

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 21st JUNE 2021

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

County Councillor J Higgins

2021/06/21/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed a representative of the public who discussed concerns about speeding vehicles around the junction leading to the industrial estate and problems with youths gathering adjacent to the pit mining memorial.

The Clerk advised that a regeneration scheme was soon to be commenced which included installing bollards around part of the junction which would provide additional safety. While speeding issues could be reported the front street area had been tested previously and there was little evidence of speeding vehicles. The Clerk stated he would report the issue of youths gathering to the Police.

Discussion followed regarding the potential for an additional CCTV camera to be installed. The cost was noted as being circa £3k and the Police and no additional budget for the Wingate area. County Councillor Higgins advised he was liaising with the Police on this matter. Residents were encouraged to join neighbourhood watch schemes and to report incidents of anti-social behaviour confidentially.

Further discussion followed regarding parking issues in and around the junction and whether yellow lines could be installed. County Councillor Higgins advised yellow lines would be unlikely as there were no other areas for cars to park although he would raise the matter again with officers at Durham CC. It was noted children from schools were already let out on a staggered basis.

The Chairman welcomed another representative of the public, Sean Ivey, who outlined that he was looking to create a charity that would look to improve facilities in the village. He hoped to start small but grow the charity and bring positive change. He referred to the community centre not offering enough activities and there not being a youth club. He felt the park area could be improved. Mr Ivey outlined that he had been in touch with schools to liaise with school children about their ideas and priorities.

Members supported the principles of the charity and the desire to improve facilities although it was recognised that achieving what Mr Ivey hoped to

could be difficult and take time.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) Anti-social behavioral issues at the mining memorial area and speeding vehicles be raised with the Police; and
- (2) The principle of a charity aimed at improving you facilities in the village be supported subject to consideration of further details.

2021/06/21/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 10th May 2021 were agreed as a correct record. It was noted that minute number 2021/05/10/14/5 should refer to speeding and not flooding.

2021/06/21/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

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

26 reports of anti-social behaviour in total

- 13 reports of anti-social nuisance behaviour
- 6 reports of anti-social environmental behaviour
- 2 report of anti-social personal behaviour

It was noted that most anti-social behaviour related to off road quad or motor bikes. School leavers with alcohol were included in the statistics along with an incident relating to youths on the RC Primary School roof and the football changing room roof.

A Member queried whether reports of fires were included in the statistics and it was noted they were not.

Further crime statistics included:

0 theft from a vehicle
1 theft of a vehicle
0 vehicle damage
0 burglaries

The Clerk referred to recent BBC broadcasts relating to anti-social behaviour in East Durham which had included in Wingate. He stated that in part these were as a result of the meetings held recently with the MP, Durham CC, the police and the Acting Crime Commissioner

The Clerk further advised that again in response to the meeting youth workers from One Point would be operating in the village every Tuesday evening. A mobile table tennis table was one item that was to be made available.

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

2021/06/21/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Wingate Wombles

The Clerk advised that kit discussed at the previous meeting had been ordered. Supply chain issues had created delays although it was hoped a delivery would be made in the next couple of weeks. He suggested promoting the opportunity when the kit had been delivered.

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

(2) CIC- Garden Area Boundary

The Clerk advised that following a site meeting representatives of the nursery had agreed to seek costs for moving the boundary fencing to consider whether or not it is a feasible option for them. Further word was awaited.

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

(3) Blended Meetings

The Clerk advised that blended meetings which allowed part physical and part virtual attendance were not permitted under law.

RESOLVED the information given be note.

2021/06/21/05

SECTION 106 MONIES- UPDATE

The Clerk advised that since the previous meeting he had met with representatives of Believe Housing and County Councillor Higgins to consider open space areas and their potential to be used for recreational and play areas. The meeting had highlighted the open space between Kings Road and Coronation Road as being owned by Believe Housing who had indicated there was potential for it to be used for recreational and play areas. The Kings Road site was to be fenced off to help prevent anti-social behaviour and vehicular access particularly.

Other open space areas were discussed including land to the front of the former AJ Dawson School which was noted as being owned by The Duchy of Lancaster who the Parish Council had approached previously. Another open space identified as suitable for recreational and play areas was to the rear of Caradoc Road and owned by Durham County Council. It was noted that while there were no current plans for the site there was potential it could be used for housing.

The Clerk stated the only other apparent suitable site for recreational and play areas was the Parish Council's park itself which lent itself for further

development and investment.

The Clerk stated he had spoken with representatives of Durham County Council who had advised that it would be at least 18 months before Section 106 monies up to £123k would be available and potentially a further 36 months before the remainder of the funding again up to £123k would be available.

The Clerk added that if there was a desire to pursue ring fencing the Section 106 monies then consideration needed to be given to employing external professional support for design, consultation and planning purposes. This would require upfront investment and money allocated in a future precept. The Clerk also advised that public expectations would need to be managed because of the timescales in being able to access funding.

Following further discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the information given be noted and further consideration be given to Section 106 monies.

2021/06/21/06

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME

The Clerk advised that 3 forty nine seat coaches had been provisionally booked for the away day to South Shields at the last meeting. He advised that it was his understanding the Junior School was also undertaking a week of play activities the week prior. He stated that the Holy Trinity Church was organising away days to Redcar and South Shields as well as free picnics for children which were hoped to be funded through an AAP funding application to the 'Fun and Food' programme

The Church was noted as having asked the Parish Council to subsidise transports costs associated with the away days which was £500. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council had subsidised costs in previous years and £300 had been included in the precept. He recommended meeting the full costs.

A Member stated she hoped to arrange some other summer activities including science sessions hopefully to be organised from the community centre. Pizza kits were hoping to be made available from local supermarkets as well as other potential support. It was suggested a meeting was needed with the Community Association to discuss access and room availability etc.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) Updates relating to summer play activities be noted; and
- (2) Councillor H Smith liaise with the Community Association regarding the potential of using the community centre for additional activities.

2021/06/21/07

AUTISM FRIENDLY WINGATE

A Member stated she hoped to liaise with local organisations and businesses to encourage Wingate becoming an autism friendly village. A Member and County Councillor Higgins referred to a previous attempt to create a dementia friendly village although there had been little to no engagement from the business community. It was felt discussion with local schools was needed as a lot of activity could already be happening.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted and a further update be awaited from Councillor H Smith following discussion with schools.

2021/06/21/08

THANK YOU DAY

It was noted that due to Covid restrictions a Thank You Day could not take place. **RESOLVED** the information given be noted and the Parish Council offer its general support to the principle of a thank you day.

2021/06/21/09

PARK OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The Clerk gave an update on park maintenance issues. It was noted that the football fields had recently been sprayed to kill off weeds and goals mouths were to be turfed once end of season games had been played. The Park Keeper and his assistant were remaining busy with litter collection taking up large amounts of time. It was noted that the delivery of flowers was still awaited and once delivered planting would take up a lot of time.

The Clerk advised that to help combat anti-social behaviour and to limit crime two additional cameras were to be installed free of charge at the park, one aimed at the football changing rooms and at the storage units. These had been provided at no cost by the security company responsible for monitoring the park.

The Clerk referred to the football changing room roof and to the fact there had been further issues of youths on the roof which the security company had addressed. Two quotes had been received for additional fencing around the changing rooms which would limit access to the roof. With various options included the quotes ranged from approximately £3700 to £6300. The Clerk suggested a site meeting to consider matters further.

The Clerk referred to the car park area adjacent to the former park keeper's cottage which needed to be resurfaced. He said an amount of money had been included in the precept for this.

The Clerk referred to parts of the play area flooding during wet periods although this had always been the case and the problems were from water flowing off farm fields through the woodland and into parts of the park and the RC Primary School. He suggested that solving the problem was almost an impossibility and issues were due to the natural environment however

limiting water lying could help to be addressed by installing drainage. He suggested this could prove expensive and cost prohibitive and would need to be undertaken prior to any car park resurfacing. The Clerk suggested this could be looked into as part of a site meeting.

The Clerk referred to the pond area and the potential to work with the local fishing club to access grants.

The Clerk advised there was a small amount of money included in the precept for things like signage and he again suggested these could be considered at a site meeting.

The Clerk added that the Parish Council could look at a longer term plan for the park and to look to draw down Section 106 monies although it could be some time before monies could be accessed. He referred to previous investment programmes at the park and the potential to engage the CIC and the nursery in bidding for money. The Clerk stated there were significant opportunities to work with the CIC, the nursery and the fishing clubs to improve facilities and to access grants.

Following a suggestion of the Clerk it was **RESOLVED** that a site meeting be held to discuss park repair and maintenance issues and longer term investment opportunities.

2021/06/21/10

PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Parish Council communication issues were discussed including Facebook. It was suggested that the Parish Council establish its own Facebook page to promote news and updates and not for comment. Other opportunities were discussed including the potential for a monthly newsletter and publishing meeting minutes on the notice board.

Following general discussion it **RESOLVED** that the Clerk prepare a Facebook policy for consideration along with other communication issues at a future meeting.

2021/06/21/11

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

RESOLVED consideration of filling two Parish Council vacancies be deferred until September 2021.

2021/06/21/12

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED there be no objections to the following applications:

54 North Road East- retention of automated teller machine and associated signage.

17 Snaith Terrace- extension of property into garden area.

6 Burdon Crescent- Render original dwelling and porch.

2021/06/21/13

CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Defibrillator Pads

The Clerk advised that a request had been made by representatives of the Holy Trinity Church for the Parish Council to fund replacement defibrillator pads at the Church and the Moore Lane School. The cost was approximately £40 per pad.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council fund an initial two sets of replacement pads at both the Church and the School.

2021/06/21/14

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Npower- Pit Wheel

Cheque No. 405661 £40.81

CDALC- Annual Subscriptions

Cheque No. 405662 £601.30

TSL- Line Marker & Fertilizer

Cheque No.405663 £390

Helping Hands- Litter Pickers Etc

Cheque No.405664 £1344.96

A Newton Ltd- Skip for Nursery

Cheque No. 405665 £240

Park Keeper- Refund for Keys

Cheque No. 405666 £12

TSL- Line Marker Etc

Cheque No. 405667	£139.20
B Collins- Keys for NRW Allotments	
Cheque No. 405668	£31.50
Durham CC- Payroll SLA	
Cheque No. 405669	£1621.61
Npower- Holy Trinity Church	
Cheque No. 405670	£473.96
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 405671	£317.06
Peart Fencing- Market Crescent Allotment Site	
Cheque No. 405672	£3168.00
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No. 405673	£230.72
E.on Next- Xmas Tree Lighting	
Cheque No. 405674	£20.43
E.on Next- Park	
Cheque no. 405675	£22.26
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 405676	£41.31
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No. 405677	£6.04
TSL- Spraying of Football Fields	
Cheque No. 405678	£384
Clerk- June Office Allowance	

Cheque No. 405679	£50
Clerk- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 405680	£45
Park Keeper- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 405681	£45
Clerk- Allotment Postage Refund	
Cheque No. 405682	£47.52
MKM- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 405683	£63.67
Durham CC- Machine Repairs	
Cheque No. 405684	£194.16
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No. 405685	£6.32
MKM- Timber Etc	
Cheque No. 405686	£380.81
Par Petroleum	
Cheque No. 405687	£171.87
Clerk- Postage Refund	
Cheque No. 405688	£29.70
Wingate Community Association- Annual Funding	
Cheque No. 405689	£16000

(b) Internal Audit

The Clerk presented the outcomes of the internal audit and circulated a copy of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for consideration. The Clerk highlighted that while salaries appeared to increase in 2021 this was because they had been understated in the accounts the previous year. The

Clerk also reminded members that reserves remained low at £35730.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and the Clerk be authorized to submit the Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor for consideration.

2021/06/21/15

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Bellway Housing Development**

A Member referred to a number of issues relating the Bellway housing development including deliveries at the wrong times. These had been referred to the planning department at Durham County Council.

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

(2) **Wellfield Road- Speed Checks**

A Member reported that a speed check had been undertaken at Wellfield Road although due to adverse weather it had been cancelled after a short time.

RESOLVED the information be given be noted.

(3) **Woodmans Cottage Allotment Site**

RESOLVED it be noted there had been no progress in the transfer of land from Durham County Council to the Parish Council and progress was still awaited.

(4) **Community Centre**

A Member raised concerns about the lack of promotion of the community centre and its opening times and activities particularly. It was queried whether it was a focal point in the village. It was noted that Covid had caused some restrictions.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(5) **St Marts RC Primary School**

A Member referred to an event being organized by parents for children leaving the St Marys RC Primary School. It was suggested that some parents might not be able to afford for their children to attend and so the Parish Council was asked to make a contribution of £300 towards transport and food. The Clerk queried who was organizing it and how many could not actually afford to attend. Another member suggested it would set a

precedent and if a donation was made then similar request from other schools would need to be honored.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** Councillor H Smith seek further details as to what was being proposed.

(c) County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on ongoing activities

It was noted that footpath repairs on the path leading to and from the pit heaps area was being looked into. Additional waste and dog bins requested for the former post office and betting shop areas could not be installed as the County Council had identified these areas were already well served. The front street regeneration project was noted as still going ahead. Street markings were also to be installed in the Moore Lane area.

A seat was still to be installed by Avant Homes at the entrance to its housing development and damaged fencing in the area had been identified as being the responsibility of Avant Homes. A race course fence was to be installed around the grassed area at Kings Road and resurfacing works were planned for Market Crescent

County Councillor Higgins outlined he was to meet with the Director of Education regarding whether there were any plans for a single site Junior School and what section 106 monies were available. With all of the new housing development and further houses planned in Station Town he had concerns regarding school placements.

It was noted that leaflets regarding the Parish Council summer play scheme were given to children at local schools to take home to parents.

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

2021/06/21/16

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE