

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

Present: Councillors S William (Chair) J Bradley, C Ryan, P Daly
 County Councillor Higgins

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Williams, Kelly, P Mason and E Mason.

2022/11/14/01 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no representatives of the public present.

2022/11/14/02 **THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 10th October 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

2022/11/14/03 **CITIZENS ADVICE SERVICE**

The Chairmen welcomed Edward Pickering, CEO of Citizens Advice County Durham who gave a summary of the services provided by Citizens Advice. The outreach service in Wingate was noted as continuing to be well attended with 58 clients and 185 issues having been dealt with from January to September 2022. Of these the majority related to benefits and tax credits and universal credit issues. Over 50% of clients were noted as being over 60 and predominately 65-69 years. The outreach service was noted as having identified £82696 of financial gain for clients, an average of £1425 per client.

General discussion followed and Members recognised the importance of the service in Wingate. It was suggested service demands would likely increase post-Christmas. Mr Pickering was thanked for attending the meeting and it was **RESOLVED** the Parish Council to continue to financially support the delivery of an outreach service.

2022/11/14/04 **POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

There were no Police report to consider.

2022/10/10/04 **PROGRESS REPORT**

(1) Christmas Celebrations

The Clerk advised that the Christmas tree was scheduled to be erected the following week along with decorative lights at the Holy Trinity Church. Light column lights were scheduled for the following week.

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

(2) Bowls Pavilion

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had been successful in obtaining a warm space grant of £1k towards a micro wave, tea urns, a coffee machine and refreshments. So far there had been no take up in using the pavilion as a warm space area although a village walking club had used it for the first time the previous Friday with 6 attendees including a new member to the club.

The Clerk stated that thought needed to be given to increasing use of the pavilion and meeting Believe Housing grant targets.

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

(3) Former Wellfield Road School Site

The Clerk referred to a query raised at the previous meeting regarding rumours that former school land was to be sold off for housing by Durham County Council. The Clerk advised that he had subsequently received communication from the County Council of their intentions to dispose of the site and he had responded advising that there was no need for further housing in the village which lacked the infrastructure to deal with it. He stated that if the land was sold for housing purposes the Parish Council would be consulted on any planning application.

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

(4) Trees at the Park

RESOLVED it be noted that Woodland trust trees had been planted in the bowls area of the park.

2022/11/14/06

PARK WARDEN/COORDINATOR

Consideration was given to a draft job description for the position of Park Coordinator circulated with the agenda and discussed generally at previous meetings. It was noted the draft job description had be shared with HR staff at Durham County Council who had offered approval to it. The Clerk advised it was intended to advertise the job in the near future with a view to the post being filled and operational from 1 April 2023.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED**

- (a) the job description be approved and the Clerk be authorized to advertise it; and
- (b) further progress be awaited.

2022/11/14/07

TOWNS AND VILLAGES PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

The Clerk advised that there was potential for the Parish Council to apply for up to £20k of Towns and Villages Partnership funding which had potentially been made available to it and five other neighbouring parishes. It was outlined that a scheme needed to be submitted reasonably quickly as there was a risk the County Council could remove the funding.

It was noted that the funding could be used on a range of different projects including traffic calming measures although such schemes could take too long to prepare and implement. Reference was made to consultation undertaken previously in relation to the park and a number of improvements respondents had indicated they would like to see which included play equipment. Other improvements relating to a café and lighting were noted.

The Clerk circulated an indicative play area improvement scheme, with three new items of play equipment, which had been prepared following the consultation.

A Member suggested that the Parish Council could explore loans as a way of raising money to make park improvements and potentially income generating opportunities such as a café.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED**

- (a) the Parish Council support a play area improvement scheme as a basis for a Towns and Villages Partnership funding application the Clerk be authorized to submit; and
- (b) further progress be awaited.

2022/11/14/08

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED there be no objections to the following applications:

Single storey rear extension- 25 Caradoc Road
Two storey rear extension- 11 Market Crescent
Single storey rear extension- 42 Kings Road
Single storey front and side extensions- Greenways, Haswell Road
Front extension and garage conversion- 17 Sandford Close

2022/11/14/09

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

2022/11/14/10

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

J Devine- Remembrance Piper	
Cheque No. 406006	£200.00
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406007	£32.36
BT – Broadband at Park	
Cheque No. 406008	£81.92
MKM- Paint Etc	
Cheque No.406009	£52.25
John Dougherty- Social Event	
Cheque No.406010	£100.00
BT- Broadband	
Cheque No.406011	£121.92
Park Keeper- Refund for Mileage	
Cheque No.406012	£49.50
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406013	£8.19
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406014	£6.01
Clerk- Refund for Ink Cartridges	
Cheque No.406016	£41.48
D&H Webster Landscaping- Car Park Resurfacing and Drainage	
Cheque No. 406017	£11640.00
D&H Webster Landscaping – Allotment Clearance	
Cheque No. 406018	£2640.00

D&H Webster Landscaping- Tractor Hire	
Cheque No. 406019	£1560.00
Peart Fencing- North Road West Allotment	
Cheque No. 406020	£2556.00
Playdale Playgrounds- Basket Swing 50%	
Cheque No. 406021	£683.05
Aqua Gas and Heating- Removal of Showers	
Cheque No. 406022	£70.00
Aqua Gas and Heating- Supply and Fit Two Showers	
Cheque No. 406023	£340.00
Aztec Colourprint- Autumn Leaflet	
Cheque No. 406024	£172.00
LITE- Xmas Lights	
Cheque No. 406025	£3017.52
AMJS Electrical- Football Changing Rooms	
Cheque No. 406026	£800.00
UK Fuels Ltd- Petrol	
Cheque No. 406027	£7.19
Harbro Electrical- Xmas Lights	
Cheque No. 406028	£210.00
MKM- Misc Items	
Cheque No. 406029	£12.18
Clerk- Refund for Refreshments in Bowls Pavilion	
Cheque No. 406030	£8.90

Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406031	£33.44
Clerk- November Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406032	£50.00
TSL- Lawn Sand	
Cheque No. 406033	£127.20
MKM- Gloves	
Cheque No. 406034	£3.49
Wingate Community Association- Afternoon Tea Event	
Cheque No. 406035	£172.50
Wingate Community Association- Bingo Event	
Cheque No. 406036	£127.00

2022/11/14/11

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Plaque In Memory Of Former Councillor Cairns**

RESOLVED that consideration be given to installing a plaque in memory of former Councillor Cairns who passed away during the covid pandemic.

(2) **Advertising Sign- Wellfield Road**

RESOLVED that Clerk investigate whether consent has been granted for the erection of an advertisement sign on a fence on Wellfield Road.

(3) **Autumn Leaflet**

RESOLVED the thanks of the Chairman be noted in relation to the recent delivery of the autumn leaflets to residents in Wingate.

(4) **Wellfield Community School- Remembrance Service**

RESOLVED that details of the recent remembrance service at the Wellfield Community School be noted.

- (5) Christmas Tree Carol Service
RESOLVED that details of Holy Trinity Church organized carol service to be held at the Christmas tree area on 11 December at 6:30pm be noted.

(c) **County Councillor**

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on County Council activities. It was noted that following a previous request a seat had been installed at a front street bus stand. Estimates were noted as being awaited for alterations to road markings and new signage at Wellfield Road to help with speeding issues. These would need to be funded from County Councillor Higgins neighbourhood budget. It was also advised that there was potential for the 30mph speed limit on Salters Lane from Shotton to the mini-roundabout on Wellfield Road to be extended slightly. A meeting with local Police as noted as resulting in further speed checks being undertaken on the front street area.

Estimates for CCTV on the front street area were noted as being awaited. Drain cameras were noted as being used on the front street area between the industrial estate entrance and The Crossings PH and the Burdon Crescent area to investigate separate issues.

Highways works were noted as having been completed on the track leading from Moore Lane and an overgrown hedge in that vicinity was noted as being investigated.

County Councillor asked whether a decision had been taken on where to locate a covid memorial plaque previously agreed to be installed. It was suggested this be left to the Chair and Vice Chair to agree.

County Councillor Higgins was thanked for his report following which it was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The information given be noted; and
- b) The Chair and Vice Chair liaise with County Councillor Higgins regarding the location for a covid memorial plaque.

2022/14/11/12

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2022/14/11/13

WHEATLEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL- YOUTH WORKER

The Chairman welcomed Wheatley Hill Parish Council Chairman and County Councillor for the Trimdon and Thornley division. Councillor Jake Miller who outlined that he was hoping for cooperation between Wheatley Hill, Trimdon Foundry and Wingate Parish Councils to employ permanent youth worker presence across the three villages. It was hoped a meeting with

representation from the three Parish Councils could be arranged along with representation from the Durham City Youth Project. Councillor Miller circulated a summary of indicative costs relating to the proposal.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the proposal be supported in principle and further details be awaited.

2022/14/11/14

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the following item of business under the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 196-(as amended) due to the disclosure of financial information.

2022/14/11/15

PRECEPT 2023/24

Detailed consideration was given to a draft precept for 2023/24 which had been circulated with the agenda. The Clerk stressed that in 2022/23 there was a significant risk that reserves would need to be utilized to meet the full year's costs. He outlined that the Parish Council needed to consider reducing some of its proposed commitments for 2023/24. A bank reconciliation showed the Parish Council had only circa £90k for the remainder of the financial year.

Following lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED:**

- (a) The Clerk contact the Community Association to seek information regarding its finances and its expectation for funding from the Parish Council; and
- (b) The precept for 2023/24 be considered again at the December 2022 meeting.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE