

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 13th NOVEMBER 2023**

**Present:** Councillors S William (Chair), C Ryan, M Whiting, J Bradley, T Smith and E Mason

County Councillor Higgins

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Mason and A Ogle.

2023/11/13/01

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

2023/11/13/02

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023** were agreed as a correct record.

2023/11/13/03

**POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

The Clerk presented a summary of crime and anti-social behavioural issues during the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 31 October 2023 which included:

Criminal damage- 11 incidents.

Anti-social behaviour 8 incidents.

Burglary- 2 incidents.

Vehicle crime- 3 incidents including 1 fire.

It was noted that there had been an increase in the number of criminal damage incidents with some being linked to the Coronation Road area which were now resolved with a number of suspects having been dealt with.

In relation to quad bikes, it was noted that a number of reported incidents related to bikes being driven on the highway with all of the correct documentation being in place and so not an offence.

A speed watch was noted as having taken place on North Road East with no reported incidents of speeding. Work relating to anti-social behaviour on the former lines and pit heaps areas was noted as continuing.

A youth was noted as having been referred to the anti-social behavioural team and issued with a ASB contract. The next PACT meeting was noted as being on 29 November at 6pm in the Community Centre.

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

2023/11/13/04

**PROGRESS REPORT**

(1) Park Policies and Procedures

The Clerk advised that a number of policies had now been drafted relating to safeguarding and health and safety which needed reviewing along with

consideration given to the implications of implementing them. He suggested a working group be established to deal with the issues.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the draft policies be circulated and those interested in joining a working group contact the Clerk.

(2) Christmas Celebrations

The Clerk reminded Members the carol service was taking place on Thursday 14 December and advised that other Christmas celebrations had been organised with a tree due for delivery on 28 November. Column lights were due to be switched on that week.

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

(3) BT

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council was in dispute with BT relating to invoice queries. Paul Howell MP as not having been engaged to help resolve the matter.

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

23/11/13/05

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE**

The Community Development Officer the Clerk presented an update on ongoing activities.

It was noted that of the three half term events organised one had been cancelled because of the weather. The possibility of a Christmas event was being considered with the potential for a further fun and food grant.

Discussions with schools regarding using the park were ongoing. Wingate Primary school was noted as delaying usage until the new year. Children's clubs were noted as about to start using £10k of Ballinger grant funding. The facilitators of the clubs were noted as being responsible for undertaking risk assessments. A Member queried whether the Parish Council was being offered preferential rates for use of the community centre for the clubs and it was noted it was not.

It was agreed a work plan would be presented and discussed at the next meeting.

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

2023/11/13/06

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Erection of 58 Affordable Dwellings- Land South West of Springfield Cottage, Gladstone Terrace, Station Town

Consideration was given to a planning application relating to the erection of 58 affordable dwellings on land south west of Springfield Cottage, Gladstone Terrace, Station Town. It was noted that part of the site including the access was in the Wingate boundary with the majority in the boundary of Hutton

Henry and Station Town Parish Council. It was noted the application contained a proposal for 12 houses with the remainder of the dwellings being bungalows. While Members welcomed the building of bungalows concerns were raised about the impact of further new build properties on traffic and public services.

Following ongoing discussion which concluded with a vote it was **RESOLVED** to object against the application because of the negative impact on traffic and public services including school and nursery places and sewers and drainage.

2023/11/13/07

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Great North Air Ambulance

**RESOLVED** a donation of £200 be made to the Great North Air Ambulance service.

(b) Wingate Constitutional Club

**RESOLVED** a donation of £300 be made towards the children's and aged persons Christmas party.

(c) Citizens Advice County Durham

The Clerk presented a written report from Citizens Advice County Durham outlining details of their services in Wingate during the period from January to September 2023. The report included that 61 unique clients had been dealt with each one being approximately £7500 better off as a result of the service.

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

2023/11/13/08

## **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Authorisation of Payments

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

UK Fuels- Petrol

Cheque No. 406312 £6.82

BT- Broadband at the Park

Cheque No. 406313 £54.40

Clerk- Laptop Repairs

Cheque No. 406314 £45.00

Macfarlane Packaging- Doggy Bags

Cheque No. 406315 £1356.00

Park Keeper- Xmas Tree Mileage	
Cheque No.406316	£47.25
Anglian Water-Park	
Cheque No.406317	£528.67
J Devine- Remembrance Piper	
Cheque No.406318	£180.00
Clerk- Street Naming Fee Refund	
Cheque No.406319	£71.00
Community Development Officer- Misc Items Refund	
Cheque No.406320	£19.57
Steve's Animal Ark- Half Term Activities	
Cheque No.406321	£150.00
Wingate Community Association- November Bingo	
Cheque No.406322	£214.50
Wingate Community Association- Refund for Wreaths	
Cheque No. 406323	£80.00
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406324	£84.61
Harbro Electrical- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No. 406325	£238.20
MKM- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406326	£38.69
Clerk- November Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406327	£50.00
Mr Entertainment- Half Term Activities Refund	
Cheque No. 406328	£50.00

Wingate Community Association- Annual Funding	
Cheque No. 406329	£11,000.00
Par Petroleum- Diesel	
Cheque No. 406330	£269.48
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No. 4063331	£6.64
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 4063332	£60.14
Wingate Constitutional Club- Donation	
Cheque No. 406333	£300
Great North Air Ambulance- Donation	
Cheque No. 406334	£200

2023/11/13/09

## **REPORTS**

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Notice Board**

**RESOLVED** the Clerk arrange for the notice board to be tidied.

(2) **Swing Basket**

**RESOLVED** it be noted that an insurance claim for a replacement swing basket was being dealt with.

(3) **Member Training**

**RESOLVED** the Clerk identify any potential training opportunities.

### **County Councillor**

County Councillor Higgins presented an update on County Council activities. It was noted that a Section 106 application had been submitted for a new road surface from Moore Lane to the fishing pond. Durham County Council had agreed to supply road chippings. Works were not proposed beyond the pond as it would not meet the Section 106 requirements.

Repairs to a footpath at Dawson Road were to be undertaken and works to a footpath adjacent to the Co-Op store were noted as having been completed.

Tarmac works at Wellfield Road were also to be undertaken. It was noted that the County Council still intended to remove a bandstand from the former pit heaps area.

County Councillor Higgins was thanks for his report and it was **RESOLVED** that the information given be noted and no objections be submitted in relation to the Section 106 application.

2023/11/13/10

**SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS**

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

2023/11/13/11

**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.

2023/11/13/12

**DRAFT PRECEPT 2024/25**

The Clerk presented a draft precept for 2024/25 which Members considered. It was noted that some details needed to be amended prior to final consideration. Members asked that a meeting be arranged with the Community Association prior to agreement of the precept.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the draft be noted and reconsidered at the next meeting; and
- (b) representatives of the Community Association be invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

CHAIRMAN .....

DATE .....