

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Winsford Parish Council held on Monday 27th July 2026 at 19.00 pm in Winsford Village Hall

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

Somerset Councillors Steven Pugsley (SP) and Frances Nicholson (FN) attended the first part of the meeting.

CW opened the meeting at 19.01

95.1 Public Question Time: None

95.2 Apologies for non-attendance: Bryany Neal

95.3 Declaration of Interests: None

95.4 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 29th June 2026, and any outstanding actions: Minutes approved as a true record, proposed SL, seconded KC. CW reported the abandoned vehicle as recommended at the last meeting and it has now been removed. The other has been moved as CW spoke to the owner who have been seeking a buyer. The Village Hall ALB pictures have been framed and will be passed to the Committee.

95.5 Report from Somerset Councillors: Somerset County's Finances continue to be of concern. Both Councillors are involved with budgeting and are working hard to provide scrutiny and support where possible. There is now a new permanent finance officer following several temporary officers who have brought good ideas but then ran out of time disrupting continuity. It is hoped that this appointment will help to consolidate plans and ideas going forward and improve matters.

95.6 Planning Matters: Application No: EXM/26/164/HH
LOCATION: Bevins House Edbrooke Road Winsford Dulverton TA24 7JE
PROPOSAL: Proposed widening of existing access to 3m, lowering of boundary wall to max height of 0.8m and formation of hard standing area in front garden.

CW shared a letter which he had received discussing the plans. Concern was expressed as the road is narrow at this place, and that the property is within the conservation area. Also, concerns were addressed re risk of flooding which is already a concern with the nearby drain already needing frequent clearing. Another neighbouring property had a similar planning request refused previously. The correspondents will be submitting their views separately to the planning team.

During the planning discussion reference was made to the historic nature of the building. The Highways team response is inaccurate re speed limit on that stretch of road. It was noted that there is already a five bar gate providing access to parking on the land, but the line of sight when exiting onto the highway is restricted because of the hedge and the height of the wall. The planned work would provide the owners the opportunity to turn around and exit forwards with better sight lines which would be safer. It was noted that the owner currently parks on road, and parking is an issue in the village, it

would be safer for the car to be off the road. Following much discussion it was agreed to submit a 'no objection' response to the planning team.

95.7 To consider Highways Matters: Yellowcombe Leat is not currently putting water onto the road, however it is known to be seasonal spring. There is no progress re the gulleys and culverts on the stretch of Exford Road towards Larcombe Foot.

95.8 To consider letter from Rachel Gilmour re proposed memorial for Brigadier Snow: CW has received a letter asking the Parish Council to consider a request from the Channel Islands WWII Remembrance Campaign to provide a memorial for Brigadier Snow who lived in the village until his death in 1983 and was believed to have been a Winsford Parish Councillor. He was Military Governor of the Channel Islands and Commander of the Force 135 Liberation Group which liberated the Islands at the end of the Second World War. This was discussed and although the church was mentioned it was noted that his remains are actually in garden of rest in Taunton. It was noted that it can be of interest to visitors to the village to see plaques mentioning important previous residents such as the one on Bevins House. It was agreed to contact the Remembrance Campaign to find out more details and that if anything was to be placed in the village a plaque would seem most appropriate with similar wording to that on Bevins House, possibly near or at the house where he lived near the old school although it would not have many views as it is in a 'tucked away' position where visitors would not find it. Another suggestion was that the memorial could be placed on the Channel Islands to mark his achievements there. MH will mention this to the homeowner.

SP and FN left the meeting at 19.47

95.9 To discuss the proposed new defibrillator cabinet: Discussion took place about the lighting on the proposed cabinet with a focus on whether the keypad can be seen in the dark. It was agreed to fund the purchase, subject to the keypad being clearly visible in the dark (due to the placement of the box in a dark area).

95.10 Finance:

- a. To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due:** Payments were agreed for JY salary and expenses (including picture framing cost) £464.65, HMRC JY Tax £71.20 and N. Edwards for river clearance £256.25. Proposed SL, seconded SW. It was recommended that the river clearance takes place in May next year before the plants can go to seed. The litter bin by the bus shelter is in poor repair and could benefit from replacement, potentially similar in style to the one on the Village Green.
- b. To agree the annual AGAR return:** Following discussion this was agreed, Proposed IB, seconded KC, and agreed by all. JY reported that the gov.uk email addresses are all set up and she will circulate the details shortly.

95.11 Winsford Charitable Trust:

- a. Financial Report:** Payment of £65 was agreed to N. Edwards for maintenance work on the Village Green. Proposed CW, seconded MH. It was further agreed to ringfence funds to pay costs of up to £1,000 for materials used for the skittle alley repairs. Reminder was given that the finance used for this project are from Trust funds not Parish Council funds.

b. Discuss the skittle alley improvements: Work has started on this today and the Village Green will be closed for several days for safety reasons. There has been an anonymous complaint against the replacement made through the placement of several notes around the area focussed on the cost. During discussion it was noted that the financial liability of the work being carried out is for materials only and that the labour costs are being met as a charitable contribution by the company. A previous quote several years ago was for approximately £3000. A reminder was given that the Council and Trust do open their meetings for parishioners to attend to express views and concerns. It was agreed again that it is felt that the alley will be safer to use following the work. The swings, benches and now the alley have been upgraded on the Village Green during the last few years. The homeowner will be approached about the hedge and fence.

c. AOB: None

95.12 Correspondence and Emails received: Discussed in other agenda items.

95.13 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended: None

95.14 Any Other Business: It was noted that the postbox and telephone box have been painted and cleaned recently. Ongoing issues at Edbrooke, JY to share contact details for Magna.

95.15 Items for Next Agenda: New litter bin by bus shelter, potential spending/grant application re preparedness now the village hall is becoming a place of safety.

95.16 Date of Next meeting Monday 28th September 2026