

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15th JANUARY 2019

Present: Councillors K McGonnell, (Chair), J Higgins, S Williams, J Bradley,

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cairns and E and P Mason.

2020/01/15/01

ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members that the meeting was being held to discuss any proposals relating to the future manage of allotment sites under the control of the Parish Council following attendance by representatives of the community at the December meeting.

The Clerk gave a summary of each of the four sites owned by the Parish Council including details relating to problems that had been encountered at each over the years and some of the previous actions taken by the Parish Council including improved fencing, court action and demolition of allotments.

The Clerk stated particularly that the Vicarage Estate site was well maintained and very much self governing although potentially some plots could be being used by persons not actually named as tenants. Members felt this needed to be investigated further. It was noted that improved fencing and the removal of garages adjacent to the allotments had helped prevent anti-social behaviour which had previously been encountered at the allotments.

In relation to the Market Crescent site the Clerk stated that it had been particularly problematic for a number of years with family feuds, businesses and untidy plots being part of the problems. The Clerk stated that Parish Council policy had been to demolish plots as they became vacant although this was not always possible or easy to manage due to the location of some plots and it was costly. Members felt the policy had been successful and it should be continued where possible. Members also felt that representatives of the community needed to be more forthcoming in reporting fires and other anti-social behavior as it was happening and not after the event. One particular garden was noted as being unsightly and linked to numerous fires.

The North Road West site was noted as being the biggest of the four sites with a range of different plots. Parts of the site were felt to suffer from the untidy grass verges and garage plots adjacent which were not in Parish Council ownership. Members felt this was a site that could be looked into for improvements and it was noted that there were some sections of fencing not undertaken during previous improvements schemes which were planned to be completed.

Members discussed the Woodman's Cottage and previous discussions about an option to dispose of the site to the existing tenants. It was again noted

that some part of the site were not yet owned by the Parish Council and some other representatives of the community had expressed an interest in buying or renting parts of the site. The Clerk referred to the condition of the site and the potential costs of tidying it. He also referred to previous discussions about attempting to sell individual plots and the costs associated with measuring, drawing up and registering individual plot plans and subsequent individual plot conveyance costs. It was noted that discussions with the existing tenants about any potential sale had been on the basis of the site being sold as seen and on the basis there be one transaction for the whole site.

Members discussed the issues relating to the Woodman's Cottage site and felt that the sale of the site to existing tenants should continue to be pursued.

Following ongoing general discussion during which it was confirmed after a query that the meeting was quorate it was **RESOLVED** that:

- (a) the information given be noted;
- (b) further investigations into tenancies at the Vicarage Estate site be undertaken;
- (c) consideration be given to improvements at the North Road West site;
- (d) allotments be demolished at the Market Crescent site where possible and affordable; and
- (e) the sale of the Woodman's Cottage site to existing tenants of the site continue to be pursued.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN

DATE