

Winsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday, 26th February, 2024 in Winsford Village Hall.

Present: Colin Wilkins [CW], Kevin Connell [KC], Bryany Neal [BN], Mike Hillier [MH], Ian Brooks [IB].

CW reported that the Clerk was ill and unable to attend. KC agreed to take the minutes.

1. Public Question Time

None

2. Apologies for non-attendance

Mel Mileham, Sarah Little

3. Declaration of interests

None

4. To agree the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 29th January and any outstanding actions

Agreed by all. Proposed, IB, seconded BN.

68.15 CPO marked about 10 bikes. More people should be encouraged to take advantage of the scheme.

5. Update re Somerset financial emergency

CW reported that the request by SC for an additional 5% on the Council Tax had been refused by the Government. The closure of the recycling sites is under review and there is a meeting tomorrow evening in Dulverton to consult on the closure of the Dulverton site. IB read out the email that he has sent to the clerk of Dulverton Town Council listing reasons for opposing the closure. Councillors agreed with the content of the email and IB, BN and KC will attend the meeting.

6. Updates from Somerset Councillors

None

7. Winsford village carpark

The Council reaffirmed its' willingness to take responsibility for the carpark if and when the asset can be transferred from Somerset Council [SC] although it was acknowledged that it would still not be possible to control what vehicles park there.

8. Discussion re unoccupied building in Ash Lane

A broken window has been reported. There is no further action that the PC can take and SC doesn't want to take any action. A number of other eyesores were identified around the village including Kerria in Halse Lane.

9. To consider Highways matters

a. Yellowcombe Leat

No further action. Somerset Councillors urged to keep up pressure on Highways.

CW reported on a site visit to the road works on the B3224. The project looks very impressive and is expected to complete on time. The diversion is being managed well.

IB reported that he had been in contact with the Assistant Service Manager at Highways who informed him that the necessary drainage work on Exford Road has been included as a capital item in the 2025-2026 budget. This is unsatisfactory as the road is in a very poor condition now. Warning signs will be installed on Exford road. IB also said that he has stopped reporting to the Highway Steward as he has refused to work on Exford road.

A Further eyesore was reported in the layby near Edbrooke Cottages. CW to discuss with CPO.

10. Finance: To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due

No finance report. Agreed to pay: Stephen Hunt, £84.94, Christmas decorations; Mel Mileham £85.96, lights, wheel-barrow etc for Somerset Prepared.

11. Discuss and agree criteria for charity donations

KC apologised that this hasn't yet been done.

12. Winsford Charitable Trust

a. Financial report None.

b. Discussion re trust funds deferred

c. Wooden slats on bridge

MH has them and will fit them when weather conditions permit.

d. Discussion re Risdon Hosegood work

CW reported that the village green is being registered under the name of the Winsford Village Green Trust. It may be possible to merge this new trust with the Winsford Charitable Trust or the trust in whose name charitable funds are currently being held.

Documentation has been completed to lease the land to the Recreation Association although it is likely to be several months before the new Title is received.

MH will confirm which picnic tables and benches are to be ordered.

BN said that the RA would like to take the old furniture from the green. This was agreed.

There was some discussion about a contract for the maintenance of the VG. MH to give some further thought to the specification for the contract.

MH wondered if there would be a litter-pick this year. CW said he would check with Sue Hayes who usually organises it now.

13. Correspondence and emails received

None.

14. Reports from Councillors on meetings attended

MH reported on the Village Hall committee, the tenants are giving up the field.

BN attended the RA meeting, the race night has been cancelled.

15. Any other business

None.

16. Items for next agenda

None.

17. Date of next meeting

The 25th of March, 2024, in Winsford Village Hall.