

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 14th OCTOBER 2024

Present: Councillors J Bradley (Chair), S Williams, E Mason, A Ogle,
M Whiting, I Smith, P Mason

County Councillor Higgins

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Ryan

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ian Smith who signed his declaration of office, declaration of personal interests and received a copy of the Parish Council's social media policy.

2024/10/14/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

2024/10/14/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 9 September 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

2024/10/14/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

There was no Police report to consider.

2024/10/14/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Youth Club

The Clerk advised that a final report had been submitted to the Balingier Trust who had funded the youth club provision earlier in the year. It was noted that the Trust had advised it was over subscribed and so it was unlikely that further funding would be available. A slight concern about targeting older youth had been raised.

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

(2) Park Keeper

The Clerk advised the Park Keeper was now on paternity leave followed by annual leave and would not return to work until the end of October. It was noted the Park Keeper and his partner had recently welcomed the birth of a baby daughter. Regular meetings with the Assistant Park Keeper were taking place and there were no issues or concerns.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that a gift of £100 be presented to the Park Keeper.

(3) Winter Maintenance

The Clerk shared details of the route the Park Keeper and Assistant Park Keeper would be maintaining during the winter. It was noted that salt provided by Durham County Council was not intended for daily use.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

2024/10/14/05

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

(a) Section 106 Monies

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting and advised that following a meeting with County Councillor Higgins and support from him, the proposed park improvements had been submitted to Durham County Council for consideration. The County Council had since confirmed the proposals met Section 106 requirements and the Parish Council had been asked to prepare more detailed proposals and look to commence works as soon as possible.

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

- (1) The information given be noted;
- (2) The Clerk be authorised to proceed in developing more detailed proposals; and
- (3) The Clerk be authorised to engage Beaumont Brown architects to assist in developing and implementing proposals.

(b) Football Association

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting and advised that following further discussions with the FA approval had been granted for a new tractor in addition to the machinery items already approved. Additional storage facilities had also been approved subject to the submission of a formal application which the Clerk advised was being worked on.

It was noted that funding towards pitch improvements of approximately £32000 had been identified with the Parish Council needing to contribute approximately £10666 over six years. Approximately £40000 of new machinery had been identified with a Parish Council contribution of 25% of the cost required. Quotes were noted as being obtained as part of the application process.

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

- (1) The information given be noted;
- (2) The Clerk be authorised to proceed in submitting an application for funding; and
- (3) Further progress be awaited.

2024/10/14/06

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objections be made to the following applications:

51 Vicarage Estate-Single storey side and rear extension
21 Arundel Walk- retention of single storey rear extension providing additional living space
49 Vicarage Estate- retrospective application for change of use of public open space to residential curtilage with timber fence

2024/10/14/07

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

2024/10/14/08

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406383	£63.42
UK Fuels- Petrol Card	
Cheque No. 406384	£36.00
TSL- Line Market Etc	
Cheque No. 406385	£280.80
Anglian Water- Park	
Cheque No. 406386	£1072.99
SC Cleaning- Bowls Pavilion	
Cheque No.406387	£60.00
Durham CC- Occupational Health	
Cheque No.406388	£500.00
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No.406389	£569.62
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406390	£6.01
Creative Ape Fabrications- Memorial Seat	
Cheque No.406391	£1390.00
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No.406392	£611.69
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No.406393	£88.08
Wingate Community Association- September Social Event	

Cheque No. 406394	£226.00
Wingate Community Association- August Social Event	
Cheque No. 406395	£222.00
Roberts Tours- Summer Away Day	
Cheque No. 406396	£975.00
UK Fuels- Petrol Card	
Cheque No. 406397	£10.00
Clerk- October Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406398	£50.00
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406399	£61.37
HHST Parish Council- Picnic in Park	
Cheque No. 406400	£50.00
Park Keeper- Gift	
Cheque No. 406401	£100.00

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation for the period to 31 August 2024 which showed a balance of approximately £181669.66. The Clerk advised only a limited amount of annual expenditure was included.

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

(c) Completion of Audit 2024

Details of the completion of the external audit for the period to 31 March 2024 were considered.

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

2024/10/14/09

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) Vicarage Estate

A Member raised concerns that parked vehicles were blocking vision at the entrance of Vicarage Estate leading to the front street area. County Councillor Higgins advised that there was to be consultation of the potential of yellow lines being installed.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(2) Crossing Gates

RESOLVED the Clerk chase progress in relation to the outstanding works to the former crossing gates.

(3) Gulley Road Footpath

Following discussion regarding overgrown areas blocking the footpath it was **RESOLVED** that County Councillor Higgins raise the matter with the County Council's Rights of Way Officer and further progress be awaited.

County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins presented a report on County Council activities. It was noted that most new road markings had been completed throughout the village including at Wellfield Road and Durham Road. A Give Way sign was noted as having been installed at the Gulley House area. A meeting had also taken place with a road safety officer regarding highways issues at Moore Lane. No objections were noted in relation to proposed new speed limits at the northern entrance to the village.

A new seat was noted as having been installed alongside the mining memorial outside of the centre and a new seat installed at the church. New trees were also to be planted in various places throughout the village.

Metal hoops were to be installed at Bruce Crescent which would limit access to and from the woodland area and to open spaces. Similar hoops were to be installed at Dawson Road. Improvement works were noted as to take place at the Wellfield walkway area.

Issues with electric bikes were discussed and it was noted that it was a difficult issue for Police to deal with.

County Councillor Higgins asked if the Parish Council would make its second annual contribution towards the running of the Community Centre.

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

- (a) County Councillor Higgins be thanked for his report; and
- (b) The Clerk be authorised to make the second annual payment towards the running of the Community Centre.

2024/10/14/10

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2024/10/14/11

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.

2024/10/14/12

STAFFING ISSUES

The Clerk gave an update in relation to staffing issues in relation to the Community Development Officer. It was noted that the Officer's employment had been terminated on the grounds of ill health.

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

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE