

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

Present: Councillors M Whiting (Chair), C Ryan, A Bowden, E Mason, D Clogg

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Mason and J Hogg.

2025/11/10/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed Mr A Bell and two members of his family who were in attendance to discuss the allotment Mr Bell rents from the Parish Council which was recently destroyed by criminal activity and a vehicle being burned out. Mr Bell expressed dissatisfaction that nobody had been in contact with him about the matter or given him any updates regarding intended next steps. It was suggested that as the Parish Council owned the land it should clear it and it should have temporarily fenced it to make it safe. The Chairman advised that a meeting was to be held with Durham County Council and the Police to help determine whether any help could be provided to clear the allotments. The Chairman also referred to contamination on the land and hazardous materials and simply attempting to clear it was not possible.

Mr Bell and his family left the meeting following which lengthy discussion followed. It was recognised that there could have been better communication with the allotment tenants involved although avoidance of communication had not been intended. The Clerk highlighted that a fundamental issue was that while the Parish Council owned the land, it was rented out as two different allotment plots and all of the damaged sheds and other materials and property on the plots were owned by the tenants. It was also highlighted that the allotment fencing was a tenant responsibility.

Following further general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the outcome of the meeting with Durham County Council and the Police be awaited and further consideration to matter.

2025/11/10/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 13 October and 27 October 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

2025/11/10/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Clerk presented a report from the Police covering crime and anti-social behaviour for October 2025 which was summarised as follows:

76 incidents reported to control room.

Criminal Damage
 Smashed window.
 Dangerous dog.
 Camera stolen.

Damage to a vehicle.

Theft and handling

Theft from the Coop x3.

Payment not made to a taxi.

Vehicle Damage

Damage to a vehicle x2.

ASB

Parking issue at the medical centre

Male banging on windows

Neighbourly dispute

Fireworks

No as reported – Welfare check.

Off road bike x2

It was noted that a cloned vehicle had been seized and a number of youths had been issued with Anti Social Behaviour Contracts. The Next PACT meeting was noted as being On 20th November in the Community Centre at 6pm.

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

2025/11/10/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Pit Wheel

RESOLVED it be noted that it has been arranged for timber works at the pit wheel to be undertaken.

(2) Crossing Gates

RESOLVED it be noted that the crossing gates works had been completed.

(3) Chimney Stack- Nursery Cottage

RESOLVED it be noted that chimney stack works at the nursery cottage had been completed.

(4) Proposed New Football Changing Room

The Clerk referred to the previous special meeting and advised that a meeting with the Football Association had taken place that morning to discuss a budget shortfall. There was to be further consideration of the Parish Council's proposals and the potential for the new changing room design to be amended to reduce costs. The Clerk advised that if the scheme did not progress then the Parish Council still had liabilities for professional fees of circa £50k. It was also suggested that alternative proposals such as a different location for the changing room or a prefabricated structure of some kind may need to be considered as alternatives.

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

2025/11/10/05

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that it be noted that there were no objections to consider.

2 Chillerton Way- Single storey side garage extension.

2025/11/10/06

CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that it be noted there were no items of correspondence to consider.

2025/11/10/07

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

J Devine- Remembrance Sunday Piper

Cheque No. 406888 £230.00

Royal British Legion- Wreaths

Cheque No. 406889 £100.00

Durham CC- HR Advice

Cheque No. 406890 £81.00

Npower- Pit Wheel

Cheque No. 406891 £74.35

BT- Broadband at the Park

Cheque No. 406892 £93.18

Beaumont Brown LLP- Professional Fees

Cheque No. 406894 £15140.40

TSL- Fertilizer Etc

Cheque No. 406895 £266.40

Durham Drystone- Crossing Gates

Cheque No.,406896 £1218.00

LITE- Xmas Decorative Lighting

Cheque No. 406897 £3742.08

Clerk- November Office Allowance

Cheque No. 406898	£50.00
Durham CC- Tractor Chain	
Cheque No. 406899	£16.15
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406900	£300.81
Eon Next- Park	
Cheque No. 406801	£305.30
MKM- Padlock	
Cheque No. 406802	£26.51
Harbro Electrical- Xmas Lights	
Cheque No. 406803	£225.00
STARS Community Learning CIC- Pantomime	
Cheque No. 406804	£96.00
Wearside Properties LLP- Cottage Chimney Stack	
Cheque No. 406805	£2520.00

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation for the period to the end of September which showed a balance of circa £1941092. The Clerk reminded Members that while a healthy balance was shown, it was early in the financial year and the Parish Council further discussion relating to the Parish Councils finances was to take place later on the agenda.

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

2025/11/10/08

REPORTS

(a) The Clerk

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) Members

(1) Mr Bowden Retirement

Councillor Bowden (formerly Ogle) outlined that her husband had recently

retired on medical grounds following 38 years as a local post man. Councillor Bowden declared an interest but asked if there was anything the Parish Council could do to recognise her husband's public service.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and further consideration be given to it.

2025/11/10/09

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the details included in the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2025/11/10/10

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the following items of business under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 (as amended) due to the disclosure of financial information.

2025/11/10/11

2026/27 DRAFT PRECEPT

The Clerk presented a draft precept for 2026/27 outlining that it was not intended to be a final version. He outlined that budget issues relating to proposed new football changing had not been resolved although an allowance for a direct Parish Council contribution had been included.

Following general discussion and queries it was **RESOLVED** that the draft precept be considered further at the next meeting.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE