

# WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council

Held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Godsall (Chairman), Steve Hunt, Beverley Flanagan, Mel Mileham, C Wilkins and Parish Clerk Sue Carless. WSC Bruce Heywood, WSC N Thwaites & SCC F Nicholson arrived after the start of the meeting.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chairman thanked Steve Hunt, The Royal Oak & Villagers for their involvement with the Christmas Tree & Carols organised. The event raised approximately £340.00 & it was so well received it was felt it should become an annual event.

Following from minute 16:93 at the last meeting it was noted that Cllr K Connell had spoken with Sue Hayes. Mrs Hayes has agreed to act as the Village representative for issues relating to rural housing.

**17:01 Apologies for none attendance:** Cllr K Connell

**17:02 Declarations of Interest:** None

**17:03 Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2016 were approved & signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**17:04 Actions from the Previous Minutes:**

a. Broadband & Wi Fi access in Village Hall

S Hunt was congratulated by Council on completion of the task of bringing internet access to the village hall. This will be of great benefit to the community as a whole.

ENPA have made a recommendation as to which projector is most appropriate to purchase. Robin Lockwood is involved. The terms of the grant are that anyone can use the projector & the purchase must be finished by the end of the financial year. B Flanagan advised that she had been approached by Newton & Biggin Parish Council (Warwickshire) regarding Winsford's experience with installing Broadband and she would give the details to S Hunt to follow up. She had also had an email from Cosmic UK a company who run workshops for communities & businesses to help boost digital skills. However, they were unable to provide courses at the moment. This response was related to an enquiry made by Dave Williams, Village Hall Committee. S Hunt to pass on response.

b. Highways

B Flanagan has again been advised that the repair to Howetown Bridge is not a priority. However if workmen are coming to repair the Vicarage Bridge it would seem sensible to repair Howetown Bridge whilst on site in the village.

Agreed that Cllr. J Bray should provide a map of where across the village salt is kept.

Noted that there was a new sign in Halse Lane.

**17:05 Financial Report:**

a. Parish Precept 2017-18 - It was noted that the Winsford Parish Precept has been kept at the same amount as the previous financial year.

b. Transfer of Funds from CAF account to Parish Council account - It was agreed to transfer £590 from the CAF account to the Parish Council Current Account. This was for the cost of the Annual Play Inspection & the Village Green maintenance costs which had been paid for out of the Parish Council funds.

c. Clerks pay & Expenses 21/11/16 - 29/01/17 £164.55

d. Finance Meeting - It was agreed that the Parish Councillors would hold a separate Finance meeting prior to the Annual Assembly.

### **17:06 Village Green Maintenance:**

A quote has been received for the left hand side of Winn Brook bank to be rebuilt at £450, this includes

taking down & rebuilding the wall. Discussion took place on where to source stones from, Chairman D Godsal & Cllr M Mileham have suitable stones. Discussion took place on whether there might be any grants available to fund the work. It was reported that Rob Wilson-North, Conservation Officer ENP, had indicated this was the type of project they wanted to help. The application would need to be made but work on the repair could not take place until after April so as to not disturb fish & when water levels are lower. SCC Highways permission is needed to access the brook. Noted that any monies not spent would need to be returned.

As Council were aware that they paid considerably more than other local Parishes for the Play Inspection it was felt it would be a good idea to challenge the cost quoted. Also Council felt that only the play equipment should be examined, not every gate & path.

It was noted that the cost of employing M Hillier to maintain the village green had been £440. Just about every other aspect of village green maintenance had been achieved by voluntary efforts of those in the village.

The Village was surveyed by Google Maps in 2010 & it was suggested a comparison be made during the coming spring. It was felt that great improvement had been made in the overall look of the village green.

The Chairman to ask G Strickland to look at the gate on the village green as this was still a problem & Councillors thought it had been repaired when the other work had been carried out.

### **17:07 General Village Maintenance/ Annual Village Litter Pick/Bins:**

The sign post in the middle of the village requires some attention as does the sign post by the village hall. Suggested they could both be done as part of spring village clean up.

Agreed that the Chairman would write to the owner of the Old Village Hall regarding slates coming off which pose a health & safety risk.

The Parish Notice Board is to be repaired.

A date for the Village litter pick was agreed of 5 March 2017, B Flanagan would arrange for this to be advertised in the parish magazine. Last year's litter pick saw over 20 people help.

Discussion took place on the number & location of bins in the village. Suggested that the bin at the cricket ground be moved to the village green. The District Council will only empty one bin, more appropriate for this to be a bin on the village green rather than the cricket ground.

The Chairman advised Council that Julie Lynch from the new DC contractors had agreed to visit Winsford to assess what collection takes place now & what the Parish Council would like them to do.

### **17:08 Parish Flooding and Related Water issues**

Reported that M Mileham & B Flanagan were making progress. ENPA will be removing large tree trunks between Larcombe Foot and Northern Mill, which had come down during the flooding in November. M Mileham wished to be notified when this work was due to be carried out. There was a vote of thanks for Andrew Brown, manager at Kemps Farm, who had undertaken work to remove a large amount of debris from the river upstream of Winsford at Larcombe Foot Bridge.

M Mileham is to send the Environment Agency a map highlighting all the problem areas. However, the agency seems unwilling to follow anything up and cannot come for a site visit. It was noted that SCC F Nicholson sent a helpful email to the National Park & Somerset CC listing matters of concern. There was some confusion as to which of many bodies was responsible for what aspect of rivers. There is only a part time EA enforcement officer. Also river management by fishing interests sometimes involves deliberately putting large pieces of wood into the river, anchored to the bank, which are now coming loose and causing problems. Agreed that the Chairman & M Mileham would arrange to meet with Mark Thomasin-Foster Chair of the Exmoor Rivers and Streams group and a member of ENP Conservation panel.

Thanks expressed to M Mileham & B Flanagan for their continued hard work.

### **17:09 Resilience Planning**

Tim Debney is working with B Flanagan & S Hunt on the Resilience Plan on this issue. Working through a plan has created many questions, it also requires commitment from the community as a whole. Resilience Plans are generally run by Parish Councils and it is not possible for a Parish Council to ask people to help if the insurance obligations are not clear. WSC N Thwaites suggested that if a person hurt themselves whilst acting as an agent for a Parish Council they should be covered by the Parish Council's insurance. Question raised as to whether a Parish Council is legally obliged to have a Resilience Plan. Parish Clerk to find out from insurers what cover there is & who is liable. Also make enquiries of SALC, Dunster & Exford Parish Councils as to their situation.

A resilience plan needs to have a hierarchy to make the decision in an emergency situation, there needs to be first aid training & consideration of what to do if the emergency services are unable to get through to the village. S Hunt pointed out that people should have access to an old style plug in telephone, one which will work even if there is no electricity.

Thanks expressed to B Flanagan, S Hunt & T Debney for their continued hard work on this subject.

### **17:10 Parish Archive**

M Mileham advised that approximately half a day was required to sort through more archive material. Most of it has now been sorted into categories. There is a need to make room within the village hall cupboards in the village hall for the new printer & laminator. Sue Hayes has kindly offered £100 for the Archive from her Easter Fund Raising event.

### **17:11 Annual Assembly**

Agreed to hold the Annual Assembly on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **17:12 Correspondence & Emails**

- a. Police & Crime Plan - document available for councillors to read
- b. DEFRA Avian Flu - noted advice from DEFRA. Question of what happens to the local pheasants as it is not possible to move them.
- c. Consultation on Sec. 6 Exmoor National Park Local Plan
- d. Proposed New District Council Consultation - [www.yournewcouncil.org](http://www.yournewcouncil.org) - Those Parish Councils who attended the Exmoor Panel meeting said they agreed with the proposal. It was felt that the services received by Winsford would not be changed & the Chairman therefore suggested Winsford Parish Council should write confirming agreement of proposals. WSC B Heywood advised Council that it would mean there would be approximately 15 councillors. There was also a suggestion that Winsford & Exton would be included with the Exmoor Ward
- e. Any other communications received prior to the meeting.
  - Wayleave cheque received from Western Power in the sum of £19.19
  - NS & I Annual statement received.

### 17:13 Reports from Committees

a. Exmoor Area Panel Meeting 17.01.2017

b. Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum meeting 19.01.2017

Both Cllrs M Mileham & K Connell had attended the above meetings & circulated their own notes to council. In particular it was noted that anyone flying a drone over National Park land would need to seek permission from ENPA as they were seen as a danger to riders.

WSC B Heywood told council of an article in the Farmers Guardian which suggested it was the Government's intention to increase business rates for self-catering accommodation, farm renewables & equestrian. County Councils to be supported by business rates. Cllr Heywood notified that within Winsford there were 3 or 4 properties not paying business rates whilst operating as self-catering accommodation.

### 17:14 Planning Applications & Decisions

The Parish Council was in favour of the application for Hoe Farm & that ENPA had requested further input from the applicant.

The Parish Council was in favour of the application for The Old Rectory now that the proposals for the fence & porch had been withdrawn.

Parish Clerk to formally notify ENPA of Councils approval.

Chairman had spoken with Planners regarding the West Nethercote application, planners appeared to be happy. M Mileham raised issue that the Farm is medieval and of local historical value. Chairman agreed to make further enquiries.

a. Watersmeet, Exford Road	6/40/16/101	NYD
b. Hoe Farm	6/40/16/114	PC in favour
c. Quarne Mounceaux Hse	6/40/16/115&116LB	Now Approved
d. Karlake Cottage, Halse Lane	6/40/17/102LB	NYD
e. The Old Rectory, Halse Lane	6/40/16/120	PC in favour
f. Chanters Cottage, Halse Lane	6/40/17/101	NYD
g. West Nethercote, Staddon Hill	6/40/17/103	NYD

### 17:15 Other Business Directed to the Clerk

SCC F Nicholson - current situation with Minehead Hospital closing in-patient beds temporarily as there are recruitment problems. A recruitment open day is to be held soon.

Cllr. C Wilkin to attend the next panel meeting on behalf of the Parish Council, on 2 March 2017

### 17:16 Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held Monday 27th March 2017, 7.30 pm Winsford Village Hall.  
Annual Assembly to be held on Wednesday 29th March 2017 7pm for 7.30pm Winsford Village Hall.

Noted that former County Councillor John Edwards had recently died and his funeral was to be held on 10th February 2017.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date.....

Signed.....