

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Present:** Councillors E Mason (Chair), S Williams, J Cairns, J Bradley, J Hogg, J Higgins

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Mason and P Daley

2020/09/14/01

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no representatives of the public present.

2020/09/14/02

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING** held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were agreed as a correct record. It was noted the minutes of the previous meeting should have referred to 12 March 2020.

2020/09/14/03

**POLICE MATTERS**

While there was no Police presence the Clerk presented a summary of a crime report covering the period of August 2020 which included 110 incidents summarised as follows:

17 reports of anti-social behaviour- nuisance  
 7 reports of anti-social behaviour- environment  
 2 reports of ant-social behaviour- personal  
 1 theft from a vehicle  
 1 theft of a vehicle  
 0 burglary  
 9 criminal damage

Members referred to the fact that a number of the incidents were of a similar nature and there was genuine concern in the village about ongoing anti-social behaviour and associated vandalism. A Member asked that comparative statistics be obtained relating to neighbouring villages.

County Councillor Higgins stated he was liaising with both the Police and neighbourhood wardens to help tackle some of the issues. It was noted that a number of regular Police Officers for the area had moved on to new roles. The rear of North Road west was being targeted in relation to the removal of rubbish.

County Councillor Higgins further stated the former TSB square had been identified by the Police has a gathering point for local youths and they had requested that seating be removed to help disperse youths. The Parish Council fully supported that the seats remain and it was felt they were not the cause of the problems. Members noted that residents needed to be

encouraged to report every incident in order to encourage a greater Police presence in the village. It was suggested that Police contact numbers be posted in the village.

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

- (a) the information given be noted;
- (b) the Clerk seek comparative crime statistics from neighbouring villages;
- (c) the Parish Council support the retention of the seats at the former TSB square; and
- (d) Police contact details be posted in the village.

2020/09/14/04

### **PROGRESS REPORT**

(1) Allotment Rent

**RESOLVED** it be noted that allotment rent was to be collected from the Community Centre on Wednesday 16 September.

(2) Casual Vacancy

The Clerk advised that as there had been no request for an election a notice offering the opportunity of co-option had been advertised with a closing date of 23 September 2020.

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

(3) Community Litter Pick

The Clerk provided information from Durham County Council relating to community litter picks that were limited to 6 people.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted and further consideration be given to organising a community litter pick event.

(4) Vicar and Co-op Link Worker

The Clerk advised that the thanks of the Parish Council had been passed on to the Vicar and Co-op link worker who had supported the food bank among other things during the lock down period. An offer of financial assistance had been made although there had been no response to this.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

(5) Market Crescent- Allotment Issues

The Clerk advised that at the previous meeting it had been agreed to obtain the service of a solicitor regarding the condition and use of an allotment at Market Crescent. Since then there had been a significant fire on the allotment and there were rumours circulating that the allotment had been targeted specifically.

Members felt that legal advice and support should be continue to be pursued with the aim of clearing and landscaping the allotment. It was noted that there was a vacant allotment on the site which could potentially be used as an alternative.

Following general discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk be authorised to obtain legal advice and support in relation to clearing the allotment.

2020/09/14/05

### **CHILDREN IN NATURE CIC/FORMER PARK KEEPERS COTTAGE**

The Clerk presented a summary of the lease which had been circulated to all Members with the agenda.

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on the funding he was aware the CIC had obtained and that an application for Section 106 monies had been made. The Parish Council agreed to support the application in principle subject to further details being considered.

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

- (a) the information given be noted;
- (b) the Clerk and Chairman be authorised to sign the lease on behalf of the Parish Council; and
- (c) The Parish Council support in principle the Section 106 funding application made to Durham CC subject to consideration of further information.

2020/09/14/06

### **ANCIENT HEDGE ROWS**

In the absence of Councillor Daly it was **RESOLVED** the matter be considered at the next meeting.

2020/09/14/07

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no planning applications to consider.

2020/09/14/08

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

2020/09/14/09

### **PAYMENTS AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (a) Authorisation of Payments

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

Npower-Pit Wheel

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Cheque No. 405528                        | £160.79 |
| BT- Broadband at Park                    |         |
| Cheque No. 405529                        | £71.74  |
| Webster Landscaping- Watering of Baskets |         |
| Cheque No.405530                         | £510    |
| Orbis- Security Shutter Hire             |         |
| Cheque No.405531                         | £182.97 |
| Park Keeper- Line Rental and Calls       |         |
| Cheque No. 405532                        | £45     |
| Smith of Derby- Clock Repairs            |         |
| Cheque No. 405533                        | £280.80 |
| Aqua Gas and Heating- Park Repair        |         |
| Cheque No. 405534                        | £45     |
| Clerk— September Office Allowance        |         |
| Cheque No. 405535                        | £50     |
| Clerk- Line Rental and Calls             |         |
| Cheque No. 405536                        | £45     |
| TMJ Legal Services- Park Lease           |         |
| Cheque No. 405537                        | £818    |
| TSL- Fertilizer                          |         |
| Cheque No. 405538                        | £420    |
| Durham CC- Machine Repairs               |         |
| Cheque No. 405539                        | £101.04 |
| Npower- Park                             |         |

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Cheque No. 405540                | £762.81 |
| TSL- Machine Hire                |         |
| Cheque No. 405541                | £900    |
| Clerk- Allotment Letter Refund   |         |
| Cheque No. 405542                | £45.50  |
| Clerk- Stationery and Ink Refund |         |
| Cheque No. 405543                | £93.61  |

2020/09/14/10

## **REPORTS**

(a) **The Clerk**

There were no reports from the Clerk.

(b) **Members**

(1) Front Street Park Fencing

A Member reported damaged fencing at the front street park area. County Councillor Higgins advised that the area was no longer designated as a park and landscaping and other works were to be undertaken to help tidy it.

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

(2) Park

A Member reported a damaged seat at the park and suggested an additional bin be installed. In response to a query about an inspection regime it was noted that regular checks of certain parts of the park were undertaken although the Clerk advised he would liaise further with the Park Keeper on this. It was further noted that repairs required to play equipment had been ordered.

**RESOLVED** the information give be noted.

(3) Street Sign

**RESOLVED** that County Councillor Higgins investigate the potential for a street sign to be installed giving directions to the park.

(3) Wellfield Road Seat

**RESOLVED** the Clerk arrange for the relocation of a seat on Wellfield Road.

(4) Scare Crow Competition

It was noted that only a small number of scarecrows had been seen prior to

the deadline on 21 September.

**RESOLVED** the information given be noted.

(5) Clerk Honorarium

A Member asked that the press and public be excluded from the meeting and referred to the lock down period and the fact the Clerk had continued to operate the Parish Council very effectively. It was proposed that in gratitude for the work the Clerk be paid an honorarium of £1000. The Clerk suggested it was unnecessary but after brief discussion it was **RESOLVED** the Clerk be paid a one off honorarium of £1000.

(c) County Councillor

County Councillor Higgins gave an update on ongoing activities. It was noted that as part of the proposals to limit access to the former pit heap area gates were to be installed near to Forest Gate and boulders were to be installed at the rear of Cross Row.

It was noted that despite the objection of both the Parish Council and County Councillor Higgins the planning application for the second phase of the housing development at Wellfield Road South had been agreed. Durham County Council highways officers had stated that speeding was not an issue in the area and associated signage was not required. However residents had requested use of a speed gun which was hoped to be available in the coming weeks. There had also been requests from residents for access only from the eastern end of Wellfield Road.

County Councillor Higgins referred to the front street regeneration project and stated that it was hoped that £160k would be available to be spent which the Parish Council would be consulted on.

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

2020/09/14/11

**SCHEDULE OF ONGOING MATTERS**

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

**CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD**

CHAIRMAN .....

DATE .....