

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 12th JULY 2021

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

County Councillor J Higgins

2021/07/12/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed a representative of the public, Mr Sean Ivey, who gave updates on some issues and activities he was involved in. He outlined that the MP for Sedgfield had raised anti-social behaviour in Wingate and surrounding areas that day and he had requested that a Home Office representative visit the area.

Mr Ivey referred to consultation with local children at the Community School regarding their views on what facilities they would like to see in the village. He offered to share the survey results. Mr Ivey suggested the Parish Council should use social media when promoting its work or key messages and the current notice board was not accessible to all. Discussion followed on the recent use of Facebook to publish the Wingate Wombles scheme but the response had been poor. It was suggested it be republished with a summary included.

Mr Ivey suggested holding an annual carnival with colleagues in Station Town and Hutton Henry being interested as well as local County Councillors. The Chairman offered to send Mr Ivey contact details for a County Councillor in Blackhall.

Reference was made to an anti-social behavioural week.

Mr Ivey outlined that along with another resident in the village he was interested in joining the Parish Council although the Chairman advised consideration of filling current vacancies by co-option would not take place until September.

General discussion followed including question to Mr Ivey about the Community School was able to offer. In response Mr Ivey stated facilities but not staff resources.

Mr Ivey was thanked for attending the meeting and it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) The information given be noted; and
- (2) The Wingate Wombles scheme be republished on Facebook.

2021/07/12/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 21st June 2021 were agreed as a correct record. It was noted that there was a spelling error in minute number 2021/06/21/09. It was also noted minute reference 2021/06/21/15/b/5 should have included that the matter be delegated to the Chair and Vice Chair on receipt of further information.

2021/07/12/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

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

15 reports of anti-social behaviour in total

- 7 reports of anti-social nuisance behaviour
- 8 reports of anti-social environmental behaviour
- 0 report of anti-social personal behaviour

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

Other incidents included in the statistic were:

- 0 theft from a vehicle
- 1 theft of a vehicle
- 0 vehicle damage
- 0 burglaries
- 10 reports of criminal damage

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

2021/07/12/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Wingate Wombles

The Clerk advised that the scheme had been launched the previous Saturday but only one member of the public had attended and picked up kit. It was hoped with further publicity there would be more take up. It was noted that there had been a publicity following an interview held by Radio Tees.

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

(2) Park Site Meeting

RESOLVED that postponed site meeting be held on Wednesday 14 July at 6pm.

(3) St Marys RC Primary School

The Clerk advised that following the previous meeting he had been contacted by a parent of the school regarding a leaving party being organized for 8 children at the school. A limousine had been booked and the children were

to be taken to a restaurant. The Parish Council was being asked for a donation of £200.

The Clerk advised that he did not consider a donation was appropriate as the Parish Council would be seen to subsidizing 8 individual families and not an organization or an event more accessible to a wider group. Members agreed with this and it was suggested some private fund raising might be more appropriate.

RESOLVED that:

- (a) The Parish Council do not offer financial support to the leaving party;
and
- (A) The Chairman liaise with the parents regarding alternative fund raising opportunities.

2021/07/12/05

CODE OF CONDUCT

Consideration was given to the County Council of Durham Code of Conduct for Members circulated with the agenda. It was noted that if the Parish Council did not accept the Code it would need to be prepare its own for adoption.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the County Council of Durham Code of Conduct for Members be adopted by the Parish Council.

2021/07/12/06

PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

Consideration was given to a draft Parish Council social media policy which covered social media by the Parish Council as well as guidance for Members when using personal social media accounts.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the social media policy be adopted by the Parish Council.

2021/07/12/07

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications to consider.

2021/07/12/08

CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Highways Matters

The Clerk referred to communication from Durham County Council and circulated plans showing proposed areas for yellow lines and parking restrictions at the medical centre, the industrial estate and Dodds Terrace/North Road. County Councillor Higgins advised that following to previous meeting he had arranged a site meeting with officers from Durham County Council.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council offer no objections or concerns to the proposals.

(2) Planning Training

RESOLVED that any Member wishing to attend planning training from Durham County Council on 7 October liaise with the Clerk.

(3) Village Fete

The Clerk referred to an email he had received indirectly from a resident requesting the Parish Council contribute funding to a village fete proposed to be held as part of anti-social awareness week from 19 to 25 July. It was noted that the resident had been advised by County Councillor Higgins that events of this kind needed County Council approval with a minimum 3 week notice period. It was also noted that the resident had advised County Councillor Higgins that he had been granted use of the park by the Chair and Vice Chair which appeared not to be true.

Length discussion followed on health and safety matters, risk assessments and the difficulty of holding such an event which included a fun fair. It was also recognized the Parish Council had limited administrative support. It was noted that there had been events in the village previously which involved various different organisations working together.

Following further general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the potential of a community event be given initial considered at the next meeting.

(4) Intra Health Letter- Wingate Medical Centre

Discussion followed regarding a letter addressed to the Chairman from Intra Health regarding the Medical practice it operates in Wingate and a request for support for it not to have its contract renewed every 5 years. Intra Health referred to ongoing consultation and a deadline for responses of 19 July. It was noted that nothing had been received from the Clinical Commissioning Group. County Councillor Higgins advised that he was aware that discussions regarding the future of the Medical Centre were taking place.

Members supported the retention of the Medical Centre and following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Clerk seek further information and if necessary an extension to the suggested 19 July consultation deadline date; and
- (b) The Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to agree a response with the Clerk to any consultation should a deadline be prior to the next meeting.

2021/07/12/09

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Zurich Municipal- Motor Insurance	
Cheque No. 405690	£524.92
MKM- Rubbish bags	
Cheque No. 405691	£3.04
Clerk- July Office Allowance	
Cheque No.405692	£50.00
Durham County Council- Licence for Land at the Nursery	
Cheque No.405693	£1.00
Roch NNT- Column Testing	
Cheque No. 405695	£2100.00
Holy Trinity Church– Away Day Funding	
Cheque No. 405696	£500.00
J Dinning- Internal Audit	
Cheque No. 405697	£400.00
CDALC- Member Training	
Cheque No. 405698	£40.00
Durham CC- Gate Repairs	
Cheque No. 405699	£16.27
E.On Next- Xmas Tree Lighting	
Cheque No. 405701	£7.14
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 405702	£106.27
Npower- Pit Wheel	

2021/07/12/10

REPORTS**(a) The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) Members**(1) Park- Dangerous Driving**

RESOLVED that dangerous driving and potential measures to tackle be discussed at a site meeting on 14 July 2021.

(2) Parish Away Day

RESOLVED it be noted that registration details are available from the community centre.

(3) Pit Heaps

A Member reported he had been litter picking on the former pit heaps area and had noticed a big improvement in the amount of litter and tyre marks. He praised County Councillor Higgings for his work in preventing vehicular access to the area.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(c) County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on ongoing activities

It was noted that he was having ongoing discussions with the Police and fellow Councillors regarding the purchase of a CCTV camera which could be used across the county in hot spot areas. He was also investigating the potential for an additional camera on the front street area although Home Office guidance was that it could not be situated in one permanent position. A Member reported that following a recent burglary at the Avant housing site Police had used his CCTV to check for evidence.

It was noted that front street regeneration works had commenced particularly in the former TSB square area. The footpath leading from the pit heaps to the Woodmans Cottage allotment site was to be improved following previous reports about its condition.

County Councillor Higgins reported that the County Council and the Police were investigating travellers based on land close to the boundary of the village although it was unsure at this point whether they were actually in Wingate. The Clerk was asked to obtain a boundary plan of the village.

It was also reported that an individual purporting to be an allotment tenant at North Road West had complained that the barrier leading to the pit heaps was being left unlocked. The Clerk stated the individual was not a tenant and after receiving similar complaints he had inspected the barrier several times and it was always locked

It was noted the seat to be installed by Avant Homes was due within the next week.

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

2021/07/12/11

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE