

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 13th APRIL 2026

Present: Councillors M Whiting (Chair), A Bowden, E Mason, R Collins, J Hogg, C Ryan

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Mason

2026/04/13/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed two representatives of the ladies bowls club who stated they were in attendance following social media comments at the weekend about the condition of the park and the bowling area particularly. They stated that they were not linked to the social media comments but they did have concerns they wished to discuss. It was noted that the Chairman and other representatives of the Parish Council had met with representatives of the bowling club on Saturday following some of the social media comments.

Discussion followed about the condition of the bowling green and the fact it was not in as good a condition last year as previous years. The bowling club representatives stated both their season and the mens would be starting soon but the Park Keeper had advised that the green was not yet ready for used and so practice on it had not been permitted. Photographs of the bowling green from different years were circulated and it was suggested that old photographs of the green had previously been used to show the green being in good condition at certain times when it was not. Reference was made to the hours of work of the Park Keeper when it was suggested he was not on site on afternoons. During further general discussion it was suggested that a site meeting be held with representatives of the bowling club and there was potential to reintroduce a Parks and Allotment Sub-Committee.

The two representatives of the ladies bowls club left the meeting and discussions continued. The Clerk outlined that the condition of the bowling green from year to year was often weather dependent and there had been some problems with parts of the green in the previous year although it was currently looking in good condition. The Chairman stated that bowls pavilion appeared to be open during the previous weekend's visit with machinery left outside. There also appeared to be a water leak from the tap adjacent to the bowling green.

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

- (a) the Clerk liaise with the Park Keeper to seek an update on park issues; and
- (b) a park site meeting be arranged to consider further some of the issues discussed.

2026/04/13/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS held on 30 March 2026 were agreed as a

correct record.

2026/04/13/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

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

Theft

Theft from the Coop x5

ASB

Quad bike/off road bikes

ASB linked to the protests in Wingate.

Motorbikes driving along the lines.

Youths causing issues in the local shops. Three youths have been dealt with via the ASB route.

Criminal Damage

Criminal damage linked to the protests.

Criminal damage to the windows at the top house pub.

Burglary

Electricals taken from a property at North Road.

Vehicle Damage

Vehicle fire at Gray square in Wingate

It was noted that a vehicle has been seized in relation to a ongoing investigation and male arrested linked to drugs. A scooter was seized off a male for driving it in an anti-social manner. An ASB referral was noted as having been made for 3 youths to the ASB team. Officers were noted as having attended school to take part in a mini police scheme.

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

2026/04/13/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Football Changing Room

The Clerk advised that along with the Parish Council's architect he had met with representatives of the Football Association in the week previous. Progress relating to finalising a funding application was being made and it was hoped that the Durham office would have it completed and submitted to head office in the next couple of weeks with an outcome to follow soon after.

The Clerk advised that after recent discussions with the FA he was more positive about the funding application being successful.

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

(2) Park

The Clerk advised that there were a number of capital investment requirements at the park. He stated that parts of the main road were

deteriorated partly due to the weather and general usage but also due to heavy vehicles using the road linked to works at the nearby RC Primary School.

Play equipment repairs were noted as being needed on several items of equipment with a quote for some repairs being circa £1800. The Clerk also referred to the bottom car park which needed refurbishment works and it was noted there had been two unsuccessful National Lottery bids in relation to that.

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

- (a) Further details relating to play equipment repairs be awaited;
- (b) An estimate for road repairs be obtained; and
- (c) Further consideration be given to the bottom car park at a later date.

2026/04/13/05

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

Discussion followed relating to draft health and safety documents which had been circulated in advance of the meeting following which it was **RESOLVED** that health and safety issues be considered at the same time as a site meeting at the park.

2026/04/13/06

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no objections to consider.

2026/04/13/07

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.

2026/04/13/08

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Par Petroleum- Diesel	
Cheque No. 406925	£352.72
Madhouse Media- Microsoft 365	
Cheque No. 406926	£64.80
Clerk- April Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406927	£50.00
Clerk- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406928	£45.00

Park Keeper- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406929	£45.00
Park Keeper- Refund for Cleaning Items	
Cheque No. 406930	£7.89
Clerk- Postage Refund	
Cheque No.,406932	£52.20
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd- Play Equipment (50%)	
Cheque No. 406933	£1297.14
Radius Busin Solutions- Diesel	
Cheque No. 406934	£15.00
MKM- Miscellaneous Supplies	
Cheque No. 406935	£164.80
Eon Next- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No. 406936	£74.02
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406937	£22.49
PB Skip Hire Ltd- Skip	
Cheque No. 406938	£354.00

(b) Bank Reconciliation

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

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

2026/04/13/09

REPORTS

(a) The Clerk

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) Members

(1) Moore Lane Footpath

RESOLVED it be noted that further information was awaited from Durham County Council in relation to the footpath from Moore Lane to the Community School.

(2) Rubbish at the War Memorial

RESOLVED it be noted that rubbish bags at the war memorial were left there as a central collection point by Durham County Council.

(3) Park Bins

RESOLVED that further specific consideration be given to the installation of additional bins at the park.

(4) Football Team- Unauthorised Usage of the Park

RESOLVED an investigation be undertaken into apparent use of the park football pitches by an unauthorized team.

(5) Broadband at the Park

RESOLVED it be noted that BT provided broadband at the park under contract with limited opportunity to change suppliers because of infrastructure issues.

(6) Water Leak at the Park.

RESOLVED the Clerk investigate an apparent water leak at the park.

(c) County Councillor

There was no County Councillor present.

2026/04/13/10

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

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

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE