

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Winsford Parish Council held on Monday 28th September 2026 at 19.00 pm in Winsford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Colin Wilkins (CW) - Chair, Kevin Connell (KC), Ian Brooks (IB), Mike Hillier (MH), Bryany Neal (BN), Sarah Little (SL) and Sam Winzer (SW)

CW opened the meeting at 19.09

1. **Public Question Time:** None
2. **Apologies for non-attendance:** Cllr Steven Pugsley and Cllr Frances Nicholson
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None
4. **To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 27th July 2026, and any outstanding actions:** The minutes were confirmed as a true record proposed IB, seconded SW. JY has been in communication with ENPA regarding the Council's comment on the Bevin's House planning application which did not show on the portal. She was assured that it would have had no impact on the decision as it was a neutral response, but it would be added now. IB mentioned that it would be useful to discuss parking in general in the village at the next meeting. JY has been in contact with Rachel Gilmour's team with regard to the proposed memorial to Brigadier Snow and now has a contact in the Channel Islands, she will continue to work on this. BN suggested that there is already a large memorial on Guernsey which may be the most appropriate placement as his former home is in an area where there are very unlikely to be passing visitors.
5. **Report from Somerset Councillors:** The councillors were unable to attend on this occasion.
6. **To consider Highways Matters:** The village signs have been strimmed and tidied and the white lines have been repainted which all looks smart. There has been communication from Somerset Council that the salt bins will be filled during the next two weeks. MH will communicate with Mrs Mileham re the gullies along the stretch of Exford Road that were missed during the works carried out. We have reported it a while ago, but it does not appear to have been done, we are suggesting that the local residents also put it onto the portal. CW has reported a large wasp nest to ENPA which he found on a verge on The Steep, and they are due to visit shortly.
7. **Update re the Winsford Defibrillator:** Councillors viewed the site prior to the meeting. The defibrillator has been used this week and new pads have been ordered by BN and when in place she will put it back onto the Circuit. The new cabinet is due to be ordered and it was agreed that the current site is good, and that the replacement will include light and heat. It was discussed whether a code was a hindrance during an emergency or a help by keeping the machine protected, but as the code is displayed within the box it was agreed that it may be easier to have a cabinet without a code and BN will research the best option. It was voted to agree an amount of up to

£600 can be spent, proposed SW, seconded IB. An electrician will need to be used to install it.

8. **Update re the Winsford Phone box:** The box was recently repainted, cleaned and repaired by BT. JY made an enquiry about the availability of the box for lease as a village resource as it does not appear to be used and BT have sent a detailed response concluding that at this time it would not be released due to there not being sufficient mobile coverage in the area.
9. **Discuss the replacement of the litter bin at the Bus Shelter:** It was agreed to purchase a new bin of the same design as the one on the Village Green. Proposed CW, seconded SL.
10. **Finance: To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due:** The second instalment of the precept has been received into the account. Payments were agreed for JY salary Aug/Sept and expenses £345.50, JY Tax £71.20, Car Park Maintenance £130 and Defibrillator pads £141.60. Proposed SW, seconded SL. It was agreed that CW should proceed with purchasing the wreath for Remembrance Day as usual. MH will liaise with Mr Edwards about ensuring that the war memorial is kept tidy.
11. **Discussion re the next steps for Preparedness and the Place of Safety plan:** Prior to the meeting the Councillors viewed the village hall re access in the event of an emergency. BN shared work she has done regarding information for the village to support preparedness. This was largely supported with some suggested amendments. It was suggested that a village whatsapp group for volunteers may be beneficial for use in such an emergency now that there is mobile signal across the village. It was also suggested that it would be very beneficial for householders to know the what3words location for their entryway for emergency services to use. This will be offered at a later date when the guidance is issued and JY will review the website section and make updates in line with what has been agreed. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to assess who is best placed to give support in an emergency with their skills/tools etc. The need for power via a generator or power packs, and portable lights for the village hall, was revisited and further discussion will take place on this at another meeting as it is likely to involve grant applications.
12. **Winsford Charitable Trust**
 - a) **Financial Report:** Current Account: £1,814.35, Savings Account £1,840.38. Payments were agreed for the Play Inspection £193.80 and Village Green Maintenance £130. Proposed IB, seconded BN
 - b) **Any Other Business:** The new skittle alley has been used successfully and has been well received generally. The invoice has not yet been received for this work. The notices on the Green have faded and MH/CW will look at replacing these. MH has kindly cleaned off all the benches and tables recently.
13. **Correspondence and Emails received:** None
14. **Reports from Councillors on meetings and training attended:** JY has attended the first part of the election training. The election will be on 6th May. Nomination papers need to be submitted by 8th April, and will become

available in March (date not yet confirmed but by 22nd). The budget for next year will need to allow for election costs of up to £4,000, costs for this parish to be confirmed later, JY to keep checking for updates. It was agreed to review the date for the annual meeting at the next meeting to meet purdah requirements. CW attended the LCN meeting. The area police commissioner was in attendance and spoke re crime figures and updates in the region. She mentioned the use of drones to support crime fighting across Exmoor and expressed concern re the growing issue of drug use in this area. There was also discussion re community payback being used locally with supervised labour carrying out community tidying tasks such as litter picking. ENPA will be doing some work on fire risk management across the area following the hot dry summer. No decision has been reached re parking charges in Withypool car park. Landacre Bridge will be closed for up to 12 months following damage from a lorry recently.

- 15. Any Other Business:** JY has issued each councillor with their new council email addresses prior to the meeting with guidance on how to set them up. Councillors were asked to email JY from that address once set up. This takes the Council in line with the new requirements re data security. SW confirmed that she had already set it up successfully and it was a straightforward process.
- 16. Items for Next Agenda:** Parking in the village, Community Prepared update, Annual Meeting date.
- 17. Date of Next meeting Monday 26th October 2026**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.59