

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 8th JANUARY 2023

Present: Councillors S William (Chair), C Ryan, M Whiting, J Bradley, A Ogle and E Mason

County Councillor Higgins

202/01/08/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

2023/01/08/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 11th December 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

2023/01/08/03

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Clerk presented a summary of crime and anti-social behavioural issues during the period 1st to 31 December 2023 during which 100 incidents were reported including:

Burglary-2.
 Criminal damage- 8 incidents.
 Anti-social behaviour- 12.
 Vehicle damage- 4 incidents.

It was noted that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour during the Christmas period with a number of incidents relating to the pit heaps area. Quad bikes continued to be an issue but not all such bikes were illegal. One individual was noted as being responsible for a number of criminal damage incidents and had subsequently been arrested.

PACT meeting dates were to be revised with monthly meetings becoming quarterly with the first on 21 February in the community centre..

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

2023/12/11/04

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Park Policies and Procedures

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk arrange a meeting with those Members who had expressed an interest in contributing.

(2) Christmas Celebrations

The Clerk advised that the Christmas celebrations had been a success.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(3) Play Equipment

The Clerk advised that an Invitation to Quote has been issued to suppliers

recommended by Durham County Council. A decision to award a contract to a supplier would then need to be taken

RESOLVED that:

- (a) the information given be noted;
- (b) the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair be authorised to proceed with the awarding of a contract; and
- (c) further progress be awaited.

(4) Youth Club

The Clerk advised that the first youth club session had proved to be a success with 25 children attending.

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

(5) Web Site

The Clerk advised that Durham County was to cease providing a web hosting service and so an alternative provider would be needed. He advised that discussions with potential providers were ongoing.

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

24/01/08/05

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE

The Community Development Officer table a work plan and summary details relating to some projects being worked on. It was noted the children's Christmas Grotto had been a success. An information and advice event was noted as taking place the next day although guidance on each of the attendees was noted as still to be done. Discussion followed in relation to a walking club and the need for a new club leader. It was suggested that unless the vacancy was advertised then it would be difficult to fill.

Discussions were noted has having been with NHS County Durham and Darlington regarding the potential for courses etc to be run in the village. A site meeting had also been held at the park and the pond area particularly which was noted as having over flowed on a number of occasions.

The Community Development Officer advised that an application for a February half term fun and food grant was being prepared for submission to Durham County Council.

Discussion followed in relation to a Welcome Spaces application for the bowls pavilion and what was being done to encourage people to use he building. It was noted that without advertising and activities being organised then there would be no added value.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that information given be noted and the Community Development Officer develop further the projects outlined in the work plan and discussed at the meeting.

2024/01/08/06

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications to consider.

2024/01/08/07

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

2024/01/08/08

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Npower-Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406201	£57.91
Aztec Print- Christmas Printing	
Cheque No. 406202	£150.
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No. 406203	£6.43
LITE- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No. 406204	£3017.52
Premier Tree Services- Park Tree Work	
Cheque No.406205	£768.00
Premier Tree Services- Park Tree Works	
Cheque No.406206	£768.00
J Dougherty- Christams Socail Event	
Cheque No.406207	£150
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No.406208	£238.21
Anglian Water- Park	
Cheque No.406209	£823.66
Durham County Council- Half Term Activities Refund	
Cheque No.406210	£360.00
Chairman- Christmas Grott Items Refund	

Cheque No.406211	£62.50
Wingate Community Association- Social Event 19/12	
Cheque No. 406212	£389.64
Community Development Officer- Christmas Grotto Items Refund	
Cheque No. 406213	£52.34
Community Development Officer- Christmas Grotto Items Refund	
Cheque No. 406214	£17.75
Mr Entertainment- Santas Grotto	
Cheque No. 406215	£240.00
MKM- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406216	£16.08
Eon Next- Football Changing Room	
Cheque No. 406217	£982.49
Clerk- January Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406218	£50.00
LITE- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No. 406219	£4023.36
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406220	£59.83
J Hart- Xmas Works	
Cheque No. 406221	£400.00

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation for the period to 30 November which showed a balance of circa £136700. The Clerk advised within the balance was £10k Ballinger Trust grant funding, a £20k Durham County Council play equipment grant and £6k nursery rent for the former Park Keeper's cottage.

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

2024/01/08/09

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Pit Heaps- Quad Bikes**

Quad bike issues were noted as continuing on the pit heaps although it was noted as being difficult to prevent.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

(2) **Moore Lane- Parking**

Parking problems at Moore Lane were reported although they were noted as being difficult to do anything about as Durham County Council has already advised that the street was not suitable for a permit scheme and development works at the school were adding to the problems as a result of increased traffic.

The road leading to the pond was noted as being unadopted and so Durham Council would not undertake any works to it.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins presented an update on County Council activities. It was noted that an appeal had been submitted into a proposed residential development adjacent to the Woodman's Cottage Allotment site.

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

2024/01/01/10

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2024/01/08/11

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

2024/01/08/12

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Chairman asked that an urgent item of business be considered relating to the Community Development Officer.

The Clerk presented a long verbal report regarding the performance of the Community Development Officer and advised that following discussions with the Chairman the advice of Durham County Council's HR department had

been sought.

Following lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair the Clerk continue a formal investigation into the performance of the Community Development Officer which was noted as potentially resulting in a disciplinary process being initiated.

2024/01/08/13

DRAFT PRECEPT 2024/25

The Clerk presented a draft precept for 2024/25 which Members considered. It was noted that there remained scope to amend the draft and some issues needed to be agreed before the precept could be finalised. The precept total was £184832.

Following ongoing discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The precept be agreed and the Clerk be authorised to notify Durham County Council; and
- (b) Further consideration be given to the specific allocation of budget lines within the precept.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE