

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 9th DECEMBER 2024

Present: Councillors S Williams (Chair), E Mason, A Ogle, C Ryan, I Smith,

County Councillor Higgins

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Whiting.

2024/12/09/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed Mr W Telford who advised he was in attendance to discuss the removal of rubbish from land at the Woodman's Cottage allotment site which was now in private ownership. Mr Telford stated the Parish Council had previously agreed to remove the rubbish although Members and the Clerk had no recollection of it.

RESOLVED the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk undertake a site meeting and a further update be awaited.

2024/12/09/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 4 November 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

2024/12/09/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Clerk presented a report from the Police summarising crime and anti-social for the period covering November 2024. It was noted that there had been 102 incidents with some relating to anti-social behaviour and the use of fireworks. Three residential burglaries were noted as being included in the reported incidents. A cannabis grow on the Front Street was noted as being dealt with and shop lifters had been caught at the Co-Op.

The next PACT meeting was noted as being on 11 December.

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

2024/12/09/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Carol Service

RESOLVED it be noted that the carol service had been canceled due to the unavailability of two schools.

(2) East Durham Communities Standing Together

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting when representatives of East Durham Communities Standing Together had attended to discuss support for Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning Act in relation to Homes for Multiple Occupation (HMOs). Article 4 would remove permitted development and require planning permission for HMOs.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk write to Durham

County Council in support of Article 4 and the removal of permitted development in relation to HMOs.

2024/12/09/05

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

(a) Section 106 Monies

The Clerk advised that an asbestos survey of the football changing rooms had been undertaken and an ecological survey of the pond was awaited. Word was awaited from Durham FA about potential funding for the changing rooms which was delaying progress in the design of new changing rooms

The Clerk advised that the Section 106 monies could not be ringfenced and so further discussions with officers from Durham County Council and County Councillor Higgins could be needed to help protect access to the funds.

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

(b) Football Association

The Clerk advised a pitch improvement application had been submitted but an application for new machinery could not be submitted as planning permission for steel storage units was awaited. Word was awaited on potential funding for new football changing rooms.

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

2024/12/09/06

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objections be made to the following application:

10 Forest Gate (Charlton House)- change of use from community centre to two single storey bungalows.

2024/12/09/07

CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Air Ambulance Service

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

2024/12/09/08

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Wingate Community Association- Annual Funding

Cheque No. 406512 £11,000

D Clogg- Remembrance Seat Installation

Cheque No. 406513	£110.00
LIE- Xmas decorative Lighting	
Cheque No. 406515	£3742.08
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Items	
Cheque No. 406516	£150.00
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No.406517	£65.11
Steadfast Security- Welfare Unit Alarm Annual Monitoring	
Cheque No.406518	£276.00
Steadfast Security- Bowls Pavilio Alarm Annual Monitoring	
Cheque No.406519	£276.00
Durham CC- Planning Fee	
Cheque No.406520	£359.00
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No.406521	£88.08
TSL- Xmas Tree	
Cheque No.406522	£1440.00
MKM- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406523	£26.69
Park Keeper- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406524	£45
Park Keeper- Xmas Gift	
Cheque No. 406525	£25
Assistant Park Keeper- Xmas Gift	
Cheque No. 406526	£25
Clerk- December Office Allowance	
Cheque. 406527	£50

Clerk- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406528	£45
Clerk- Postage Refund	
Cheque No. 406529	£40.80
Durham County Council- Machine Repairs	
Cheque No. 406530	£16.15
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406531	£119.97
Harbro Electrical- Xmas lights	
Cheque No. 406532	£47.52
Wingate Constitutional Club- Aged Members Xmas Party	
Cheque No. 406533	£100

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk advised a bank reconciliation would be presented at the next meeting.

2024/12/09/09

REPORTS

(a) The Clerk

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) Members

(1) Wingate Constitutional Aged Members Christmas Party

RESOLVED a donation of £100 be made to the aged members Christmas party.

(2) Quad Bikes Woodland View

A Member queried whether recently installed boulders at Woodland View could be moved to further limit access onto the former pit heaps area. County Councillor Higgins advised that there were significant costs associated with this which would prevent it happening. It was also noted that the post attached to the gate at the rear of North Road West appeared to have been replaced although there was no knowledge relating to this.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins presented a report on County Council activities. It was noted that he had made financial contributions to both the aged members and children's Christmas parties at the Constitutional Club.

County Councillor Higgins advised he had been consulted on the Parish Council's planning application for storage facilities at the park.

Yellow line road markings were noted as having been completed at the Junior School with bollards to follow at the Moore Lane entrance. Bollards were also to be installed at the pinch point and at the former TSB square. Consultation regarding the installation of yellow line road marking at the pinch point to the entrance to Vicarage Estate was to commence.

Hoops preventing access to the former pit heaps had started to be installed at the rear of North Road West and further hoops were to be installed at Bruce Crescent and Dawson Road. A dog bin referred to at the previous meeting was noted as having been installed at Moore Lane and there were plans in the new year to undertake improvement works to the Gulley Road walkway.

It was noted holiday bin collection days had been changed to Monday 30 December and Saturday 4 January.

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

2024/12/09/10

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2024/12/09/11

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED the press and public be excluded from the following item of business under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meeting Act 1960 (as amended) due to the disclosure of financial and personal information.

2024/12/09/12

DRAFT 2025/26 PRECEPT

The Clerk presented a draft precept for 2025/26. Following detailed discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the precept be set at £191,000.

2024/12/09/13

STAFFING ISSUES

The Clerk gave an update in relation to staffing issues in relation to the Community Development Officer.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted which included that all outstanding staffing matters be accepted as being concluded.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE