

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 12th MAY 2025

Present: Councillors S Williams (Chair), A Ogle, M Whiting, E Mason,
P Mason, F McEwan- Thompson

- 2025/05/12/01 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE, NOTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**
- Members signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, Notifications of Financial Interest and noted receipt of the Parish Council's Social Media Policy.
- RESOLVED** the information given be noted.
- 2025/05/12/02 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR PERSON**
- RESOLVED** that Councillor Williams be appointed Chair Person for the ensuring year.
- 2025/05/12/03 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR PERSON**
- RESOLVED** that Councillor Whiting be appointed Vice Chair Person for the ensuring year.
- 2025/05/12/04 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**
- There were no representatives of the public in attendance.
- 2025/05/12/05 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held 14 April 2025 were agreed as a correct record. It was noted that minute number 2025/04/14/02 should refer to £6k and not £6.
- 2025/05/12/06 **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES**
- General discussion followed in relation to the filling of three Parish Council vacancies. A Member suggested that criteria could be included in any advert promoting the vacancies although the Clerk advised that it needed to be noted that no criteria was required when nominations were sought originally for candidates for the Parish Council and consistency was needed.
- Following further general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk be authorised to advertise the vacancies on the Parish Council to be filled by way of co-option following an interview process for interested candidates.
- 2025/05/12/07 **POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**
- There was no Police report. Clerk
- 2025/07/05/08 **PROGRESS REPORT**

(1) Park Improvements

The Clerk advised that the FA pitch improvements grant funding had now been approved which would result in grant funding of £25600 spread over the following six years with the Parish Council contributing a further £12800 over the same period. It was noted that for the first two years, the Parish Council had no financial commitment.

The Clerk further advised that an FA machinery grant application had also been approved subject to details of the machinery being provided to the FA. It was noted the Clerk was meeting again with the machinery supplier the following day. The grant funding was noted as being approximately £43k with the Parish Council being required to make a 25% contribution.

It was noted that the Parish Council's planning application for new football changing facilities had not yet been determined.

The Clerk advised that working with an external consultant recommended by the former Chair Person a National Lottery grant application had been submitted for £20k towards car park improvements.

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

(2) Wingate Nursery

The Clerk circulated details of the proposed extension to the nursey cottage building. It was noted that the Parish Council needed to grant formal approval so the Nursey could appoint a contractor and commence works.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk be authorised to notify the Nursey of there being no objections of the proposed works to the nursey cottage building.

(3) CCTV

The Clerk advised that the repairs to CCTV at the park were to be undertaken in the next week.

RESOLVED the information given be noted be noted.

(4) Wall Around the Bowling Green

RESOLVED it be noted that emergency works had been undertaken to a dilapidated wall around the bowling green

(5) Summer Activities

The Clerk advised that fun and food grant details from Durham County Council had not yet been made available. It was hoped grant details would be made available soon to enable planning for summer activities to commence.

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

2025/05/12/09

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Clerk advised that discussions had continued with the National Lottery regarding grant funding already obtained from the National Lottery being used to fund the Community Centre Manager role. The National Lottery was noted as having no objections to this.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** in principle that National Lottery grant funding be used to fund the post of Community Centre Manager subject to further details being awaited.

2025/05/12/10

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Individual Members signed their declarations for the Parish Council to become sole Trustee of the Community Association. The Clerk advised that while a more comprehensive report on the Community Association and the Community Centre would be presented at the Community Association meeting later that night

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

2025/05/12/11

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

It was noted that there were no planning applications to consider.

2025/05/12/12

CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that there were no items of correspondence to consider.

2025/05/12/13

FEES FOR 2025/26

RESOLVED that fees for 2025/26 be as follows:

- a) Football fields- £100
- b) Bowls facilities- £200
- c) Allotments- as at 2024/25

2025/05/12/14

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) Appointment of Internal Auditor

RESOLVED that Mr Jeff Dinning be appointed as the Parish Council's internal auditor.

- (b) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

BT- Broadband at Park

Cheque No. 406765 £93.18

Neville Cockerham- Easter Bingo Prizes

Cheque No. 406766 £15.00

Wingate Community Association- Social Event		
Cheque No. 406767		£229.00
Neville Cockerham- Bingo Prizes		
Cheque No. 406768		£20.00
Durham CC- HR SLA		
Cheque No. 406769		£318.00
Steadfast Security- CCTV Monitoring and Response Service		
Cheque No. 406770		£803.71
D&H Webster Landscaping- Car Park Works		
Cheque No. 406771		£2280.00
Durham Dry Stone- Repairs to Park Wall		
Cheque No. 406772		£2000.00
UK Fuels- Petrol at Park		
Cheque No. 406773		£4.36
Container Sales (UK) Ltd- Storage Container		
Cheque No.,406774		£3330.00
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies		
Cheque No. 406775		£52.24
Clerk- May Office Allowance		
Cheque No. 406776		£50.00
EON Next- Football Changing Room		
Cheque No. 406777		£260.33
EON Next- Xmas Lighting		
Cheque No. 406778		£24.57

(c) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk gave an update on a bank reconciliation for the period to 31 March 2025 which included a bank balance of circa £103k. The Clerk advised this showed a healthy financial position but reminded Members that within the

balance was £17k National Lottery money and approximately £12k to be paid towards new machinery. However, it was also noted that approximately £10k of vat was owed.

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

2025/05/12/15

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Yellow Lines- Police Monitoring**

A Member queried whether the Police monitored parking in the village as it was apparent yellow lines were being abused. It was noted that Traffic Wardens were sometimes in the village but it was the responsibility of individuals to report illegal parking.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(2) **Web Site**

RESOLVED it be noted the time of Parish Council meetings be updated on the web site.

(3) **Park- Anti-Social Behaviour**

A Member reported incidents of anti-social behaviour at the park the previous weekend involving horses and motor bikes. There had also been a significant fire in the woodland area. It was noted that the policy of not locking of gates around the football pitches needed to be reviewed if a new football changing room was to be built.

Following general it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted and the locking of pitch gates be further considered at a later date.

(4) **Wellfield Road- Children's Home**

RESOLVED it be noted that consideration was being given to a children's home operating at Wellfield Road.

County Councillor

There was no County Councillor present.

2025/05/12/16

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

There was no schedule of ongoing matters to consider.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE