

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER 2024

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

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Higgins

2024/09/09/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

2024/09/09/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held 8 July 2024 and the Special Meeting held on 8 August 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

2024/09/09/03

UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

The Clerk advised that there had been no request for an election and only one expression of interest relating to co-option to the Parish Council. The Chairman welcomed Mr Ian Smith who had expressed an interest in being coopted and who outlined brief details about himself. The Clerk advised of the role and activities of the Parish Council before Mr Smith left the meeting.

Following general discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that Mr Smith be invited to be coopted to the Parish Council.

2024/09/09/04

POLICE AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS

The Clerk presented an update from the Police for the period of August. There had been 66 incidents reported including:

Anti social behaviour- 5 incidents
 Criminal damage- 2 incidents
 Burglary- 1 incident at a new build site

The next PACT meeting was noted as being in November and the Police had advised that some operation were planned for Wingate with details regarding the results of them to be shared.

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

2024/07/08/05

PROGRESS REPORT

(1) Summer Activities

The Clerk advised that summer activities had proved to be a success in the main. Daily attendances were significantly less than the previous year and most attendees had not followed either of the two registration processes. The Clerk thanked Councillor Ogle for her daily attendance and the management of daily registrations. Councillor Ogle presented a written report summarising her views on the activities with lessons to learn for future years. One suggestion was that the bowls club be more engaged in activities. A Member also suggested liaising with the RC Primary school

regarding the use of its facilities in future years.

The Clerk added that the activities had proved very time consuming for both him and the park staff. Final costs were noted as being prepared and discussions were to take place with Durham County Council about registering children post the activities in order not to lose out on grant funding.

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

- (a) the information given be noted;
- (b) thanks be given to all staff and volunteers who had supported the activities; and
- (c) and further progress be awaited.

(2) Summer Away Day

The Clerk advised that summer away day trip to South Shields had been well attended with over 70 children plus family members. 19 children were noted as having had attended from the area covered by Hutton Henry and Station Town Parish Council with the Parish Council being reimbursed for these attendees.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(3) Youth Club

The Clerk advised that the budget for weekly youth club activities had been exceeded with a breakdown of costs circulated. It was noted the increased costs were due to not being able to use the park area in the spring months because of poor weather. A final report was to be submitted to the external funder, Ballinger, with the potential for additional funding to be explored.

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

(4) Wingate Primary School- School Uniforms

The Clerk referred to the previous meeting and advised that the school uniform grant was for purchases with retailers such as Tesco etc and not from an external contractor. As a result of discussions with the Chair and Vice Chair a grant of £200 had been made.

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

(5) Community Association

The Clerk advised that he spoken to the centre manager for an update on proposed new constitutional arrangements. The centre manager had advised that a new lease was in the process of being prepared.

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

(6) Mothers Club

The Clerk advised that newly formed mothers club was using the bowls pavilion on Monday mornings following walks in the locality.

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

2024/09/09/06

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

(a) Section 106 Monies

The Clerk referred to the previous special meeting when he advised that he had met with a local architect and had discussed potential park improvements using section 106 monies. Following the meeting draft proposals had been prepared which the Clerk presented. They included, a new public toilet block, new football changing rooms, a new training pitch including the removal of the existing hard-court areas, repairs and improvements to the football car park area, new play equipment and improvements to the pond area. Costs of all the works proposed were estimated to be over £400k although Section 106 monies were noted as being in the region of £343k.

Subject to the agreement of the Parish Council, the Clerk advised he intended to liaise with County Councillor Higgins regarding the plan for improvements and then submit the plan to Durham County Council.

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

- (1) The information given be noted;
- (2) The Clerk be authorised to proceed in submitting the draft plan; and
- (3) Further progress be awaited.

(b) Football Association

The Clerk referred to the previous special meeting when he advised that he was liaising with the Football Association regarding potential grant funding for football pitch improvements. A survey of the pitches had been undertaken and a subsequent report had been prepared which the Clerk presented. Significant pitch improvements had been identified over a 6 year period resulting in the potential of grant funding of up to £25600 over the period with some contribution required from the Parish Council. The report had also highlighted potential grant funding for two new items of machinery to assist with the pitch improvements, additional storage requirements were noted as being required.

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

- (1) The information given be noted;
- (2) The Clerk be authorised to proceed in submitting an application for funding; and
- (3) Further progress be awaited.

2024/09/09/07

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objections be made to the following applications:

Conversion of existing garage to garage, w/C, utility and kitchen- 29 Ingram

Way, Wingate.

Single storey side and rear extension- 51 Vicarage Estate, Wingate.

Retention of single storey rear extension providing additional living space- 21 Arundel Wal, Wingate.

2024/07/08/08

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

2024/09/09/09

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Npower- Pit Wheel

Cheque No. 406489 £61.32

Playdale- Swing (50%)

Cheque No. 406490 £3712.82

Creative Youth- June Youth Club

Cheque No. 406491 £1155.00

Eon Next- Xmas Lighting

Cheque No. 406492 £18.01

GT Group Band- -Picnic in the Park

Cheque No.406493 £300.00

LITE- Xmas Decorations

Cheque No.406494 £3742.08

TSL- Line Marker

Cheque No.406495 £140.40

Wingate Primary School- Uniform Donation

Cheque No.406496 £200.00

Eon Next- Park

Cheque No.406497 £240.25

Park Keeper- Refund for Fuel	
Cheque No.406498	£39.42
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No.406499	£88.08
Raid Response Drain Care-Unblock Drain	
Cheque No. 406500	£132.00
Aqua Gas and Water- New Tap in Bowls	
Cheque No. 406351	£65.00
Creative Youth- July Youth Club	
Cheque No. 406352	£990.00
Clerk- Refund for Refreshments- Replacement Items (50%)	
Cheque No. 406353	£9.15
Clerk- Refund for Park Items	
Cheque No. 406355	£1101.60
Jeff Dinning-Internal; Audit	
Cheque No. 406356	£420.00
Aztec Print- Summer Activities Printing	
Cheque No. 406357	£260.00
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 406360	£17.97
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 406361	£63.37
Wingate Comm Assoc- July Youth Club	
Cheque No. 406362	£320.00
Wingate Comm Assoc- July Bingo	
Cheque No. 406363	£232.00
PB Skip Hire- Skip Hire	

Cheque No. 406364	£330.00
Eon Next- Park	
Cheque No. 406365	£249.98
Playdale- New Equipment	
Cheque No. 406366	£1690.36
Clerk- Mileage Refund (Strimmer Collection)	
Cheque No. 406367	£18
TSL- Fertilizer Etc	
Cheque No. 406368	£596.60
Durham CC- Machined Repairs	
Cheque No. 406369	£57.60
EON Next- Xmas Lighting	
Cheque No. 406370	£39.05
Clerk- Away Day Funding Refund	
Cheque No. 406371	£750.00
BT- Broadband at the Park	
Cheque No. 406372	£88.08
Macfarlane Group- Dog Bags	
Cheque No. 406373	£1356.00
Clerk- Away Day Funding refund	
Cheque No. 406374	£450.00
Clerk- Away Day Funding Refund	
Cheque No. 406375	£45.00
Citizens Advice Durham- Outreach Service	
Cheque No. 406376	£3700.00
Eon Next- Park	

Cheque No. 406377	£249.98
Clerk- September Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 406379	£50.00
Clerk- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406380	£45.00
Clerk- Postage refund	
Cheque No. 406381	£51.00
Park Keeper- Line Rental and Calls	
Cheque No. 406382	£45.00

(b) Bank Reconciliation

The Clerk presented a bank reconciliation for the period to 31 July 2024 which showed a balance of approximately £197675. The Clerk advised only a limited amount of annual expenditure was included.

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

2024/09/09/10

REPORTS

(a) The Clerk

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) Members

(1) Vicarge Estate

Following a query from a Member, it was noted that the open space at Vicarage Estate was owned by Believe Housing.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(2) Crossing Gates

RESOLVED the Clerk chase progress in relation to the outstanding works to the former crossing gates.

County Councillor

In the absence of County Councillor Higgins there was no County Council report.

2024/09/09/11

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2024/09/09/12

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.

2024/09/09/13

STAFFING ISSUES

The Clerk gave an update in relation to staffing issues and both the Community Development Officer and the Park Keeper. It was noted that the Park Keeper would soon be taking statutory paternity leave.

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

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE