

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 14th FEBRUARY 2022

Present: Councillors P Daly (Chair), S Williams, J Bradley, S Kelly, M Wilson, P Mason, E Mason

County Councillor J Higgins

2022/02/14/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no representatives of the public present.

2022/02/14/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 10th January 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

2022/02/14/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Clerk presented a summary of crime and anti-social behaviour related statistics for the period covering January 2022 which included 104 incidents summarised as follows:

22 ASB incidents- the majority of which related to off road/quad bikes
 1 theft of a vehicle
 9 criminal damage
 0 burglary

While it was noted there had been increase in crime numbers statistics overall were consistent with previous months.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

2022/02/14/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Woodman's Cottage Allotment Site

The Clerk advised that earlier that evening the Chair and Vice Chair had met with Mr and Mrs Urwin to discuss their previous concerns regarding the proposed sale of the Woodman's Cottage Allotment site. He stated that the main concern of Mr and Mrs Urwin was they felt it unfair that other people had not been given the option of purchasing part of the site recently transferred to the Parish Council. Mr and Mrs Urwin had also highlighted rubbish including asbestos dumped outside one of the plots that had come from inside it.

Members considered the update on the allotment site and noted the poor condition it is in. Members felt the cost of repairing boundary fencing could

be significant and overall the site was a liability to the Parish Council and the community. Members noted the potential costs associated with attempting to create new or original boundaries for each of the supposed plots on the site. It was felt the best and most cost effective way of dealing with the site was to dispose of it to the existing tenants.

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

- (a) the original decision of the Parish Council to dispose of the whole site to the existing tenants be supported; and
- (b) the Clerk investigate dumped rubbish to the site of one of the allotment plots.

(2 Co-Option)

The Clerk advised that the deadline for expressions of interest to be co-opted to the Parish Council was 23 February 2022. Two expressions had so far been made.

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

2022/02/14/05

WINGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

It was noted that the Wingate Community Association has been included on the agenda to facilitate regular updates on its activities. Councillors Williams and Kelly expressed an interest in joining the management committee of the Association.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that Councillors Williams and Kelly be nominated as Parish Council representatives of the Community Association management committee and they approach the Association about this.

2022/02/14/06

JOINT WORKING WITH THE CHILDREN IN NATURE COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Consideration was given to a paper prepared by the Children in Nature Community Interest Company (CIC) regarding a joint working proposal aimed at improving and further developing the park area. It was noted the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Williams had attended a recent meeting with the CIC to discuss the proposal. A further joint meeting was noted as to take place on 21 February at 6pm in the Community Centre.

Members supported the proposal for joint working particularly where it could be used to help draw down grant funding. The Clerk suggested the Parish Council act as an accountable body for funding applications to help avoid VAT issues.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's funding application to Believe Housing had been successful and a grant offer letter for £20k was awaited.

It was to be used primarily for car park works and the refurbishment of the bowls pavilion.

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

- (a) The proposal for joint working with the CIC and other potential partners be endorsed;
- (b) The Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor Williams act as Parish Council representatives to work with the CIC;
- (c) Where necessary the Parish Council act as an accountable body for future joint funding applications;
- (d) The successful funding application with Believe Housing be noted and further details be awaited.

2022/02/14/07

DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICES

Consideration was given to consultation being undertaken by Durham County Council regarding its library services. Members felt the continuation of a library service in Wingate was essential and the facilities and services on offer needed to be better promoted. It was suggested that the Parish Council could help with promotion through its web site and Facebook page.

Following further general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council respond to the consultation by supporting the retention of a library service in Wingate and where possible it should assist in promoting the services on offer.

2022/02/14/08

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objections be made to the following applications:

57 North Road West, alterations to shop front including replacement windows and doors

1 Walton Terrace, pruning of overhanging branches

2022/02/14/09

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Wingate Foodbank- Request for Financial Assistance
The Clerk advised that a request for financial assistance had been received from the local Vicar in her capacity as coordinator of the local foodbank. The funding request was for £500 per annum towards heating primarily.

RESOLVED the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair meet with the Vicar to discuss the funding request and the Church finances more generally.

- (b) Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024
RESOLVED it be noted that the County Durham and Darlington Police and Crime Plan for 2021-24 had now been published.

2022/02/14/10

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

J Hart- Xmas Tree Works	
Cheque No. 405861	£240
Par Petroleum- Diesel	
Cheque No. 405862	£201.71
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 405863	£50.59
E.ON Next- Bowls Pavilion	
Cheque No.405864	£37.06
LITE- Xmas Decoration	
Cheque No.405866	£3017.52
Community Association- Carol Service	
Cheque No.405867	£45.50
Premier Tree Services- Tree Felling	
Cheque No.405868	£3600
TSL- Line Marker Etc	
Cheque No.405869	£162
Wave- Water at Park	
Cheque No.405870	£2542
MKM- Paint Etc	
Cheque No.405871	£93.29
TSL- Lawn Sand	

Cheque No. 405872	£36
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No. 405873	£6.59
MKM- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 405874	£49.58
Clerk- February Office Allowance	
Cheque No, 405875	£50

2022/02/14/11

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) Wingate Wombles

RESOLVED the Wingate Wombles litter picking scheme be advertised again in the spring.

(2) Speed Bumps Caradoc Road

A Member raised the possibility of speed bumps being installed at Cardoc Road. It was noted that a recommendation was needed from the Police before the County Council would consider installing such measures.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(3) Fencing- Dawson Road

RESOLVED that damaged fencing in the Dawson Road area be reported to Believe Housing.

(4) Bus Stop Seating

A Member raised the potential for a bus seat to be installed at a bus stop on Salters Lane. County Councillor Higgins reported that the County Council would not install such seating.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(5) Covid Remembrance Garden

RESOLVED that the potential for a potential for a remembrance garden in the village linked to Covid particularly be included as an agenda item at the next

meeting.

(6) Defibrillator- Football Changing Rooms

RESOLVED that consideration be given to installing a defibrillator as part of the refurbishment of the football changing rooms.

(c) County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on County Council activities.

It was noted that the travellers site had been vacated and the condition of the site was now being investigated. It was noted that the land was supposedly to be sold.

County Councillor Higgins advised that boundary review consultation was soon to be issued. He stated that County Durham had the highest number of councilors per local authority and more than an authority the size of Birmingham for example.

Police action was noted as having taken place in the village the week previous. Sign were being installed relating to quad bikes.

Ongoing dog warden activity was noted as taking place. Damage to bus shelters was noted at shelters on the front street area. The County Council was noted as addressing a damaged tree at Wellfield Road and rubbish on a walk way adjacent to the Bellway Housing site.

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

2022/02/14/13

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE