

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council

Held on Monday 27th November 2017 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall

PRESENT: Chairman: David Godsal (DG), Vice-Chairman: Kevin Connell (KC),
Councillors: Mel Mileham (MM), Bev Flanagan (BF), Steve Hunt (SH), Colin Wilkins (CW),
John Bray (JB) and Parish Clerk Caroline Moore (CM).
WSC N Thwaites (NT), B Heywood (BH) & SCC F Nicholson (FN)

17:80 Apologies for non attendance: There were no apologies for non-attendance.

17:81 Declaration of Interest: There were no declarations of interest.

17:82 Minutes of the previous meeting - 25th September 2017: There were no corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly signed by the Chairman.

17:83 Actions from the previous minutes/Matters Arising:

- a. Logging and co-ordination of external meetings: The Chairman advised that everyone was now aware of other relevant meeting dates, and the clerk was sending to all agendas and minutes of these meetings when possible.
- b. Acknowledgement of work done to village green by local resident: The Chairman advised that a thank-you letter for work done to the village green by a local resident had not been sent yet. CW expressed concern that a thank-you letter was insufficient and that a gift was required. After some discussion, it was agreed that CW would draft a thank you letter and send to DG for review at this time.
- c. Large vehicle incidents: CM advised that there had been no reply to the Parish Council's letter of 21st August 2017 to Somerset County Council Highways, asking for weight/length restriction signs to be erected at the top and bottom of Halse Lane and documenting a list of incidents which had caused damage to properties over the last 18 months, and FN offered to chase this up. SH advised that there has been another recent large vehicle incident where the bollard outside the Royal Oak Pub was dislodged, but was pleased to report that Somerset Highways have already been out and repaired this.
- d. Highways: The Chairman thanked JB for checking that all salt bins in Winsford were full this winter.
- e. Signposts: BF advised that she has now completed the signpost painting course and is now certified, making a total of 2 councillors, including CW, qualified to paint Winsford's signs. CW and BF are to agree 2 days in January 2018 to paint Winsford's signs. BF confirmed that the brown signs and their repair or replacement were still under discussion at the ENP, but that we should not delay painting the Winsford signs, awaiting an outcome. FN expressed concern regarding the management of the brown signs.
- f. Unsightly bungalow: KC has contacted WSDC Keith Turner to raise the issue and identify the property but so far there has been no action.
- g. BF and SH reported that on 11th October 2017 EE had undertaken a survey of the village to ascertain a suitable site for the possible erection of a mini mobile phone mast. At this stage, it was thought likely this would be on the Royal Oak site, although its distance from the fibre optic cabinet might be an issue. A possible suggested alternative could be the village hall. It was expected that, if the survey proved successful, a planning application would be made in the usual way.

17:84 Issues concerning speeding traffic: The Chairman advised that a local resident in Edbrooke Cottages had recently had 2 cats killed within six weeks in the road outside the cottages. There was discussion regarding the fact that the 30mph speed limit signs were in the wrong place and that they should be re-sited by the Winsford village sign, in a

similar manner to Exford's village and speed limit signs. DG advised that he had written to Jo Sharp, Traffic and Transport Development, in connection with this but does not anticipate any change. FN encouraged DG to persevere with this request, requesting a visit to Winsford by Jo Sharp and asking her to advise when this visit might be.

17:85 Financial Report: The Chairman went through the finance report to date, advising that the only remaining expense for this year would be the Clerk's monthly salary. The following cheques have been written since the last meeting:

2 nd November 2017	Chq no 710, Mrs C Moore, September 2017 salary & expenses
£135.84	
2 nd November 2017	Chq no 711, Mrs C Moore, October 2017 salary & expenses
£130.18	
7 th November 2017	Chq no 712, Mr M Hiller, Village green mowing
£180.00	
7 th November 2017	Chq no 713, Mr M Hillier, Car park maintenance
£165.00	

All expenditure was approved.

The Chairman advised that £630.00 had been transferred from the PC current a/c from the Charitable Trust CAF account to cover work on the Village Green. SH was asked to chase an invoice from WVH for the 50% of the broadband charges.

17:86 Parish Precept 2018/19: The Chairman advised that the Parish Council was in receipt of a recent letter and forms from Taunton Deane Borough Council in connection with Parish Precept requirements for the financial year commencing 1st April 2018. Whilst DG did not anticipate any increase in expenditure, after some discussion it was agreed that the Precept should increase in line with inflation of between 2-3% from £3,100-£3,200. DG/CM to complete and return Precept Demand Form by 12th January 2018.

17:87 Correspondence and E-mails

- a. Complaint Letter (Shoots): The Chairman advised that another complaint letter, expressing concern in connection with the unnatural numbers of released birds, noise pollution, safety of people and animals and adhering to the Code of Good Shooting Practice, had been received on 28th October 2017. The Chairman advised that he and KC had recently had a positive meeting with the Chief Executive of the National Park in connection with the management of shoots and the Park will respond in writing. The Chairman confirmed that the subject of commercial shoots would be an Agenda item at the Annual Assembly, when there should be clarity of actions in connection with size and capping of shoots, and the content and adherence to the Code of Shooting Practice working with the village residents.

17:88 Updates on:

- a. Noticeboard: BF reported that the Noticeboard has been done.
- b. Note in Parish magazine: The Chairman advised that there would be no Across Exmoor for December 2017, and that events should be placed on the website and noticeboard instead. The Across Exmoor magazine will resume in January 2018.
- c. Archive website: BF and MM advised that some tentative plans have been done with initial set-up costs quoted at £5,750 & VAT. BF suggested that we should approach the Heritage Lottery Fund who have shown an interest in this type of project. The Chairman suggested that the Heritage Centre in Taunton should be approached for financial help in the form of a small grant.
- d. Christmas tree: It was confirmed that there will be a Christmas tree on the village green by 7th December 2017.

- e. Works in Howtown Lane: The Chairman advised there was nothing significant to report. BF confirmed that the Highways and Bridges engineers had surveyed the bridge and that cracks in the bridge had been found to be historical.
- f. SH also continues to work on the Parish insurance, investigating areas of possible overlap and comparing insurance costs with other local parishes.

17:89 Housing Needs Survey: CW advised that the grant had been rejected with more information required and then a re-application is to be made, when West Somerset Council are to pay for a survey to be done.

17:90 Reports from Committees: The Chairman thanked MM, BF and KC for their Committee reports.

17:91 Resilience Plan: MM advised that the feedback from the Somerset Flood Group Meeting was that insurance companies were increasing premiums in those areas where there was resilience/flood planning, and therefore Winsford should look carefully at introducing specifically a flood plan and support group. BF reported that she is continuing to ask for help from skilled people. BF also reported that she is chasing up the repair of the village telephone box, which is still not working, if the long-term view by BT is that it won't be repaired it may be a possible location for the defibrillator. However, if this is not the case she asked SH if the VH would support the costs of re-siting to the VH, the purchase of the cabinet and training. SH expressed concern over who would take responsibility for the ongoing upkeep and safety of the defibrillator, possibly the Charity Commission whom it was thought owned the Village Hall and land, though there was some confusion regarding this, and SH offered to investigate ownership and report back to the Council with evidence. BF confirmed that she would put together a full report on the defibrillator and all associated costs. DG thanked SH for all his efforts.

17:92 Parish Councillor Succession: The Chairman reminded the Meeting that he would be retiring in March 2018, BF also advised that she would be retiring in March 2018 and SH wished to give notice of his planned retirement in May 2019. Invitations from applicants for these positions are therefore invited.

17:93 Planning Applications and Decisions:

- a. 6/40/17/109LB, Royal Oak Winsford, Approved
- b. GDO17/23, Upcott Farm, Winsford, Approved
- c. 6/40/17/110LB, Sunnymead, Ash Lane, Winsford, Approved
- d. 6/40/17/111, The Old Forge, Winsford, Not Yet Decided
- e. 6/40/12/112, 2 Linden Terrace, School Lane, Winsford, Not Yet Decided (initial plan approved and withdrawn, re-submitted with addition of garage)

17:94: Other Business Directed to the Clerk/Chairman: CM advised that she had received an e-mail from Withypool and Hawkridge Parish Council in connection with poor visibility for traffic caused by overgrown thorn bushes and trees on Winsford Hill, and DG advised that this was an issue for the landowner, which CM will advise accordingly. There was no other business.

17:95 Dates of Next Meetings: Monday 29th January 2018 and Monday 26th March 2018 with the Annual Assembly on 28th March 2018. CM to book the Village Hall with Sue Hayes.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and closed it at 9.20pm.

Date.....

Signed.....