first come first served basis. The cost for both items was noted as being approximately £19 and approximately £1200 for 60 kits. While the written report suggested 1 picker and 1 handihoop per household, the provision of up to 2 would encourage parents and their children to take part. It was noted that Durham County Council had offered initially to provide free rubbish sacks and to collect rubbish collected. The Community Centre had offered to act as a drop off and collection point for rubbish.

Members discussed and supported the proposals although the Chairman stated it should not be a replacement for litter picking and collection undertaken by Durham County Council. It was suggested there was a potential to use the Wingate Community Group Facebook page as a pilot for promoting the Parish Council's business and intentions. The Chairman offered to speak to the administrator of the Community Group page about this. A Member suggested the Parish Council having its own Facebook page. Some Members expressed concern about the use of social media.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the creation of a Wingate Wombles group as outlined in the

report presented with the amendment that households be limited to up to 2 litter picking kits.

2021/05/10/09

### **SUMMER PLAY SCHEME**

Following a verbal report from the Clerk it was **RESOLVED** he be authorised to proceed with arrangements for the summer play scheme from Monday 2 August to Friday 13 August 2021 with an away day to South Shield on Saturday 14 August with children attending receiving a contribution of £15 towards food and refreshments.

2021/05/10/10

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED** that no objections be made to the following applications:

- Replacement roof to create a first floor- 32 Taylor Grove
- First floor balcony and extension of boundary with brick wall and fence- 45 High Grange Way
- Erection of part two storey/part single storey extension at side and rear- 6 Whingrove Close

2021/05/10/11

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) North West Allotment Site- Skip, Wingate Nursery School  
**RESOLVED** the Clerk be authorised to pay for a skip to be used by the Wingate Nursery to help tidy an allotment at the North Road West site.

2021/05/10/12

### **FEES FOR 2021/22**

**RESOLVED** that fees for football fields, bowling facilities and allotments for 2021/22 be as in the previous year.

2021/05/10/13

### **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (a) Appointment of an Internal Auditor for 2021/22  
**RESOLVED** that Mr J Dinning (CIPFA) be appointed as the Parish Council's internal auditor for the 2020/21 accounts.
- (b) Authorisation of Payments

**RESOLVED** that authorisation be given for the following payments:

UK Fuels- Petrol

Cheque No. 405651

£5.87

Mortons Law- Allotment Advice VAT

Cheque No. 405652	£76
1A Sutters and Grills- Security Shutter Repair	
Cheque No.405653	£228
BT Broadband	
Cheque No.405654	£75.36
Steadfast Security- 21/22 CCTV Monitoring	
Cheque No. 405655	£2028
Harrisons Packaging– Doggy Bags	
Cheque No. 405656	£846
Clerk- May Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 405657	£50
Zurich Municipal– Insurance	
Cheque No. 405658	£5486.91
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 405659	£44.31
E.ON Next- Park	
Cheque No. 405660	£24.63

2021/05/10/14

**REPORTS**

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) Wellfield Road- HGVs

A Member reported HGVs using Wellfield Road instead of the bypass to access housing developments at the South of Wellfield Road. It was noted that a site manager had been engaged to help prevent further issues and it was hoped the matter was now resolved.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

(2) Footpath, Woodland View to Allotments

A Member reported the poor condition of a footpath from Woodland View to the Woodmand Cottage Allotment Site. It was noted as being in the ownership of Durham County Council and County Councillor Higgins offered to investigate the matter.

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

(3) Football Changing Rooms Roof

A Member reported damage to the football changing rooms roof which the Clerk advised was as a result of vandalism. The Police and the Parish Council's security monitoring company had been involved. Prices were awaited for fencing which could limit access to the roof. The Clerk advised that youth and associated anti-social behavior were being from the front street area to the park.

It was noted that while one of the football teams who used the park facilities had suggested that longer term steel storage containers could be used as a replacement for the changing rooms the changing rooms were still suitable for use although issues regarding the roof needed to be resolved.

In response to a question the Clerk advised the park toilets were open and in use.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted and further consideration be given to anti-vandalism measures at the football changing rooms roof.

(4) Play Area Flooding

A Member reported flooding in the play area of the park. The Clerk advised that the issue was historical and as a result of flooding from the adjacent farm fields which then flowed through the park in various areas including the play area. He stated there was also flooding towards the RC Primary School.

It was noted that when the most recent play equipment was installed it had been highlighted that there was no drainage plans which showed if there was any drainage in the park and if so what the layout of it was.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted and further consideration be given to drainage at the park.

(5) Speeding on the Front Street

Following a report of flooding on the front street area between Chillerton Way and Station Town it was **RESOLVED** the information be passed to the Police.

(6) Caradoc Road Bungalows- Walkway

A Member raised the condition of the walkway adjacent to the Caradoc Road

walkway. It was noted as being very boggy. County Councillor Higgins advised the walkway was owned by Durham County Council who were in discussions with a house builder on an adjacent site who had put gravel on the path.

**RESOLVED** the information be noted and further updates be awaited.

(7) Blended Meetings

**RESOLVED** the potential for partial physical and virtual meetings be investigated.

(8) Thank You Day

The Chairman referred to a national thank you day on 4 July 2021 which was being promoted as an opportunity to say thank you to all those who have helped during the Covid pandemic.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the matter be considered at the next meeting.

(9) Parish Council Vacancies

**RESOLVED** the potential for cooption to the Parish Council to fill the existing two vacancies be considered at the next meeting.

**(c) County Councillor**

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on ongoing activities

It was noted that works to limit access to the former pit heaps area were now complete and residents had expressed that they were benefitting significantly from what had been undertaken. Front street resurfacing works were noted as being due to commence at the end of May.

County Councillor Higgins advised that investigations into speeding at Wellfield Road were continuing with the engagement of both Durham Traffic Police and the local Police.

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

2021/05/10/15

**SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

CHAIRMAN .....

DATE .....