WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Winsford Parish Council held on Monday, 30th June, 2025 at 19.00 pm in Winsford Village Hall

Present: Councillors Colin Wilkins [CW]-Chair, Ian Brooks [IB, Mel Mileham [MM], Kevin Connell [KC], Bryany Neal [BN], Sarah Little [SL]. CW opened the meeting at 19.02.

84.1 Public question time: None.

84.2 Apologies for non-attendance: Mike Hillier, Jennifer Yates, Clerk. KC agreed to take the minutes.

84.3 Declaration of interests: None.

84.4 To agree the minutes of the ordinary council meeting held on 27th May and any outstanding actions: The minutes were approved, proposed IB, second BN.

The Chair reported that the annual play equipment inspection has been carried out and he will forward the report. He mentioned in particular two points. The inspector suggested there should be a specialist risk assessment of the water risk and that the address of the site should be displayed on the emergency contact notice. The notice will be amended. He also reported that the bleed control dispenser has been delivered and will be mounted next to the defibrillator to be looked after by BN. It will be announced on the website.

The new bin on the green will be secured this week.

84.5 Discuss the broken bench on the carpark: The chair reported that a member of the public had accidently reversed into one of the benches. He has apologised and made arrangements for the repair.

84.6 Report from Somerset Councillors: Frances has sent her apology and Steven will arrive as soon as he can.

84.7 To consider highways matters: Councillors listed a number of points they would like to raise with Somerset Councillors including unannounced road closures, verge trimming in Halse Lane and crooked speed limit signs.

84.8 Discuss the new information re the enhanced highway maintenance pilot scheme. Councillors felt much the same about the scheme as they had previously. It is too expensive for small parishes and there is still no insurance for volunteers. We are still unlikely to use it.

84.9 Update re the George Joyce Trust tenancy: The Chair reported that Steven Harding has acquired the tenancy.

84.10 Update re the bleed kit order: See item 4 above.

84.11. Finance

a. To agree the annual AGAR return. The Clerk sent her apology for not yet having completed the returns. She has obtained an extension to the end of the month. The Chair

will convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council at 2 pm on Thursday 10th July to approve.

b. To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due. There was no financial report but it was agreed to pay amounts due as follows: Mowing £65, Website Annual Fee for hosting, support and maintenance £396 and Dog Bin emptying annual fee £686.

Proposed IB, second SL.

84.12 Winsford Charitable Trust:

a. Financial Report None.

Agreed to pay amounts due

Grass cutting £65

Litter Bin (from grant funds) £570

b. New litter bin. Installed.

84.13. Correspondence and emails received:

A planning application, 6/40/25/002 has been received – retrospective planning application to regularise building works carried out at 1 Townsend Cottages. Application supported. Proposed MM, seconded BN. It has less impact than the original application which was supported in 2013.

Withycombe and Upcott Woodland Creation. An update has been received from Alex Donaldson at Zuluecosystems, filed with this minute. After some discussion, it was decided to welcome the opportunity for further consultation, to encourage Mr Donaldson to meet again with residents and to put a link to his "online resource" on the website. IB will write to Mr. Donaldson with an invitation and asking for a better map of each site that isn't fragmented. IB will also write to Graeme McVittie asking him to what extent the proposals are compatible with national park purposes.

The Parish Council has now received the Land Registry documents relating to the land bequest in Ann le Bas's will.

An enquiry has been received regarding the whereabouts of the wife of Tim Healey who used to live in the village. MM to investigate.

84.14 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended: None.

85.15. AOB: The Chair read out a letter he has written to the Clerk regarding her salary. She has not responded to a number of requests from the Chair to increase her hourly rate in line with annual pay awards. She remains on the same hourly rate on which she started and is owed a considerable amount of back-pay. After some discussion, the whole Council supported the Chair in this matter because, as the employer of the Clerk, we want to and, indeed, we are legally obliged to pay the current rate for the job. The chair agreed to convey the view of the Council to the Clerk.

84.16 Items for next agenda. Weed in the Win Brook, bird poo on the picnic tables, Ann le Bas's remaining prints,verge trimming in the lanes, the water pipe behind the riverside properties.

84.17 Date of Next meeting – 28th July 2025 at 7.00 in Winsford Village Hall