

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 17th APRIL 2023**

**Present:** Councillors S William (Chair) E Mason, C Ryan, S Kelly, P Mason

County Councillor Higgins

Apologies for Absence- Councillor J Bradley

2023/04/17/01

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no representatives of the public present.

2023/04/17/02

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

2023/04/17/03

**POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

The Clerk presented a report from the Police covering the period from 1 March 2023 to 31 March 2023. The crime figures were noted as including:

Criminal damage- 1 incident  
 Criminal damage to a vehicle- 1 incident  
 Anti-social behaviour, nuisance- 5 incident  
 Anti-social behaviour- personal- 0 incidents  
 Anti-social behaviour- environmental- 1 incident  
 Burglary- 1 incident

The burglary was noted as relating to a garage and a number of the anti-social behaviour nuisance complaints were noted as being related to egg throwing with the Police working with the Community School to help identify individuals responsible. A walkabout with County Councillor Higgins relating to quad bikes was noted as having taken place.

It was reported that Wingate now had the largest beat team across the local area. The next PACT meeting was noted as being online on Wednesday 31 May at 6pm.

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

2023/04/17/04

**PROGRESS REPORT**

(1) Pit Wheel Lighting

The Clerk advised one of the three drivers required to power the lights had broken and needed replacing and despite attempts to find alternative products a replacement part with labour would cost approximately £1000. He advised that at some point it was likely the other two drivers would also

need replacing

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk be authorized to proceed with the works.

(2) Covid Memorial Plaque

The Clerk advised the covid memorial plaque would be ready for installation the following week. Further details relating toward funding towards the plaque were awaited. A Member suggested an official unveiling with promotion on social media.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted and further progress be awaited including details relating to the unveiling.

(3) Holy Trinity Church

**RESOLVED** it be noted that there was no further progress relating to the removal of the church pews.

(4) Notice of Vacancy

The Clerk advised there had been no request for an election and so the Parish Council could now co-opt a new Parish Councillor. He advised that a notice seeking interest was to be published.

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

2023/04/17/05

**CITIZENS ADVICE SERVICE**

The Chairman welcomed Helen Wightman who presented a summary of the activities of the Citizens Advice service from October 2022 to March 2023. It was noted that the some 38 clients had been served with around 150 issues dealt with. The work of the service had led to client savings of around £166k. The Parish Council was thanked for its ongoing support.

The service was noted as being available via different means although face to face was noted as being the preferred client route. 58% of clients were noted as being female with 42% male with two thirds over the age of 60 with over 40% having health conditions.

A case study was presented relating to a 76 year old widow with health issues who was experiencing issues relating to a utility bill. The work and support provided by the service was evidenced.

Following general discussion Mrs Wightman was thanked for attending the meeting at the work of the Citizens Advice service was praised before it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

2023/04/17/06

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER RECRUITMENT**

The Clerk advised that following an interview process involving four candidates the position of Community Development Officer had been offered to Mrs Susan Kelly who had accepted the position. The offer was subject to a contract of employment and to enhanced DBS check. It was noted Mrs Kelly already had an enhanced DBS check and while a new one specific to

job would be needed it was suggested by the Clerk that Mrs Kelly be allowed to commence the role so that planning and preparation could begin.

Following a query the Clerk advised that discussions relating to equipment etc were to be held with Mrs Kelly.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the information given be noted;
- (b) the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the issue of a contract of employment for Mrs Susan Kelley;
- (c) Mrs Kelly be able to commence her employment while awaiting her enhanced DBS check; and
- (d) Further progress be awaited.

20123/04/17/07

**DURHAM CITY YOUTH PROJECT- CONSULTATION ON YOUTH PROVISION**

Consideration was given to a consultation report undertaken by the Durham City Youth Project relating to youth provision across Wheatley Hill, Trimdon, Wingate and Station Town which had been circulated with the agenda. It was noted the Parish Council had contributed to the costs of the consultation.

The need for youth activities and a youth club in Wingate were noted particularly.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk liaise with Wheatley Hill Parish Council regarding a further joint meeting to discuss the outcomes of the consultation.

2023/04/17/08

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED** there be no objections to the following application:

2023/04/17/09

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

2023/04/17/10

**PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (a) Authorisation of Payments

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

TSL- Fertilizer

Cheque No. 406158 £204.00

TSL- Fertilizer

Cheque No. 406159 £580.00

BT –Broadband at Park

Cheque No. 406160	£81.92
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406161	£7.05
Durham City Youth Project- Consultation	
Cheque No.406162	£173.33
LITE- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No.406163	£540.00
TSL Fertilizer	
Cheque No.406164	£133.30
CDALC- Subscriptions	
Cheque No.406165	£576.64
Anglian Water- Park	
Cheque No.406166	£130.08
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406167	£6.60
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406168	£31.61
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406169	£38.19
EON Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406170	£710.45
Clerkt- April Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406171	£50.00
Zurich Insurance- Motor Insurance	
Cheque No. 406172	£579.07
Zurich Insurance- Annual Insurance	
Cheque No. 406173	£5973.05

Wingate Community Association- Annual Grant Funding

Cheque No. 406174 £16000.00

Wingate Community Association- Bingo 28 March

Cheque No. 406175 £169.00

2023/04/17/11

## **REPORTS**

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Gulley Road- Flooding**

A Member reported flooding at the walkway from Gulley Road. County Councillor Higgins advised the Rights of Way Officer at Durham County Council was aware of the matter which was being investigated along with other walkway related matters relating to Wingate.

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

(2) **Woodland View- Trees**

A Member reported overhanging trees in the vicinity of 28 Woodland View, some of which had been marked with dots some time previous. It was unknown whether this indicated they were to be removed. County Councillor Higgins offered to investigate the matter.

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

(c) **County Councillor**

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on County Council activities.

Road surfacing works were noted as to take place at various parts of the village including the front street, Coronation Road, Dodds Terrace, Moore Square and Laing Square. It was advised that there was a £128m shortfall for footpath and pot hole works across the county.

Reference was made to a meeting held with the Police regarding motor bikes and quad bikes in the village. A further follow up meeting was to be held.

Trees were noted as having been cut back at the rear of North Road West and the footpath in that area was noted as being unadopted and so the County Council would not be installing street lighting as requested previously by a member of the community.

County Councillor Higgins was thanked for his report following which it was **RESOLVED** that the information given be noted.

2023/04/17/12

### **SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS**

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

2023/04/17/13

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

2023/04/17/14

### **WINGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

The Chairman welcomed three representatives of the Community Association, Mrs Collins, Mr Higgins and Mr McGonnell who had been invited to attend to provide and update the Association's activities and its current financial position.

The Association representatives felt there was no need for them to attend and explain anything relating to the Association as the Parish Council was represented on the Association. The Chairman advised that the meeting was to enable the full Parish Council to be given insight into the Association's activities.

The Parish Council was thanked for its continued financial support and it was stated that without it the community centre would close. A verbal summary of the Association's current finances was presented and it was noted that utility costs had increased significantly. Statutory inspections and services were noted as also being a significant financial burden.

The true cost of classes in the centre were noted as being difficult to justify and not all classes were noted as being a success. Fitness classes had been reduced and a vacancy for a barber was noted.

The Association representatives advised that annual running costs were circa £75k with reserves being circa £45k. The Parish Council was asked to make an initial grant contribution to the Association of £16k.

Discussion followed on the purpose of the meeting and why it was necessary. A Member highlighted that the last Parish Council audit had resulted in concerns being raised about its lack of reserves and the precept process had involved line by line scrutiny of proposed expenditure items so that priorities could be identified. It was stated that commitment to funding the Association in 2023/24 had been given.

The Association representatives left the meeting and discussion continued including on matters relating to the Parish Council play scheme before it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The Clerk be authorized to make an initial grant contribution to the Community Association of £16k; and
- (b) The Clerk invite the Community Association to continue to meet with the Parish Council on an ongoing basis for further update on its activities and finances prior to any further grant payments.

2023/04/17/15

**CLERK PENSION**

The Clerk advised be he was in the process of consolidating his private and local government pensions and aimed for all future contributions to be made to one private pot resulting in the Parish Council's pension contributions being made to it instead of the current local government scheme. There would be no additional costs and the Parish Council would still benefit from the same tax and national insurance subsidies as at present.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted and there be no objections to the proposals outlined.

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

CHAIRMAN .....

DATE .....