

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 8th APRIL 2024**

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

County Councillor Higgins

2024/04/08/01

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Mr Sanderson-Remembrance Sunday Group

The Chairman welcomed Mr Sanderson who advised he was in attendance to discuss the potential for a memorial bench and a memorial soldier to be installed on the site adjacent to the war memorial.

Lengthy discussion followed and Mr Sanderson was advised to develop any proposals and to submit them to the Parish Council for further consideration.

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

Mr King- Parish Council Precept

The Chairman welcomed Mr King who advised he was in attendance to discuss concerns about the increase in the Parish Council's precept and the impact it was having on his cost of living along with other cost pressures. Members sympathised with Mr King but outlined the Parish Council had its own cost pressures which had resulted in an increase in the precept.

Lengthy followed before Mr King left the meeting using an expletive to describe the Parish Council.

2024/04/08/02

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held 11 March 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

2024/04/08/03

**POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

The Clerk presented an update from the Police highlighting crime and anti-social behavioural figures for February which were noted as including 94 incidents for the month including:

Anti- social behaviour incidents – 6

Criminal damage incidents – 5

Vehicle damage incidents- 2

Burglary- 2

Residential- 1

The vehicle damage incidents were noted as including two car fires.

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

2024/04/08/04

**PROGRESS REPORT**

(1) Summer Activities

The Clerk presented detailed draft proposals for a five week programme of children's activities at the park based on three sessions per week. The proposals were based on working jointly with Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council and obtaining a Fund and Food grant from Durham County Council although further details on the grant funding were awaited. The Clerk advised that without the grant funding the proposals would need to be reconsidered as the Parish Council had limited budget available.

The Clerk answered questions relating to the proposals and following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted and further progress be awaited.

2024/04/08/05

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE**

In the absence of the Community Development Officer there was no report to consider.

2024/04/08/06

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

Fir Tree Garage, Durham Road- Replacement of Signage.

Fir Tree Garage, Durham Road-Retention of container and carport extension together with proposed external upgrade works.

Replacement porch and application of render to all elevations.

2024/04/08/07

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

2024/03/12/13

**PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Authorisation of Payments

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

Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies

Cheque No. 406250 £43.50

TSL- New Machinery

Cheque No. 406401 £1500.00

Anglian Water- Park

Cheque No. 406402 £522.75

Eon Next- Football Changing Room

Cheque No. 406403 £878.27

BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No.406404	£82.24
Macfarlane Group- Dog Bags	
Cheque No.406405	£1356.00
Amazon- Bowls Pavilion Items (microwave Etc)	
Cheque No.406407	£122.97
G&Gs- Bowls Pavilion Table and Chairs	
Cheque No.406408	£555.00
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No.406409	£6.66
Clerk- Refund for Bingo Books	
Cheque No.406410	£69.07
Playdale- Replacement Swing	
Cheque No.406411	£128.24
Wingate Community Association- March Social Event	
Cheque No. 406412	£206.00
Wingate Community Association- March Youth Club Room Hire	
Cheque No. 406213	£376.00
CDALC- Annual Subscriptions	
Cheque No. 406214	£673.97
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406215	£43.50
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406216	£11.98
Clerk- April Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406217	£50.00
Npower- Pit Wheel	

Cheque No. 406418	£63.42
Park Keeper- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406419	£45.00
Clerk- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406420	£45.00
Clerk- Postage Refund	
Cheque. 406421	£40.80

(b) Bank Reconciliation

**RESOLVED** that a bank reconciliation be presented at the next meeting.

2024/04/08/09

**REPORTS**

(a) The Clerk

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) Members

(1) Bruce Crescent Car Parking

Following a query, it was noted once again that parking on open spaces in the Bruce Crescent area was a Believe Housing matter. County Councillor Higgins advised that Durham County Council had written to Believe Housing about the matter and the Police had been contacted about car parking on the footpath.

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

(2) Moore Lane- Dumping of Rubbish

**RESOLVED** that County Councillor Higgins investigate the dumping of rubbish at a works compound at Moore Lane.

(3) Dobson Terrace- Fence

**RESOLVED** that it be noted that fencing replacement works were to take place at Dobson Terrace.

(4) Woodland View- Footpath Pinch Point

A Member raised the fact that a pedestrian using a particular push chair could not access a pedestrian pinch point at Woodland View. It was noted the pinch point had been designed and installed to limit bike access and it was unfortunate that a particular push chair had limited access. County Councillor Higgins advised that it was unlikely that the County Council would support or fund a change.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

(5) Bridge at the Pond

**RESOLVED** the Clerk arrange for damaged mesh at the park pond bridge to be fixed.

(6) North Road West Allotments Barrier

**RESOLVED** the Clerk arrange for a new padlock to be installed to the barrier at the rear of North Road West.

### **County Councillor**

County Councillor Higgins presented a verbal report including

- The County Council's budget had resulted in a 5% council tax increase.
- The X22 Sunday service was noted as having been reinstated.
- New poles and lights were noted at the zebra crossing.
- Speed monitoring at Wellfield Road had highlighted that vehicles monitored were considered to be driven at an acceptable speed.
- Works had taken place at the front street park area with old fencing taken down and trees to be installed.
- Resurfacing works were taking place in the Laing Square, Dodds Terrace and Walton Terrace areas.
- Road marking was to be installed at the nursery/old post office corner.
- Virgin Media would soon be starting works in the village to install broadband cable.
- The installation of metal hoops was being considered at the pit heaps to further limit access.
- A new bus shelter had been installed at Wellfield Road.

On behalf of the Community Association County Councillor Higgins asked if the first part of a financial contribution could be made to the running of the community centre.

Following general discussion County Councillor Higgins was thanked for his report and it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) The information given be noted; and
- (b) The Clerk be authorised to make a financial contribution towards the running of the community centre.

2024/04/08/10

### **SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS**

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

2024/04/08/11

### **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.

2024/04/08/12

### **STAFFING ISSUES**

The Clerk gave an update in relation to staffing issues and the Community

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

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

CHAIRMAN .....

DATE .....