

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER 2019

Present: Councillors J Hogg (Chair), E Mason, J Higgins, S Williams, J Cairns, P Daly, K McGonnell, J Bradley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Mason.

2019/09/09/01

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no representatives of the public present.

2019/09/09/02

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 19th July 2019 and the **SPECIAL MEETING** held on 7 August 2019 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

2019/09/09/03

POLICE MATTERS

There was no Police report although the Clerk circulated a Police Newsletter for information.

2019/09/09/04

FORMER PARK KEEPER'S COTTAGE

The Clerk advised that since the special meeting on 7 August limited progress had been made by the community group although his understanding was that a formal application to establish a Community Interest Company had been made and an outcome was awaited. Once established it would be able to apply for grants and proceed with taking a lease for the former Park Keepers cottage. The details of Parish Councillors interested in supporting the community group and the CIC had been passed on including Councillor P Mason who had also expressed an interest following the special meeting

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

2019/09/09/05

PROGRESS REPORT

(a)

Section 106 Funding

The Clerk advised that along with the Vice Chair and County Councillor Higgins he had met with a representative of Durham County Council to discuss the potential use of Section 106 monies that could be available in the village.

The meeting had highlighted that while new developments were ongoing it could be three to four years and potentially longer before the full extent of Section 106 monies was available to spend. However, overall there was potentially circa £370k of funding available to be spent on recreation and sports facilities throughout the village. Because of the extent of the monies the County Council representative at the meeting had highlighted that the County Council would require evidence of a strategy, consultation and the consideration of options prior to allowing to any applications to be considered as being successful.

A Member stated that the funding may not be available for several years if at all because of problems of selling houses on the sites relating to the Section 106 monies. While there were delays Members felt that progress should be made so the monies could be ring fenced and not used elsewhere.

RESOLVED the Clerk liaise further with Durham County Council to progress the matter and further progress be awaited.

(b) Pond Area

The Clerk advised that the Durham County Skill Mill had cleaned the pond by removing debris, removing the mini-jetty and had undertaken bridge repairs as previously agreed.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(c) Crossing Gate

The Clerk advised that crossing gate had been promptly repaired as previously agreed.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(d) Toilet Block

The Clerk advised the public toilet block had new steel doors and frames fitted and the toilets had been replaced.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(e) Play Scheme

The Clerk advised that the play scheme had once again proved to be a success and had been very well attended including the away day to South Shields. The Community Centre staff had been thanked and presented with flowers.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(e) Anti-Social Behaviour/Multi- Agency Meeting

The Clerk advised that a multi-agency meeting had been held to discuss anti-social behavior in the area of the former pit heaps. County Councillor Higgins thanked the Parish Council representatives for attending and it was noted a further meeting was to be held.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

2019/09/09/06

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

County Councillor Higgins advised that an application had been submitted to the County Council for open space land at the rear of the Londis store to be used for private purposes.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and further details of the application be awaited.

2019/09/09/07

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

2019/09/09/08

PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED that authorisation be given for the following payments:

Holy Trinity Church- Away Day Donation

Cheque No. 405284 £300.00

BT- Broadband at Park

Cheque No. 405285 £70.80

Zurich- Motor Insurance

Cheque No.405286 £494.31

J Dinning- Internal Audit

Cheque No.405287 £400.00

Durham CC- Council Tax

Cheque No. 405288 £566.49

Steadfast Security- Surveillance at Allotments

Cheque No. 405289 £480.00

TSL- Line Marker

Cheque No. 405290 £115.20

Park Keeper- Electricity Refund

Cheque No. 405291 £20.00

Darlington BC—Flowers for Park

Cheque No. 405292 £2514.18

D&H Webster Landscaping- Watering of Baskets

Cheque No. 405293 £900

Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 405294	£50.59
UK Fuels- Petrol	
Cheque No. 405295	£12.69
Orbis- Security Shutter Hire	
Cheque No. 405296	£171.81
Steadfast Security- CCTV Monitoring	
Cheque No. 405297	£169.00
Clerk- August Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 405298	£50.00
Clerk- Refund for Away Day Funding	
Cheque No. 405299	£1545.00
Calor Gas-Standing Charge	
Cheque No. 405300	£104.39
Npower- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 405301	£20.91
Durham CC- Pit Wheel	
Cheque No. 405302	£54.53
Clerk- Refund for Flowers	
Cheque No. 405303	£120.00
Steadfast Security- Allotment Security	
Cheque No. 405304	£180.00
Clerk- Refund for Envelopes	
Cheque No. 405305	£14.40
BT- Broadband at Park	
Cheque No. 405306	£70.80

TSL- Line Marker	
Cheque No. 405307	£115.20
JJW Joinery- Crossing Gate Repairs	
Cheque No. 405308	£1100.00
Steadfast Security- CCTV Monitoring	
Cheque No. 405309	£169.00
Park Keeper- Electric and Key Cut	
Cheque No. 405310	£24.50
Clerk- September Office Allowance	
Cheque No. 405311	£50
Clerk- Refund for Paper and Envelopes	
Cheque No. 405312	£31.53
Npower- Football Changing Rooms	
Cheque No. 405313	£379.98
Clerk- McAfree Anti-Virus Refund	
Cheque No. 405314	£69.99
Horns Garden Centre- Misc Supplies	
Cheque No. 405315	£13.15
Npower- Park	
Cheque No. 405316	£69.47

2019/09/09/09

REPORTS

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) **Park Areas**

A Member reported that there has supposedly been a number of break-ins at

the Market Crescent Allotment Site. It was also noted that a sign directing people to the bowls area was missing.

RESOLVED the information given be noted and the Clerk look into replacing the sign.

(2) Wellfield Road Housing Development

A Member reported that there had been sewage and drainage issues at the housing development site off Wellfield Road. Northumbrian Water was noted as having visited the site.

RESOLVED the information given and further progress be awaited.

(3) Notice Boards

A Member reported again the possibility of installing notice boards in the village, particularly at the pit wheel area.

RESOLVED the Clerk investigate the matter and further progress be awaited.

(4) St Mary's RC Primary School

A Member reported that the school was consulting on becoming an academy. County Councillor Higgins advised this was something all catholic schools were looking into.

RESOLVED the information given be noted.

(5) Wingate Community Group- CCTV

A Member reported that had been a discussion on the Wingate Community Group Facebook page regarding an individual's suggestion that people in the community install CCTV and it then be monitored as a way of policing and patrolling the streets. There had been a number of objections to the proposal.

Members considered what had been discussed by the Group and recognised the legal complications of attempting anything like what was suggested

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

(6) Allotment Waiting List

RESOLVED that details of a request from a Mr K Unsworth to be added to the all

(7) Christmas Lights

RESOLVED the Clerk investigate the potential for Christmas decorative lights to be installed on a number of columns not included in the previous year.

(8) Pit Wheel

Following a query the Clerk advised that lights not working at the pit wheel area were due to water ingress and an inspection from the manufacturer was waited.

RESOLVED the information give be noted.

(9) Market Crescent Allotments

A Member reported there had supposedly been a number of break ins at the Market Crescent Allotment site and reports of vehicles driving over the adjacent grassed areas. Fires were also reported in relation to one particular allotment. The Member suggested installing boulders as a replacement for posts already in place and where some had been damaged.

It was noted that an allotment tenant had suggest that the Parish Council look to install more palisade fencing and gates which could be used to restrict access to the car park area adjacent to the football fields. Some Members felt this would be too restrictive.

RESOLVED a site meeting be arranged to discuss issues relating to the Market Crescent allotment site.

(10) Community Association

RESOLVED the Clerk be authorised to make the annual part financial contribution of £11k to the Community Association.

(11) Facebook- Break Ins/Attempted Break Ins

RESOLVED that the Clerk seek an update from the Police on a supposed number of break ins taking place in the village which had been communicated on Facebook.

(c) County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins presented a lengthy and detailed report outlining County Council related activity. It was noted that he had been invited to meet with the Primary School governors who were looking to establish links with both the County and Parish Councils. It was noted the Parish Council had not been approached and County Councillor Higgins had expressed disappointment about this at a meeting with the Director of Education. He also expressed disappointment that neither the County Council nor the Parish Council had been contacted in relation to a petition organized by the school relating to road safety.

County Councillor Higgins advised that a meeting in the village to discuss regeneration issues was awaited with the County Council. It was noted he had a agreed a contribution of £400 towards the Constitutional Club Christmas party.

Discussion followed in relation to the small park area adjacent to the doctors surgery. County Councillor Higgins advised he was discussing the potential of CCTV being installed and the height of the boundary fence being reduced to help deal with vandalism.

In addition to a written highways report County Councillor Higgins updated the Parish Council on discussions he was having relating to highways. He outlined that he was not prepared to contribute to flashing speed signs on the front street and he felt the school should pay for these if it was something wanted by them. He advised that the County Council appeared

not to have historic data relating to speeding pre and post the pinch point being installed and he was noted as having ongoing discussion regarding the pinch point. It was noted that other traffic calming measures could be installed on the front street area as the speed limit did not exceed 30mph. However, private land around the pinch point area was preventing bollards being installed. Not all Members agreed with any potential for the pinch point to be removed.

County Councillor Higgins further advised that Wingate was not a formal diversion route for traffic off the A19 and instead vehicles should be diverted through Hartlepool, Blackhall and Peterlee. It was noted that where possible HGVs associated with the housing development at Wellfield Road were to be asked to use the bypass.

Following general discussion County Councillor Higgins was thanked for his report and it was **RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

2019/09/09/10

SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS

RESOLVED that the schedule of ongoing matters be noted.

2019/09/09/11

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and Public be excluded from the following item of business due to the disclosure of confidential information.

2019/09/09/12

WOODMAN'S COTTAGE ALLOTMENT SITE

The Clerk gave an update on the Market Crescent Allotment site and in particular to meetings with various tenants about the future of the site. It was noted that work was still awaited from Durham County Council regarding land ownership issued and until that was resolved the future of the site could not be resolved.

Discussion followed relating to one particular former tenant who it was felt should be billed for any clear up works required on the site. It was noted he had been seen using another allotment although he had claimed he was only assisting the tenant. Members felt that representatives of the Parish Council should discuss this with the tenant.

It was suggested that if he felt it necessary, the Clerk should continue obtaining a Parish Council owned mobile to prevent works call on his own mobile.

RESOLVED that

- (a) The information given be noted;
- (b) Representatives of the Parish Council meet with a tenant of the Market Crescent allotment site to discuss its use; and
- (c) The Clerk consider using a Parish Council mobile.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE