

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 7th MARCH 2022

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

County Councillor J Higgins

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Mason.

2022/03/07/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chairman welcomed Francis and Beryl Drake, representatives of Holy Trinity Church and Action for Station Town. Discussion followed relating to deprivation and poverty in the community and a 'Renewing Pilgrimage' programme in Durham aimed at tackling such issues. It was noted that nationally church attendance was falling with Durham being at the fastest rate.

Initiatives being undertaken at the Holy Trinity Church were outlined including kite flying and bird box making. Thanks was given to the Parish Council for its ongoing support to the church and it was expressed that further ongoing joint working would be welcomed.

General discussion and questions followed. It was noted that there was no age restriction for children's activities at the church. Local schools were also noted as being engaged.

The Parish Council was thanked once again with particular thanks being given to the park keeping staff before Mr and Mrs Drake left the meeting and it was **RESOLVED** that the information given be noted and the Parish Council continue to work with and support the Holy Trinity Church.

2022/03/07/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 14th February 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

Prior to proceeding with the remaining agenda items the Clerk reminded all Members of the Parish Council's social media policy which outlined that Parish Councillors should not post anything on social media that could be construed as being on behalf of the Parish Council and they should not respond to other social media posts in any way that could be construed as being on behalf of the parish Council.

The Chairman responded by stating that he was using social media and commenting to posts in his capacity as a Councillor. The Clerk advised that some of these posts could be construed as being on behalf of the Parish Council and gave an example of one such post which related to grant funding

to the food bank which the Parish Council had not yet itself agreed to. The Clerk advised that aside from the social media policy Parish Councillors did not have executive or administrative responsibilities including speaking on behalf of the Parish Council.

General discussion followed with other Members offering views regarding social media activities.

The Clerk advised he would continue to raise any concerns relating to social media activity,

2022/03/07/03

CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk advised that only one of the two interested candidates had responded to an invitation to the meeting. Following an informal interview it was **RESOLVED** that Craig Ryan be invited to fill the vacancy of Parish Councillor.

2022/03/07/04

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Clerk presented a summary of crime and anti-social behaviour related statistics for the period covering February 2022 which included 84 incidents which appeared to be a significant reduction compared to previous months. These were summarised as follows:

14 ASB incidents- some of which related to youths knocking on house doors and windows
0 vehicle crime
6 criminal damage
0 burglary

As reported at the previous meeting it was noted a week of action had been undertaken in the village with the police and other related agencies. 250 anti social behaviour and crime stopper leaflets had been handed out along with e-bike patrols and across Wingate and the coastal area 75 vehicles had been stopped with 24 fixed penalty notices handed out. A motor bike was noted as having been seized.

Section 59 traffic offence notices were noted as having been placed throughout the village which outlined the powers of the Police to seize in public places off road bikes, quad bikes, cars and e-scooters. County Councillor Higgins was praised for his work and funding towards helping to tackle quad bike issue through parts of the village.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

2022/03/07/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Joint Event with Hutton Henry Parish Council

The Clerk advised that following a previous meeting he had continued discussions with the Clerk of Hutton Henry Parish Council regarding an initial joint event. The suggestion was for an afternoon pie and pea or equivalent lunch followed by bingo. It was felt this was a relatively easy event to organise and liaison with the local residents and the Church should mean a number of attendees could be attracted to attend. It was also felt that it could be the start of regular numerous events. It was noted as being something that would be subsidised by both Parish Councils but costs would be relatively low.

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

- (a) the Clerk be authorized to continue to liaise with Hutton Henry Parish Council and the Community Centre to organize a bingo event with lunch; and
- (b) the Parish Council subsidise the event subject to further agreement on costs and agreement with Hutton Henry Parish Council.

(2) Wingate Food Bank- Request for Financial Assistance

The Clerk advised following the previous meeting he had met with the Vicar and representatives of the food bank along with the Chair and Vice Chair.

The request for financial assistance of £500 was towards heating required when the food bank was operational on Saturday mornings. A suggestion had been made to relocate the food bank to the community centre which might be more economical for heating although this was felt not to work as some people who attended also benefited from being in the Church.

Discussions had continued regarding opportunities to engage those who attended the food bank in other community initiatives such as luncheon clubs at the bowls pavilion and potential joint events with Hutton Henry Parish Council at the community centre.

Following further general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council make a contribution of £500 towards the running of the food bank.

2022/03/07/06

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 were noted as soon to attend a meeting of the management committee of the Association. Discussion followed on how activities were being promoted. County Councillor Higgins stated that some activities had been promoted using the Parish Council's social media page.

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

2022/03/07/06

JOINT WORKING WITH THE CHILDREN IN NATURE COMMUNITY INTERST COMPANY

The Clerk advised that along with the Chair and Vice Chair he had attended a new joint working group aimed at improving the park as reported at the previous meeting. Work was noted as ongoing to develop a plan of initial priorities and to consult the community to seek views.

The Parish Council's successful Believe Housing funding application was noted as having been confirmed although the Asda application had been unsuccessful. A national lottery application was still ongoing although likely to be needing to be scaled down.

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

2022/03/07/07

REMEMBRANCE GARDEN

The Chairman referred to the previous meeting when it had been suggested that some sort of remembrance garden be established to commemorate those who had died as a result of covid. Following discussion it was noted that a representative of the community who had raised this had referred to a memorial plaque and not an actual remembrance garden.

Following further general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk investigate the costs associated with the purchase of a memorial plaque.

2022/03/07/08

CELEBRATORY EVENT

The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by the Chairman with a suggestion of holding a celebratory event to mark the achievements of a member of the community in representing Team GB at the recent Muay Thai World Championship Finals. The Chairman suggested that subject to the agreement of the community centre management committee a wall of fame could be established to promote and celebrate community achievements. A photograph of the gold medal winner was proposed.

The Clerk further stated he had spoken to the family involved with a proposal for an event on Saturday 9 April starting at circa 11:30am comprising a boxing demonstration, a buffet lunch and potentially an unveiling of a photograph.

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

- (a) The Parish Council support a celebratory event based on the details provided;
- (b) The Clerk be authorized to liaise with the family involved, community centre staff and other suppliers relating to arrangements; and
- (c) Further information be awaited.

2022/03/07/09 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no applications to consider.

2022/03/07/10 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- (a) Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Changes
Discussion followed on consultation taking place on parliamentary boundary changes. It was noted that there was a proposal for Wingate to move from the Sedgfield Constituency to Easington.

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

- (b) East Durham Area Action Partnership Board Meeting
RESOLVED details of the meeting to be held on Wednesday 9 March be noted.

2022/03/07/11 **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

BT- Broadband at Park

Cheque No. 405876 £31.36

Harbro Electrical- Xmas Lights

Cheque No. 405877 £228.00

E.ON Next- Football Changing Rooms

Cheque No. 405878 £364.07

TSL- Lawn Sand

Cheque No.405879 £194.00

Clerk- March Office Allowance

Cheque No.405880 £50.00

Npower- Pit Wheel

Cheque No.405881 £44.69

Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No.405882	£56.78
Park Keeper- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No.405883	£45.00
TSL- Machine Hire	
Cheque No.405884	£546.00
Npower- Football Changing Rooms	
Cheque No.405885	£552.78
Clerk- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 405886	£45.00
Clerk- Postage Refund	
Cheque No. 405888	£31.68
Holy Trinity Church- Donation	
Cheque No. 405889	£500.00

2022/03/07/12

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) Quad Bikes on the Village Green Area

RESOLVED that such matters needed to be raised by residents with the Police.

(2) BT Phone Box- Salters Lane

RESOLVED the Clerk liaise with BT regarding the potential for the former phone box to be removed.

(3) Allotment Market Crescent- Rubbish

RESOLVED the Clerk investigate rubbish at an allotment at the Market Crescent site.

(4) Queens Jubilee

A Member raised the fact the Queens jubilee was taking place in June. It was noted that children's activities were taking place at the community centre and there was potential for tree planting at the park linked to other park improvements.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(5) North Road West Allotments- Fence

RESOLVED the Clerk investigate a damaged fence at the North Road West Allotment Site.

(6) War Memorial- Inclusion of Names

A Member reported that he had been approached about the potential to include names on the war memorial or an adjacent plaque. The Clerk advised that this had been considered when the memorial was installed but a decision was taken not to include them because of the time and complexity of obtaining and checking all names as well as cost.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(7) Pit Wheel

RESOLVED efforts be made to light up the pit wheel in the colours of the Ukraine flag.

(8) Wingate Bypass

A Member reported that he had been approached about the potential for a bypass from Wingate to Deaf Hill.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(9) Pot Holes

A Member reported various pot hole issues. County Councillor Higgins advised that were many were already being addressed but unless they were a certain size and depth they would not be considered a priority by the County Council.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(10) Budget for Community Events

A Member reported he had been approached to see if there was a budget for community events. It was noted the Parish Council did not have such a budget but events could be considered as part of potential initiatives driven by the Making Wingate Welfare Park Working Group.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and the matter be raised at the next meeting of the Making Wingate Welfare Park Working Group.

(11) Football Changing Rooms

RESOLVED it be noted that materials had been ordered and works would be commencing in the near future.

(12) Zebra Crossing Lighting

RESOLVED the suggestion for improved lighting be noted.

(13) Londis Shop- Need for Lighting

RESOLVED it be noted that a light already exists in the vicinity of the shop.

(14) Kings Road Woodland

Following a report for the need for trees to be cut back it was noted that part of the land was owned by Durham County Council but the majority was in private ownership. The County Council was noted as having recently undertaken tree works and annual inspections were undertaken. County Councillor Higgins agreed to review the most up to date situation.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(15) Traffic Calming- Wingrove Estate

RESOLVED it be noted that any speeding issues needed to be reported by residents to the Police.

(15) Moore Lane- Congestion

Issues of congestion in the Moore Lane area during school drop off times were noted. It was noted that extra waiting restrictions had been installed but parents and school staff need to help manage the situation.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(16) Flooding at the Park

Flooding at the Park as noted as an historical problem partly because of the the adjacent farmers and school field which drain into the park and partly because of the lack of drainage in the park.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** drainage issues be considered as overall park improvements.

(c) County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on County Council activities.

It was noted that the travellers site had been vacated and it appeared fencing was now being installed but further details were not known. Planning permission was noted as having been granted for a domestic property at the former Catholic Club site. The County Council was noted as having increased council tax by 3%.

The empty homes team and the Police were noted as investigating certain properties at North Road West. County Councillor stated that he felt comments about broken glass and rubbish in the area of North Road West were unfair and he praised the County Council's Clean and Green Team for their work in addressing issues in the village.

The condition of the walkway to and from Statin Town was noted and while not all of it was in the Wingate boundary County Councillor Higgins agreed to address the issues.

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

2022/03/07/13

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE