

# WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Godsal, Kevin Connell, Steve Hunt, Mel Mileham, John Bray, Colin Wilkins, Beverley Flanagan, SCC Frances Nicholson, WSC Bruce Heywood and Nicholas Thwaites and Clerk Verity Vigars. Mike Hillier was also present at the beginning to discuss village maintenance.

**15:72 Apologies for non Attendance** - None.

**15:73 Declarations of Interest** - None.

### **15.74 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 (as circulated) be approved and signed as correct.

### **15:75 Actions from the Previous Minutes**

#### a. Village repairs and maintenance

Thanks were given to Mike Hillier for all he has done and is doing for the village. The Jubilee tree has died and the new tree is being replanted by Exmoor Trees on 9<sup>th</sup> December and is paid for by the Quiz team winnings of KC, CW and others. It was **AGREED** to have a day in early February to cut back the overgrown Rhododendrons and brambles with chainsaws etc. surrounding the village green. A bonfire site had been arranged. It was raised that the water is flowing faster on Halse Lane since being resurfaced and it was **AGREED** Mike Hillier would keep a close eye on the drains and keep them clear. JB noted that the hedge on the right hand side had been made but not trimmed so the leaves had been dropping and blocking the drains, but should be better now. It was noted that Highways are aware of water coming out of Townsend corner bank and missing the drain and have decided to dig up the road and make it right (it has been marked out). It gets slippery where it crosses the road. It was also raised that it floods outside Apple Tree Cottage and it was **AGREED** that Mike Hillier would keep an eye on that drain too.

#### b. Speed Limit

It was reported that it has been publicised in the newspaper. There had been some negative comments from villagers regarding signage but no formal complaints. The petition was handed to the Archivist for the files.

#### c. Broadband

SH reported that he had spoken with his contact, who said rollout was running late. One box is operational so phase one should be done by Christmas. The Chairman thanked SH for his perseverance.

#### d. Highways (including signposts)

FN thanked BF and MM for what they had done and reported that 80 or so had been recorded so they were getting an idea of the scale of the project. Bridgetown were also grateful for the help. MM highlighted that there are some photos of signposts in the village archive which show the history of them and she **AGREED** to pass copies to the project team. It was noted that the ones top and bottom of Quarme Lane are still the wrong way around.

#### e. Wi-Fi access in the Village Hall

SH reported that he had made contact with the MD of Airband, who have said the site has potential but that line of sight is important. The rollout of Connecting Devon and Somerset's phase 2 is March to December and houses are supposed to being notified shortly. It was **AGREED** to register an interest with Airband early to see if it is an option (SH to action) and to spread the word.

It was noted that ENPA are keen to digitise plans so they can be viewed online at PC meetings. NT suggested it might be worth finding out some information from Arqiva.

The problems with the Haddon Hill mast were discussed and noted that it is unlikely to go ahead now although the planning will remain in place, should another company be interested.

#### f. Empty/incomplete/derelict properties

The Chairman reported that he had met with David Wyborn who has checked who the owners are with Land Registry. It was suggested that the PC could write to them and offer to have an informal meeting to discuss their plans. Some of the legal routes can make the situation worse.

The other unfinished property is different and it was **AGREED** that the Chairman ask David Wyborn if he can do a Land Registry search for that one too with a view to the Parish Council writing to them too.

A couple of other untidy/derelict properties were mentioned.

#### **15:76 Financial Report**

The financial report was received including that the second donation of £100 had been received from Exmoor Parish Council for the Parish Clerk's training. It was noted that an additional signature will be required for the Trust account at some stage. The £38 winnings for the tree has been paid to the Village Hall Committee so they will issue a cheque to the Parish Council for the same amount. A wreath for the war memorial had also been organised. The RBL suggested amount for this was for £16.50. It was **RESOLVED** that a donation of £25.00 be given. Discussion followed about whether there should be future charges for Village Hall hire for the Archive project. It was also noted that the Trust expenses can be refunded from the CAF account. It was **RESOLVED** to pay the following and cheques were issued:

a. Clerk's Pay and Expenses from June-August 2015	£270.12
b. Hire of Village Hall for Parish Archive Meeting on 4 <sup>th</sup> November	£16.00
c. Mike Hillier - Village Green Maintenance	£150.00
d. Mike Hillier - General Maintenance & Repairs	£150.00
e. The Play Inspection Company	£180.00
f. Exmoor Trees	£38.00
g. Royal British Legion	£25.00

#### Precept

It was noted that the Precept deadline is 8<sup>th</sup> January, which is earlier than previous years. The Clerk and Chairman had prepared the budget spreadsheet showing figures for likely income and expenditure which was presented. The village maintenance figure had been increased for the expected additional work discussed previously. Other expenses were mentioned such as the Parish Archive project, although MM was hopeful of a grant for the storage cupboards. There needs to be a reserve for unexpected costs. Ownership of the toilets was raised, as in some Parishes, they have been given to Parish Councils. This was not something currently expected in Winsford's case, using the situation in Exford as an example. It was also asked whether Councillors could claim expenses and it was answered that expenses such as training costs are paid for by the PC and that Councillors should not be left out of pocket for what they do. It was mentioned that the website should be self-funding from adverts so there are no expected costs from that. Discussion followed about whether the precept should be increased slightly but it was **RESOLVED** to keep it at the same amount of £3102.95. It was **AGREED** to organise an additional meeting if any circumstances change between now and just after Christmas that might affect the precept. NT pointed out that the District Council is capped at 1.99% and it might happen to parishes in future. It was also asked whether the compulsory Clerk's pension needed to be included but no further information is available on that yet.

#### **15:77 Procedures - Nothing to report**

#### **15:78 Parish Archive**

The meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November saw 20 plus people attending but now time and expertise is needed to sort out what there is. A proposal has been made to the Village Hall Committee for a storage cupboard across the whole width of the back wall to house the entire archive. The cupboards are £800, then there needs to be clam shell boxes and acid-free paper for protection (Exmoor Society advice). An electric socket

needs moving, which will also incur a fee but hopeful of a grant through the ENP - just waiting on the decision. £600 has already been secured and match funded. FN asked MM for an article for the Exmoor Review, of which she is Editor.

#### **15.79 Byelaws on Winsford Hill - camping/littering**

It was reported that, at the last Forum meeting, Nigel Stone responded that creating bye laws is a matter for the Secretary of State but it would normally be initiated by the landowner. At the Forum meeting, it was suggested that the NP look in to the possibility of displaying notices in their centres and publishing leaflets advising visitors. It was suggested that the PC might have some leaflets that they can then put on the windscreen when they see offenders. There is a reluctance to put signs up, but ENP could include advice on their literature and website. The topic of baling up the ferns on Winsford Hill had been raised at the Forum meeting but it was highlighted that farmers have the right to do it.

#### **15.80 Emergency Planning**

A meeting had been organised by the Environment Agency for Councillors and a number of 'at risk' properties, where there had been a long discussion on planning for emergencies. They are also happy to come back and do another session, perhaps in an afternoon. It was pointed out that a village directory of who lives where and contacts would be useful for this, but that permission would have to be sought from everyone to be included. Parishioners should also be encouraged to register on the website as information can be shared that way. It was noted that the Village Agent, Caroline Harding, has resilience packs which people can request. NT **AGREED** to try to get a copy of Dulverton's flood plan.

#### **15:81 Correspondence and Emails**

- a. Magna Stakeholder Conference - 8<sup>th</sup> December - noted
- b. Bus Services & Concessionary Fares Consultation - deadline 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 - FN informed that they are consulting on bus pass times and community cars. It was suggested that the form was in an unfriendly format and she offered to feed that back.
- c. ATWEST - Noted
- d. Volunteer Drivers - Noted. Clerk to forward to BN for website.
- e. Planning meeting with David Wyborn - (awaiting new date) - Councillors would prefer a Monday so it can be held in Winsford. Clerk to reply.
- f. Code of Conduct Meeting with Bruce Lang - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 - Noted, already shared by email.
- g. Clean for the Queen. - Noted and it ties in with annual litter pick, which BF now has all the stuff for. Clerk to forward email to BF.
- h. 198 bus service - FN had forwarded an email saying that keeping the service. Councillors were pleased and wished to record thanks to FN for assisting as it is a lifeline. BF **AGREED** to publicise the service on the website.
- i. Street Naming - Noted but not relevant at the moment.
- j. Exmoor and Magna properties - Noted.
- k. Communities Asset Transfer - Noted but not relevant.
- l. Homefinder Somerset - Noted.
- m. Winter maintenance - Noted.
- n. Dementia awareness - Noted.

#### **15:82 Report from Committees and Highways**

Points to note from the Panel and Consultative and Parish Forum meetings in November have already been covered.

#### **15:83 Planning Applications and Decisions.**

No new planning applications. It was noted that the earlier application for solar panels at Staddon could not be seen from anywhere, hence no objections. It was highlighted that the new windows in the Old School look very good.

**15:84 Other Business Directed to the Clerk**

MM reported that she had corresponded with the Environment Agency regarding wood on the riverbanks and had sent pictures. They said they would contact the landowner.

FN warned that big cuts are likely, as is a rate rise.

BH kindly presented the Clerk with an Ordnance Survey map for which he was thanked.

KC shared a communication from with Cutcombe Parish Council regarding better signage at Hare Path Cross as they believed it to be in Winsford Parish. It was **AGREED** that it is outside the boundary and that the Clerk should respond.

The idea of a village Christmas tree was raised for next year.

**15:85 Date of next Meeting**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.30pm unless anything changes regarding the Precept. The Parish Assembly should be added to the Agenda.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

