

# WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Godsall (Chairman), John Bray, Kevin Connell, Beverley Flanagan, Steve Hunt, SCC Frances Nicholson, WSDC Bruce Heywood and Clerk Verity Vigers.

**15:18 Apologies for non Attendance** - Katherine Lindop and WSDC Keith Ross. The Council sends their best wishes to them both for speedy recoveries having undergone surgery.

**15:19 Declarations of Interest** - None.

### **15:20 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2015 (as circulated) be approved and signed as correct.

### **15:21 Actions from the Previous Minutes**

#### a. Car Park Repairs

Frances Nicholson reported that Highways would not be making a contribution. John Bray requested a site meeting with the Chairman in order to be able to provide a costing. This was arranged for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

#### b. Speed Limit

FN reported that she has a meeting with Gary Warren, the Area Traffic Engineer, to look at the speed check locations on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. It was agreed that the Chairman would also attend this meeting. It was noted that the Chairman had recently sent a letter on behalf of the Parish Council stressing that the fact that 15% were speeding was an unacceptable figure and suggesting better places for the speed checks to be done again. Steve Hunt pointed out that there had been a couple of nasty accidents recently and raised the issue of speeding quad bikes particularly in Ash Lane, which had not been included in the letter. FN suggested that this be mentioned to the PCSO, especially if the bikes are unlikely to be road legal.

#### c. Highways (including signposts)

JB reported that he had attended the recent Panel meeting where it was suggested by Dulverton Councillors that Winsford's village sign was the worst in the area. FN reported that some funding had been found, but still looking for more. It was thought that Highways might wish to use it as a test run to see if sandblasting on site is successful, in which case, happy to let them try it. It was suggested that the ones at Copleham and Quarne (directing people to Winsford) are in a worse state. FN agreed to find out which one they might do. It was noted that Exford's had been done independently at a cost of approximately £400.

#### d. Village repairs and maintenance

It was reported that the bus shelter roof has now been repaired at a very reasonable price (£120) and subsequently paid. The mess from the buses turning around seems to have resolved itself. It was noted that the bus timetable case is smashed and that there is no timetable. It was **RESOLVED** to organise a new plastic cover if needed. BF has already requested a new timetable for putting on the website. FN mentioned that the 398 bus operators are not wanting to continue and how the service might continue in future is currently being discussed. It was **RESOLVED** to send a letter to the County Councillor asking to be kept in the loop.

#### e. Village Shop

FN had not managed to find any funding and so there was nothing further to discuss.

## **15:22 Financial Report**

The financial report was received, pointing out that Charitable Trust expenses have been paid for from the Parish Council accounts recently and that no transfers across have been made. It was **RESOLVED** to organise a transfer before the year-end from the CAF Account of £555 (expenses so far this year) plus £35 (latest invoice from Mike Hillier). It was also noted that an element of the annual insurance fee is chargeable to the Trust and so it was **AGREED** that 10% (£76.68) plus the personal accident element (£23.42) = **£100** - also be transferred.

**RESOLVED** to issue cheque for £30 for Mike Hillier for Village Car Park maintenance.

**RESOLVED** to issue cheque for £35 for Mike Hillier for Mowing Village Green.

**RESOLVED** to approve Verity Vigers' Pay and Expenses from Nov 14-Feb 15 of £575.31. This would need to be 2 cheques (£473.31 to VV and £102 to HMRC as the tax deduction). The Chairman reported that he had received a comprehensive timesheet from the Clerk and it was **AGREED** that he would receive and accept these in future on behalf of the Council. He also reported that SALC/NALC had issued guidance on a pay rise for all Parish Clerks. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the new amount of £9.029 per hour.

**RESOLVED** to issue a cheque for £104.40 to ALR Accountancy for Payroll Services during the 2014-15 financial year. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would process the payroll directly using HMRC's free software from now on.

It was noted that whilst the Precept amount stayed the same as last year, there has actually been a % reduction to each household.

## **15:23 Annual Assembly**

This is being held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 7 for 7.30 pm. It was **AGREED** that Councillors would arrive at 6.30pm to help set up the room and refreshments. Beverley Flanagan **AGREED** to source the refreshments.

### a. Parish Archive

The Chairman is awaiting confirmation on how the Parish Archive presentation is to be made. It is likely that there will be a display in the Village Hall in a month or so to invite people in so they can see the type of material, both existing and missing.

### b. Broadband

Nathaniel Lucas from Connecting Devon and Somerset will speak, introduced by SH. This will be the first item.

### c. Village Website

The Chairman wished to thank Beverley Flanagan for all she has done on the website, which he has seen and is very impressed with. BF will introduce John to make the presentation. It was noted that the website is actually scheduled to go live tomorrow night (24<sup>th</sup> March).

Other items on the agenda include a presentation from Richmond Harding on the George Joyce Trust, the Village Clean-up, Chairman's report and the Election of Parish Councillors.

## **15:24 Correspondence and Emails**

### a. Draft Local Plan

This is for West Somerset and the Chairman reported that he had consulted WSDC Bruce Heywood and they concluded there was not much of significance for the parish.

### b. Outcome of Somerset Library Services Review and Consultation

The Chairman had approached the regular users of the Library and they are happy to continue using the service from the Village Car Park as the main stop and so any changes to other stops are negligible.

### c. Annual Litter Pick-up - 29<sup>th</sup> March, 11am

KL had initially organised this but BF would take on getting the stuff organised. Everyone needs to encourage more people to pick up as it makes a big difference.

d. Others

Somerset Emergency Community Contacts - it was **AGREED** to provide the names, addresses and landline phone numbers of all Parish Councillors for the database for maximum availability.

**15:25 Election of Parish Councillors**

It was noted that the Chairman had been the first person to spot the incorrect telephone number on the WSDC Nomination Papers and organised for an email to be sent to all Parish Councils notifying them of this error.

It was noted that there is currently one vacancy on the Parish Council and we are keen to fill it. Concern was expressed at the likely cost of an election should there be one, which was suggested at £1500. Bruce Heywood **AGREED** to try to find out a more accurate costing for Winsford from Bruce Lang, as this seems excessive. It was noted that a fee of around £80 is charged for an uncontested election for all the forms etc.

**15:26 Report from Committees and Highways**

a. Exmoor Area Panel Meeting - 5<sup>th</sup> March

JB attended and the main point of interest was the signposts.

b. Election of Parish Members to ENPA

This meeting was originally to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> January but was postponed until 23<sup>rd</sup> February. JB attended and was disappointed that SALC's Justin Robinson did not make it in the end. The Parish Councils nominate, there might be a hustings event and then they have to vote for 5 candidates. There is a timetable for this, which needs to be considered when planning the May meeting of the PC and an extraordinary meeting may be required. There do not seem to have been any kind of minutes produced from this meeting.

The next meeting of the Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum is on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, where it is hoped the ENPA Parish Members will be discussed in further detail, but it is not on the agenda. JB and SH planned to attend.

**15:27 Planning Applications and Decisions.**

|    |                              |  |                 |
|----|------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| a. | The Old School               | <b>6/40/13/110</b>                     | Not yet decided |
| b. | Karslake Country Guest House | <b>6/40/15/101 &amp; 6/40/15/102LB</b> | Not yet decided |
| c. | Hill View                    | <b>6/40/15/103</b>                     | Approved        |
| d. | Highercombe Farm, Dulverton  | <b>6/9/15/102</b>                      | Not yet decided |
| e. | Withycombe Cottage           | <b>6/40/15/104LB &amp; 6/10/15/105</b> | Not yet decided |

It was noted that Highercombe Farm was just a notification as an adjoining parish and the Withycombe Cottage was additional internal work to fine tune the previous application. It was **RESOLVED** to raise no objections to either application.

It was noted that there was a very new application within Exton Parish which might impact on Winsford. It was **AGREED** to look at the detailed plans as and when they are available.

**15:28 Other Business Directed to the Clerk** None

**15:29 Date of next Meeting**

The usual meeting date is a Bank Holiday and a meeting is required shortly after the Election. Suggested date Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May subject to finding out how that fits in with Election and ENPA deadlines.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm.

Date.....

Signed.....