

# WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council

Held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 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),  
and Parish Clerk Caroline Moore (CM). 8 members of the public.  
WSC N Thwaites (NT), B Heywood (BH) & SCC F Nicholson (FN)

**18:01 Apologies for non attendance:** Apologies were received from John Bray.

**18:02 Declaration of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

**18:03 Minutes of the previous meeting - 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017:** There were no corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, which were duly signed by the Chairman. The Chairman also thanked all those involved with the assembling, decorating and clearance of the Christmas Tree on the Village Green.

### 18:04 Actions from the previous minutes:

- a. Winsford signposts: BF advised the Parish Council that the signposts had been returned, and once the paint arrives together with some dry weather, signpost painting will commence.
- b. Defibrillator: BF advised the Parish Council that the defibrillator cannot be put in the telephone box and suggested the ideal location would be the Village Hall, to which the Village Hall Committee have no objection. BF advised, that having spoken to Withypool Parish Council, the cost of the defibrillator casing will be £350.00, and asked Winsford Parish Council if they would be able to help towards this cost, together with servicing of the defibrillator. BF also advised the meeting that she currently has the defibrillator at her house for 2 weeks whilst the Royal Oak Pub is closed. BF also pointed out that the defibrillator is 5 years old and that their servicing life is 8 years. BF advised that a telephone line with the defibrillator is essential. The Chairman agreed that the defibrillator was the responsibility of the Parish and this will be put as an agenda item, with a request for financial support, for the Assembly Meeting to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018.
- c. EE mobile signal: SH advised the Parish Council that there had been a survey carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 which revealed limited coverage with Orange, T-Mobile and BT.
- d. Shoots: DG advised the Parish Council that together with KC he had met with Sarah Bryan from the National Park who advised they will continue to do what they can with their ranger teams to manage the shoots. DG advised that Shoots should also be an agenda item for the forthcoming Annual Assembly.
- e. Location of speed limit signs: DG expressed disappointment at the lack of interest shown by the public in connection with the re-location of the speed limit signs, which are not going to be re-located in the short-term. MM suggested that drivers should obey the speed limit signs wherever they are situated and requested a community speed watch. FN advised that this subject will be raised at the next panel meeting, to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018. In the meantime, BF is to contact Exford Parish Council who have had a community speedwatch to ascertain the possibility of sharing speed warning signs.
- f. Long vehicle signage: SH expressed disappointment that Winsford Parish Council have had no acknowledgement to their letter of August 2017 sent to David Peake. FN offered to chase this up with the Highways Office, and CM is to e-mail a copy of this letter to FN for background information.
- g. Housing Needs Survey: CW advised the Parish Council that the Housing Needs Survey meeting was also on 29<sup>th</sup> January and had therefore offered his apologies, but Sue

Hayes had been attending the meeting. He did, however, advise that the survey was at the final agreement stage and that the results should be available next month.

- h. Insurance: SH advised the Parish Council that the insurance runs out in July 2018 and that he is continuing to work on getting the best insurance deal for the Parish.
- i. Parish Magazine - "Across Exmoor": DG advised the Parish Council that the "Across Exmoor" Parish Magazine is to re-appear from April 2018 as a single edition, rather than East and West, with continuation of delivery and any extra costs are to be dealt with by the PCC.

**18:05 Highways:** MM expressed her gratitude to Highways who had visited with their jettors. DG suggested that there should be small salt bags sited at houses where there are safety issues concerning ice forming as a result of freezing weather conditions and excess surface water.

**18:06 Village Green:** DG advised the Parish Council that he had written a thank-you letter to Angela Bidlake for all her recent hard work in maintaining and planting up the Village Green, for which Angela was grateful. DG thought that a Village Green Working Party was required. DG also advised that the play equipment had had its annual inspection. CW reported that the swing seats were cracking and needed replacing.

**18:07 Financial Report:** The Chairman went through the finance report to date. The following cheques have been written since the last meeting:

|                               |   |         |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018  | Chq no 714, Play Inspection Company                     |         |
| £120.00                       |   |         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018  | Chq no 715, Mrs C Moore, November 2017 pay and expenses |         |
| £161.85                       |   |         |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018  | Chq no 716, Mrs C Moore, December 2017 pay and expenses |         |
| £127.48                       |   |         |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2017 | Chq no 717, Winsford Village Hall                       | £304.08 |

All expenditure was approved. DG expressed concern at the cost of the internet services for the Village Hall and enquired whether the VAT could be claimed back. SH offered to investigate this and report back, and also advised that the provision of internet services had not significantly affected Village Hall bookings, considering it uneconomical to continue and did not think bookings would be lost as a result.

**18:08 Correspondence and E-mails:** None.

**18:09 Reports from Committees:** BF had submitted a report from the Exmoor Panel Meeting, with the next meeting scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, and the items therein have all been covered under separate minute headings, and submitted a report from the West Somerset Flood Group.

**18:10 Litter pick-up 2018:** The date 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 has been set for the village litter pick-up and BF will confirm with all and put on the Parish website.

**18:11 Water-related issues to include update on LWD in River Exe:** MM reported a slight change in the DEFRA/EA policy which is directing grants through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). They appear to be adopting a more 'Catchment Based Partnership Approach'. Potential projects like river restoration.

Bea Davis (ENP) is following this up to see if it fits within the guidelines of the Headwaters of the Exe project which she has been leading.

The LWD workshop was felt by many to lack any real understanding of the problems except from a very 'academic' perspective and many members (and invitees) felt that there was still no organisation, at a sufficiently high level, prepared to take the lead on this issue.

ENP are awaiting the report on the workshop from University of Exeter which should be available shortly.

There has been less LWD in the Exe this winter and no bridges have been seriously blocked or damaged thanks to several volunteers and landowners who have helped pull out woody debris from the river. After Storm Charlotte there are some trees that are damaged and need removing from the bankside from Larcombe Foot upstream, when the land dries.

**18:12 Council Tax on Dilapidated Buildings:** CW expressed concern as to how we action payment of Council Tax on unoccupied village buildings. CW is to find out the contact details of some owners of these dilapidated buildings so that the Parish may write to them in connection with this. CW also reported that a disused caravan in the garden of the dilapidated building has now collapsed into several loose pieces which could be a danger to life. BH also offered to speak to Keith Turner in connection with these issues.

**18:13 Annual Assembly:** DG advised that the Annual Assembly will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. DG proposed to invite a representative from the Miltons Shoot and Withycombe Shoot, with questions being submitted in advance of the meeting. Other items to be discussed will include the defibrillator and speedwatch. Details of the Annual Assembly will appear on a flyer to be inserted into the next Parish Magazine and uploaded onto the Website.

**18:14 Planning Applications and Decisions:**

- a. 6/40/17/112, 2 Linden Terrace, Garage and LPG tanks, Not Yet Decided
- b. 6/40/17/113, Retrospective retention of concrete track land east of Howetown. DG permitted brief comments on this retrospective planning application at the start of the meeting for the benefit of the 8 members of the public who were in attendance to discuss this. DG received supportive comments from the public, but also highlighted that the Park's advice should always be sought first as pre-planning advice has solved many problems in the past. DG also advised that there were conflicting reports from National Park officers in connection with the suitability of the material used to lay the concrete track together with its sustainability, drainage issues and compliance with the Highways Act. DG/CM to write to the Planning Office requesting the ENPA Planning Committee carry out a site visit before any decision is made, to which all present were in agreement to.
- c. 6/40/18/101LB, LB consent for proposed pole mounted small cell shrouded antennae, to south-west gable wall, The Royal Oak Inn, Strong Support

**18:15 Parish Councillors:** KC requested that this topic be discussed before AOB. BF, who is to stand-down as a Parish Councillor after the March 2018 meeting, had invited a potential councillor candidate to sit in on the meeting and MM advised that she was in communication with another parishioner who may be interested in applying to become a Parish Councillor. DG advised that potential applicants should submit an expression of interest with brief biography to the Parish Clerk as soon as possible, and KC will draft an advert will be put inserted into the next Parish magazine.

**18:16 Other Business Directed to the Clerk/Chairman:** There was no other business.

**18:17 Dates of Next Meetings:** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 with the Annual Assembly on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and closed it at 9.30pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

DRAFT