

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 30th MARCH 2026

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Ryan, P Mason

2026/03/30/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no representatives of the public present.

2026/03/30/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 09 February 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

2026/03/30/03

NON ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS SPECIAL DISPENSATION< COUNCILLOR PAM MASON

The Clerk advised that Councillor Pam Mason had given advance notice that due to health grounds there was a possibility she might be able to attend a meeting for six months which would normally mean she would no longer continue as a Parish Councillor.

RESOLVED that due to the advance notice provided, Councillor Pam Mason be granted special dispensation to not be required to attend a meeting for six months and the situation continue to be reviewed.

2026/03/30/04

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

Th Clerk presented a report from the Police summarising crime and anti-social behavioural issues for February 2026 which included:

Theft

Theft linked to a domestic property
 Shoplifting Co-op Wingate –4

ASB

Neighbourly dispute
 Theft at the Coop x 3
 Youths have kicked a meter box.

Criminal Damage

Smashed Windows
 Criminal damage linked to domestic.
 Threats of criminal damage x2
 Criminal damage linked to youths – youths have been reported to Asb team.
 Youths have kicked a door.
 Damage to the Railway Crossing Pub

Vehicle Damage

Vehicle fire at Coronation Road

It was noted that three youths had been reported to the ASB team. 30 nitrous oxide cannisters have been recovered from near the welfare park which were left in the bushes, extra patrols were to be carried out. A vehicle had been seized as it had no insurance and a further vehicle had been seized in relation to an ongoing investigation.

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

2026/03/30/05

COMMUNITY CENTRE FUNDING

The Clerk advised that the Chair and Vice Chair had authorised £4000 grant funding to the Community Association. The funding had been allocated from the National Lottery held by the Parish Council.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that retrospective approval be given to the £4000 Community Association grant funding.

2026/03/30/06

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Football Changing Room

The Clerk advised that progress from the FA was still awaited despite the request for two girls/ladies' teams having been met. It was suggested that due to the lack of progress a formal complaint be submitted.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk submit a complaint to the FA based on the lack of progress and the lack of communication.

(2) Park

The Clerk advised that there were no issues at the park and summer bedding plants had been ordered. He advised that while funds had been included in the 26/27 precept for new plant tubs he suggested any purchase be delayed until there was better understanding of the Parish Council's year end finances and the potential for any further financial contribution to the proposed new football changing room.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and the purchase of new plant tubs be considered at a future meeting.

(3) Health and Safety

The Clerk referred to a document previously circulated and outlined that he would circulate it again together with some proposed check lists for use at the park and once done he would arrange a working group meeting to discuss the detail.

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

(4) Home Recycling

RESOLVED it be noted that new home recycling arrangements were to be delayed in County Durham and unlikely to be introduced until the summer.

2026/03/30/07 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no objections to consider.

2026/03/30/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

RESOLVED there be no objections to an application for a new premises licence relating to the sale of alcohol at 9 Front Street West, Wingate.

2026/03/30/09 **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

DCC- Trade Waste	
Cheque No. 406901	£65.50
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406902	£304.98
Eon Next- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No. 406903	£85.12
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No. 406904	£93.18
Wingate and District Community Association- Grant	
Cheque No. 406905	£4000.00
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406906	£224.95
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406907	£22.95
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No.,.406908	£61.60
TSL- Machine Hire	
Cheque No. 406909	£120.00
TSL- Line Marker	

Cheque No. 406912	£3341.58
Grounds Maintenance Association- Membership	
Cheque No. 406913	£93.00
DCC- Machine Repairs	
Cheque No. 406914	£124.84
Anglian Water- Park	
Cheque No. 406915	£919.42
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406916	£51.90
Eon Next- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No. 406917	£74.80
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406918	£152.76
Durham Dry Stone- Xmas Tree Works	
Cheque No. 406920	£280.00
DCC- HR Advice	
Cheque No. 406921	£270.00#
Wingate and District Community Association- February Social Event	
Cheque No. 406922	£229.00
Clerk- March Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406923	£50.00
Clerk- Refund for File Dividers	
Cheque No. 406924	£20.99

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation for the period to the end of January 2026. He had advised that reserves were decreasing significantly primarily because of costs linked to the new football changing room project.

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

noted.

(c) 24/25 External Audit

The Clerk presented a summary of the 24/25 External Audit report and highlighted particularly that some information had not been published on the web site as required and risk had not formally been considered during the year although this was something that had since been addressed.

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

2026/03/30/10

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) Moore Lane Footpath

RESOLVED the Clerk see progress relating to the footpath from Moore Lane to the Community School.

(2) Gate- North Road West Allotments

RESOLVED the Clerk chase progress in relation to the gate at the rear of North Road West.

(3) Pinch Point

RESOLVED it be noted that the Police and the Highways Authority had previously advised that despite the concerns of some residents the pinch point could not be removed and must stay in place.

(4) Nursery

The Chairman advised that he had been approached by a representative of the nursey seeking compensation relating to delays in the chimney stack at the nursey building at the park. It was noted the building was still accessible while repairs were awaited.

RESOLVED the request be noted.

(5) Park Roadway

RESOLVED the Clerk seek an estimate for repairs to the road leading to the park and summary of necessary repairs.

(c) **County Councillor**

A written report from the two County Councillors was considered. It was noted that Durham County Council was liaising with representatives of Bellway regarding anti-social behaviour at Plantation Walk, land owned by Bellway. An update from Officers relating to footpath repairs adjacent to Wellfield Community School was still awaited

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

2026/03/30/11

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

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

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE