

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 16th OCTOBER 2023**

**Present:** Councillors S William (Chair), C Ryan, M Whiting, P Mason and E Mason

County Councillor Higgins

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Bradley

2023/10/16/01

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

2023/10/16/02

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

2023/10/16/03

**POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

The Clerk presented a summary of crime and anti-social behavioural issues during the period 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 which included as follows:

Criminal damage- 3 incidents.

Anti-social behaviour (nuisance- 4 incidents.

Burglary- 2, 1 house burglary.

Vehicle crime- 3 incidents including 2 fires.

A youth was noted as having been referred to the anti-social behavioural team and issued with a ASB contract. Work was noted as continuing regarding access to and from the railway lines by quad bikes as well as the former pit heaps area.

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

2023/10/16/04

**PROGRESS REPORT**

(1) Park Site Meeting- Quad Bikes

The Clerk advised that a site meeting had taken place to look at potential areas where quad bikes could be limited from accessing the park from the adjacent former railway line. The site meeting had highlighted various access points into the park which were difficult to do anything about because of the scale of the area. However, the main access area identified was the public right of way which ran through the park to the former line. During the site meeting a cyclist was seen using the access which included steps.

An allotment site meeting was noted as to be arranged.

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

(2) Ballinger Funding

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had been successful in obtaining a Ballinger Trust grant of £10k for continued youth activities in the village. The plan was based on youth activity provision in the village with two sessions covering younger and older youths. The grant was subject to a contract being signed and so could not yet be promoted.

Discussions were noted as ongoing with Creative Youth Opportunities, a Community Interest Company based in Horden regarding the provision of youth worker support as the play rangers based in Wingate were unavailable.

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

(3) Park Policies and Procedures

The Clerk advised that following discussion at the previous meeting the Community Development Officer was preparing policies for consideration at a future meeting relating primarily to the operation of and activities at the park.

The Clerk advised that the need for a health and safety policy was a priority particularly as more people were being encouraged to use the park. He advised that the development and implementation of a policy would require a budget.

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

(4) Park General

The Clerk advised that a swing basket at the park had been vandalised the previous evening and set on fire. CCTV had recorded the vandalism and the incident had been reported to the Police. Further details were awaited. The Clerk advised there had been no progress yet in progressing the procurement of new play equipment.

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting and consideration of the Parish Council's asset register. He stated that machine break downs and subsequent repairs had highlighted the need for the Parish Council to invest in new machinery. Recent significant repairs to a tractor and hedge cutter were noted. The Clerk stated he would be including budgets for new machinery in the 2024/25 precept which would soon be considered.

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

(5) Crossing Signal

The crossing signal was reported as having been replaced. Work on the gates was noted as to follow.

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

(6) Carol Service

**RESOLVED** that details of the carol service to take place on 14 December be noted.

23/10/16/05

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE**

The Community Development Officer the Clerk presented an update on ongoing activities.

Further details relating to the summer fun and food programme activities were shared and it was noted that the half term activities were taking place week commencing 30 October based on three afternoon sessions with details being finalised.

It was noted that with in partnership with East Durham Trust, the Parish Council had entered into an Information, Advice and Guidance agreement which involved signposting people in the community to agencies where advice and support could be obtained which could attract a monthly £100 fee for the Parish Council.

Discussions with other organisations including local schools and the Sunderland Foundation of Light were noted as being ongoing. The Holy Trinity Church was noted as holding a festival of light at the park on 30 October.

Members raised questions relating to ongoing activities. The Chairman asked for progress in the preparation of a workplan which was noted as having just been started.

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

2023/10/16/06

## **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

27 Salters Lane- erection of single storey extension  
Unit 16 Wingate Grange Industrial Estate- office and workshop

An application for a bungalow adjacent to the Woodman's Cottage allotment site had been refused.

2023/10/16/07

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Review of polling Stations/Districts

**RESOLVED** the Clerk be authorised to submit a response on behalf of the Parish Council.

2023/10/16/08

## **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Authorisation of Payments

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

Roberts Tours- Away Day Buses

Cheque No. 406293 £945.00

Wingate and Station Town Family Centre- Play Ranger Activities

Cheque No. 406294 £1007.50

UK Fuels- Petrol

Cheque No. 406295 £39.40

Clerk- Refund for Bingo Books

Cheque No. 406296 £36.91

Anglian Water- Park

Cheque No.406297 £528.67

TSL- Fertilizer Etc

Cheque No.406298 £596.00

TSL- Machine Hire

Cheque No.406299 £360.00

BT- Broadband at Park

Cheque No.406300 £93.04

Horns Garden Centre- Misc Items

Cheque No.406301 £218.16

Durham County Council- Machine Repairs

Cheque No.406302 £60.19

Npower- Pit Wheel

Cheque No.406303 £55.72

Horns Garden Centre- Misc Items

Cheque No. 406304 £17.58

UK Fuels- Petrol

Cheque No. 406305 £6.36

Webster Landscaping

Cheque No. 406306 £1080.00

Clerk- October Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406307	£50.00
TSL- Lawn Sand Etc	
Cheque No. 406308	£298.80
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406309	£450.01
Durham CC- Machine Repairs and Crossing Signal	
Cheque No. 406310	£2489.21
Wingate Community Association- Bingo September	
Cheque No. 406311	£190.00

2023/10/16/09

**REPORTS**

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Dawson Road Footpath**

**RESOLVED** that County Councillor Higgins be asked to investigate a damaged footpath at Dawson Road.

(2) **Regional Transport**

A Member queried whether bus services were likely to improve locally as a result of HS2 being cancelled and a pledge for the funding to be allocated regionally. It was noted that further details were not known.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

(3) **Football Lights**

**RESOLVED** it be noted that floodlights at the park had been decommissioned and removed over twenty years previous.

**County Councillor**

County Councillor Higgins presented an update on County Council activities. It was noted that work was continuing at the former lines and pit heap areas to limit access to quad bikes. Boulders were noted as potentially being installed. A barrier at the Wellfield Road part of the lines was noted as having been vandalised.

Most road markings were noted as having been installed at Wellfield Road and speed monitoring was ongoing with 38 motorists caught speeding in

September. Consultation regarding an amendment to the speed limit from the Co-op site to the beginning of Wingate from Shotton was noted as being as needed.

County Councillor Higgins was thanks for his report and it was **RESOLVED** that the information given be noted.

2023/10/16/10

**SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS**

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

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

CHAIRMAN .....

DATE .....