

Draft minutes of the ordinary meeting of Winsford Parish Council held on Monday 27th April 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), Sam Winzer (SW) and Bryany Neal (BN). Somerset Councillors Steven Pugsley (SP) and Frances Nicholson (FN) attended part of the meeting.

CW opened the meeting at 19.06

92.1 Public Question Time: None

92.2 Apologies for non-attendance: None

92.3 Declaration of Interests: None

92.4 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 30th March, and any outstanding actions: The salt bags and bins need to be checked prior to the meeting of the LCN on 11th June so that an up-to-date report can be provided to the Highways Winter Maintenance team. There is no further update re the death of an Exmoor pony on Winsford Hill. The ENPA ranger will discuss the situation with the landowners following taking advice from other areas with similar issues such as the New Forest. Following discussion it was felt that both putting reflective paint/collars on the livestock and taking back the vegetation from next to the road would be good solutions. The minutes were approved as a true record, proposed IB, seconded SL.

92.5 Updates from Somerset Councillors: There is a means-tested fund which can be applied for via Somerset Citizen's Advice Team to support with increased fuel and oil prices. JY to locate information and share it on the website.

92.6 To consider Highways Matters: CW shared an email received from a parishioner regarding recent work to drains and gullies. Praise was given re the work done near South Glebe and Larcombe Foot to Northern Mill. This was thought to be follow up work to damage caused by the additional traffic caused by roadworks on the Exford Road at Roundwater. IB reported that the follow up work to the verges has not yet been completed, while some drain covers have been replaced the clearing out has not yet been done. The gullies and drains are on a two year clearance programme. A request was made for further work to be carried out between Little Ham and the village. CW will follow up with reporting this on the portal and parishioners are encouraged to use the Somerset Council Highways portal to report such issues. MH reported that there is still water running down the road from the repaired Leat.

92.7 Update re Winsford Village Car Park: Mr Thurlow met with the Councillors on 8th April. One of the issues raised was that the potholes along the Exford Road do extend out past the drains and therefore are the responsibility of Highways. FN recommended requesting a meeting with Kali Martin and Tom Thurlow to decide the best way forward to get those filled in. Also, it was decided that closing off one of the exits near Bridge Cottage would provide additional parking. Discussion was held re providing a turning area for tractors without them tearing up the new surface. Mr Thurlow is due to go off on paternity leave shortly but will aim to provide updated plans as soon as possible.

SP and FN left the meeting at 19.38

- 92.8 Review George Joyce Charity Accounts:** The accounts were gratefully received and reviewed. The charity is currently investing in repairs and upgrades to the property and will not be able to give out funds this year.
- 92.9 Finance; To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due:** Payments were agreed for; Insurance £533.76, SALC £144.58, Car Park Mowing and clearance around the War Memorial £140. Half of the precept £5,060 has been paid into our account by Somerset Council. Proposed IB, Seconded BN.
- 92.10 Winsford Village Green Trust;**
- a. **Finance Report:** Payment agreed for Mowing £130. Proposed IB, seconded.
 - b. **Annual Accounts:** Received as requested.
 - c. **AOB:** The play inspection had been booked. Concern was raised about the rusty boundary fence. It was agreed to wait until the inspection to see if it was raised as an issue.
- 92.11 Discuss the Parish Council Website and email arrangements:** JY had circulated further information about the updated requirements prior to the meeting. This was discussed and it was agreed to upgrade to the premium package which provides the gov.uk domain name and personal gov.uk email addresses for Councillors. Funds were allocated for this upgrade in the budget planning meeting in January. JY is working on updating the current website prior to the upgrade. The next step will be to put in place the IT policy including the changes agreed above.
- 92.12 Winsford Parish Council Annual Assembly Thursday 14th May:** CW has requested that the Moorland Foodbank send a representative. KC suggested inviting Moor Movies this year. Mr Harding has been invited as the Parish Council would like to formally thank him for his forty year contribution on the Henry Leigh Trust representing the Parish Council. Discussion was held regarding gifts to departing Councillors and that it would be beneficial to agree a policy going forward. Councillors will arrive early on 14th May to help set up and serve refreshments.
- 92.13 Correspondence and Emails received:** See item 92.6.
- 92.14 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended:** MH will be attending the Village Hall Committee meeting in May. BN is due to attend a Recreation Association meeting soon.
- 92.15 Any Other Business:** The annual clean up is due. It was agreed that Sue Hayes has the equipment and the Council are willing to organise it this year if that would be helpful. Most councillors already pick up items as and when they see them.
- 92.16 Items for Next Agenda:** Defibrillator cabinet replacement, BN will check the dates on Defibrillator, pads and batteries as these may need replacing soon.
- 92.17 Date of Next meeting – Tuesday 26th May 2026 at 7.00 in Winsford Village Hall**

There being no further business CW closed the meeting at 20.29