

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 12th OCTOBER 2020**

**Present:** Councillors E Mason (Chair), S Williams, J Cairns, J Bradley, P Daley, J Higgins, P Mason

2020/10/12/01

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no representatives of the public present.

2020/10/12/02

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

2020/10/12/03

**POLICE MATTERS**

While there was no Police presence the Clerk presented a summary of a crime report covering the period of September 2020 which included 139 incidents summarised as follows:

- 18 reports of anti-social behaviour- nuisance
- 6 reports of anti-social behaviour- environment
- 2 reports of anti-social behaviour- personal
- 0 theft from a vehicle
- 0 theft of a vehicle
- 7 vehicle damage
- 2 burglary
- 12 criminal damage

County Councillor Higgins stated that he had had communication with the Police about the statistics as some crimes had either not been included or had been misrepresented. It was noted that anti-social behaviour was still a concern for residents in the village.

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting and a request that comparative anti-social behaviour crime data be obtained relating to neighbouring villages. Data highlighted that anti-social behavioural crime in neighbouring villages was consistent with Wingate.

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

2020/10/12/04

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH**

The Clerk reported that since the last meeting the Church had asked for financial assistance to support a new memorial garden and to assist it more generally. The Clerk advised that after discussions with the Chair and Vice

Chair a donation of £2000 had been made to the Church and retrospective support for this was now sought.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the actions of the Chair and Vice Chair be endorsed.

2020/10/12/05

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

### (1) Former Park Keepers Cottage/CIC

The Clerk advised the lease for the cottage and now been signed the CIC was responsible for the cottage. County Councillor Higgins gave an update on his understanding of CIC funding and in particular that anticipated £89k of section 106 monies was no longer available as it had already been allocated to other projects. County Councillor Higgins stated discussions were ongoing within the County Council regarding the potential for other Section 106 monies to be made available.

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

### (2) Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk advised that there was to be no formal community parade as a result of Covid restrictions although there was still to be wreath laying. Further details were awaited.

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

### (3) Carol Service

**RESOLVED** it be noted that the 2020 community carol service had been cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

### (4) Wellfield Road Seat

The Clerk advised that along with County Councillor Higgins he had met Avant Homes who had offered to provide a new seat which was proposed to be at the entrance to the new estate at the top of the adjacent walkway bank. Permission from Durham County Council was now awaited.

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

### (5) Flower Tubs

**RESOLVED** it be noted that two flower tubs had been relocated to Wellfield Road from other parts of the village.

### (6) Scarecrow Competition

The Clerk advised that the competition organiser had concluded the scoring and first, second and third placed prizes from the Parish Council had been organised.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

(7) North Road West Allotments/Pit Heaps

The Clerk advised that the padlock had gone missing on the gate which limited access to the pit heap area and the rear of the North Road West allotment site. He stated his intention was to fit a new padlock and allocate keys to those needing them including the County Council and the Fire Service. A letter was to be sent to the allotment tenants advising that further problems could result in the area being blocked off permanently.

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

(8) Market Crescent Allotments

The Clerk advised that the tenant who had recently been served a notice to quit his allotment had responded stating he was not prepared to leave without first being served a court order. He had stated that he would vacate the allotment if an alternative was offered.

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

- (a) the tenant be offered an alternative allotment on the Market Crescent site subject to a new tenancy and subject to a pre-allocation inspection and photographic evidence of the allotment pre-allocation being taken and agreed to; and
- (b) further progress and updates be awaited.

2020/10/12/06

**ANCIENT HEDGE ROWS**

Councillor Daly gave an update on the opportunity for the Parish Council to take a lead on the replanting of ancient hedge rows throughout the village. It was suggested that the starting point for further discussions was to try and obtain plans showing the locations of such hedge rows.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk contact Durham County Council to try and obtain any details relating to ancient hedge rows in Wingate.

2020/10/12/07

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED** that no objections be made to the following applications:

29 Salters Lane- part two storey and part single storey rear extension  
43 High Grange Way- change of use from open land to private curtilage with retaining wall and timber fence

County Councillor Higgins stated there was to be another application relating to the change of a commercial premises to two units with a flat above.

2020/10/12/08

**CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Air Ambulance Service

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £300 be made to the air ambulance service.

(b) Wingate Nursery/North Road West Allotment

The Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the Nursery asking if the Parish Council would pay for a skip to help clear an allotment recently allocated to the Nursery at North Road West. Included in the letter was a request for the Park Keeper and the Assistant to provide wildlife and nature talks to children possible of a fee paying basis linked to grant funding.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (1) The Parish Council pay for a skip to be organized by the Nursery to help clear an allotment at North Road West; and
- (2) Support in principle be offered to the Park Keeper and the Assistant providing wildlife and nature talks to children at the Nursery subject to further information.

(c) Wingate Grange Colliery Disaster Memorial

The Clerk advised that Historic England was assessing the memorial to determine it should have an enhanced listing on the List of buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Details regarding ownership and responsibility for the memorial had been sought.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the advice of Durham County Council be sought.

2020/10/12/09

**PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Authorisation of Payments

**RESOLVED** that authorisation be given for the following payments:

UK Fuels-Fuel and Card Charge

Cheque No. 405544 £44.08

Durham CC- Trade Waste

Cheque No. 405545 £277.16

BT- Broadband at Park

Cheque No.405546 £71.42

TSL- Line Marker

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Cheque No.405547  | £115.20 |
| Orbis Protect- Security Shutter Hire                              |         |
| Cheque No. 405548   | £182.97 |
| TSL- Line Marker  |         |
| Cheque No. 405549   | £115.20 |
| Harrisons Packaging- Doggy Bags                                   |         |
| Cheque No. 405550   | £774    |
| Mortons Law— Allotment Advice                                     |         |
| Cheque No. 405551   | £500    |
| Steadfast Security Ltd- Intruder Alarm Annual Monitoring and Mtce |         |
| Cheque No. 405552   | £324.48 |
| Holy Trinity Church- Donation                                     |         |
| Cheque No. 405553   | £2000   |
| Clerk- Postage Refund   |         |
| Cheque No. 405554   | £39.04  |
| Aqua Gas & Heating- Leak at Park                                  |         |
| Cheque No. 405555   | £70     |
| Clerk- Refund for Keys Cut  |         |
| Cheque No. 405556   | £12.50  |
| MKM- Timber   |         |
| Cheque No. 405557   | £89.44  |
| Webster Landscaping- Watering of Baskets                          |         |
| Cheque No. 405558   | £306    |
| Wearside Contractors- Park Cottage Fencing                        |         |

Cheque No. 405559 £12000

Orbis Protect- Security Shutter Hire

Cheque No. 405560 £177.08

2020/10/12/10

**REPORTS**

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

There were no Member reports.

(c) **County Councillor**

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on ongoing activities. It was noted that four additional bollards were to be installed at the southern end of the village and three adjacent to the former post office so as to limit unauthorized car parking. It was also noted that phase of three of works at the former pit heaps was to be undertaken including the replacement of wooden posts with bollards and fencing.

Following general discussion County Councillor Higgins was thanked for his report and it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

2020/10/12/11

**SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2020/10/12/12

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** the press and public be excluded from the following item of business due to the disclosure of personal information.

2020/10/12/13

**CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Following the consideration of two candidates it was **RESOLVED** that Hiedi Smith be invited to be co-opted to the Parish Council.

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

CHAIRMAN .....

DATE .....