

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 10th MARCH 2025

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

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Higgins.

2025/03/10/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed twelve representatives of the community who advised they were in attendance because of rumours that the community centre was to close and because of concerns they had about this.

One representative quoted funding made by County Councillor Higgins to the operation of the centre and expressed concerns about it. The Clerk summarised that the centre was independent of the Parish Council and was operated by an Association made up of Trustees. He summarised the funding the Parish Council made annually to the operation of the centre but outlined the Parish Council had no control over centre operational or administrative matters.

A number of questions and answers followed including a specific query from one representative of the community as to why the youth club which had operated the previous year had ended. It was advised that the youth club had been funded by an external grant which had been obtained as part of the Parish Council's commitment to community activities but fundamentally it was the role of the Community Association to provide activities within the centre.

A community representative left the meeting and returned with two members of the Community Association. The Chairman advised that if the representatives of the community wanted to meet with the Association they needed to do so outside of the Parish Council and so the representatives of the community and the Association members left the meeting.

Discussion followed about the future of the community centre before it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk be delegated authority to continue discussions and negotiations with the Community Association.

2025/03/10/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 13 January and 10 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

2025/03/10/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Clerk presented a report from the Police summarising crime and anti-social for the period covering February 2025. It was noted that there had been 78 incidents which was consistent with the previous month.

Incidents included:

Criminal Damage

- A major incident of graffiti throughout the village. County Councillor Higgins was thanked for assisting in having the graffiti removed.
- Criminal damage reported but was a domestic incident.
- Windows of a property damaged at Forest Gate

Theft and Handling

- Pedal bike stolen from Acer grove.
- Vehicle stolen from Wellfield Road.
- 3 incidents of theft from Co-Op.
- Vehicle stolen from Cummings Square.

ASB

- Youths throwing stones at passing vehicles.
- Youths lighting fire near an allotment area.
- Off road bikes at Chillerton Way.
- Off road bikes on pit heaps.

The next PACT meeting was noted as being on 14 May.

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

2025/03/10/03

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Park Improvements

The Clerk advised that the FA pitch improvements grant had been approved and initial verti-draining works and deep spiking were to take place on both pitches. Planning permission had been granted for storage containers in the park which would enable an application for new machinery to be submitted. Up to date quotes had been obtained a tractor demonstration was taking place.

The Clerk further advised that Durham FA had indicated it would support a grant of up to £100k towards new changing facilities and so drawings were being finalised to enable a planning application to be submitted following which a procurement process for a contractor to be appointed would follow. The Clerk advised that the tender process and available budget would determine whether or not the works would be able to proceed.

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

- (a) The information given be noted;
- (b) The Clerk be authorised to proceed with the submission of a planning application for new changing facilities; and
- (c) further progress and updates be awaited.

(2) Highways Issues

The Clerk advised that speed monitoring was continuing to take place at Wellfield Road and monitoring cables were to be installed temporarily on the front street. Congestion issues had been raised by residents relating to Moore Lane and Cross Row but little could be done as the parking taking place was not illegal. It was noted that there were no plans for a lollipop person to be replaced at the Church Lane area.

Following recent incidents at the roundabout at the northern end of the village, County Councillor Higgins had requested a site meeting with the Police and Highways Authority at which the Parish Council would be invited.

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

(3) Phone Box Salters Lane

The Clerk advised that the redundant phone box on Salters Lane was to be removed.

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

(4) Wingate Nursery

The Chairman welcomed two representatives of Wingate Nursery who discussed a potential to extend the nursery cottage although this was subject to further understanding of the Nursery's exact requirements.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted and further details be awaited from the Nursery.

2025/03/10/04

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Following earlier discussions regarding the future of the community centre and the potential impact on the role of the Community Development Officer it was **RESOLVED** that the recruitment process be put on hold temporarily and reviewed again once further details were known about the future of the centre.

2025/03/10/05

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objections be made to the following application:

Two storey side extension- 18 Ingram Way, Wingate

2025/03/10/06

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

2025/02/1/08

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Npower- Pit Wheel

Cheque No. 406704 £65.19

Madhouse Media Limited- Domain Name Renewal

Cheque No. 406705	£18.00
Premier Tree Services- Park Tree Removal	
Cheque No. 406706	£1704.00
Macfarlane Group- Dog Poo Bags	
Cheque No. 406707	£1362.00
Wingate Community Association- January Social Event	
Cheque No.406708	£208.00
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406709	£7.00
TSL- Line Marker	
Cheque No.406710	£140.40
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No.406711	£81.96
Harbro Electrical= Christmas Lighting	
Cheque No.406713	£8.28
Clerk- February Office Allowance	
Cheque No.406714	£50.00
Durham Dry Stone- Xmas Tree Works	
Cheque No. 406715	£240.00
Madhouse Media Ltd- Domain Name Renewal	
Cheque No. 406716	£90.00
Madhouse Media Ltd- Web Hosting Etc	
Cheque No. 406717	£480.00
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406718	£224.50
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque. 406719	£94.33

Roch ndt- Light Column Tests	
Cheque No. 406720	£2551.20
TSL- Fertilizer Etc	
Cheque No. 406721	£432.00
TSL- Line Marker	
Cheque No. 406722	£140.40
Eon Next- Bowls Pavilion	
Cheque No. 406723	£251.04
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No. 406724	£88.08
Beaumont Brown- Planning Application for Storage Containers	
Cheque No. 406725	£900.00
Clerk- Refund for Bingo Books	
Cheque No. 406726	£19.51
Aqua Gas and Heating- Leak at Park	
Cheque No. 406727	£50.00
Wingate Community Association- February Bingo	
Cheque No. 406728	£208.00
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406729	£37.43
Clerk- March Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406730	£50.00
Clerk- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406731	45.00
Park Keeper- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406732	£45.00

Clerk- Postage refund

Cheque No. 406733

£41.76

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation statement for the period to 31 January 2025. The Clerk reminded Members that it was not a true reflection of the exact current cash position and included in the cash amounts was an underspend of approximately £17k of National Lottery funding.

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

2025/03/10/09

REPORTS

(a) The Clerk

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) Members

(1) VE Day Celebrations

A Member queries whether any VE Day celebrations were planned as it was the 80th anniversary.

RESOLVED the Clerk seek an update from the Remembrance Sunday Group and further progress be awaited.

County Councillor

In the absence of County Councillor Higgins there was no County Council report.

2025/03/10/10

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2025/03/10/11

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 personal and financial information.

2025/03/10/12

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair presented a summary of recent meetings which had taken place with representatives of the Community Association regarding the future of the community centre.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair be delegated authority to continue discussions and negotiations with the Community Association.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

1807

CHAIRMAN

DATE