

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council

Held on Monday 28th November 2016 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors David Godsal, Steve Hunt, Kevin Connell, Beverley Flanagan, John Bray,

Mel Mileham and Parish Clerk Sue Carless. SSC Frances Nicholson and WSC Bruce Heywood arrived after the start of the Meeting.

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chairman thanked all those involved with the work carried out on 2nd November 2016. A wide range of people had helped with the work on the village green & generally around the village.

Thanks were also expressed to those villagers who assisted when the village had flooding issues. Cllrs Mel Mileham & Beverley Flanagan were also thanked for the large amount of time they spent liaising with various agencies regarding the river, brooks & streams which flow through the village.

16:84 Apologies for none attendance: Cllr Colin Wilkins & WSC Nicholas Thwaites

16:85 Declarations of Interest: None

16:86 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2016 were approved & signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

16:87 Actions from the Previous Minutes:

a. Broadband

S Hunt reported that BT would be installing a broadband router with a locked password in the village hall this coming week. The package approved is Infinity with unlimited broadband at £30 per month plus VAT. The Village Hall Committee will set up a quarterly direct debit for the Parish Council. The Parish Council will therefore be paying £18 per month. There will also be a shared cost for the router & installation charge. The availability of broadband at the village hall will be advertised to see whether any extra business can be generated.

S Hunt will purchase a projector from the funding scheme notified to Council by David Wyborn, Head of Planning & Sustainable Development at Exmoor National Park. The Chairman thanked S Hunt for all his efforts in bringing broadband to the Village Hall, it was acknowledged that it will greatly assist the Council in its work.

It is not known if Airband will be providing internet access within Winsford but their vans have been seen in the vicinity. B Flanagan would look at the opportunity for helping in running computer courses from CCS.

b. Technology Group

A technology group can be established once broadband has been installed within the village hall.

c. Highways (excluding signposts)

Salt/Grit in bags would be available from the council on 3 December 2016. Stocks could be stored at John Bray's, he can then be called by villagers as & when grit is required. Grit bins are currently full & have bolts on them to stop them blowing open. He would supply a map of current locations of all bins.

Reported at recent Exmoor Panel meeting of discussion that cars parked by the roadside prevent gritting being carried out effectively. There was also discussion of the cutting back of hedges had been insufficient causing safety issues.

SCC are not keen to erect further road signs at Halse Lane, it was suggested that the erection of signs would not prevent lorries from using the road. J Bray suggested it might be worth telephoning the haulage companies of those lorries who attempt to use Halse Lane.

d. Signposts

Reported that ENPA has obtained a National Lottery funded grant for the Historic Signpost Project. A Steering Group meeting was to be held on 30th November. Winsford Parish Council will be updated following this meeting. Noted that the signposts from Landacre Bridge to Sandy Way have been maintained, the Parish Lengthsman has been out working on the signposts.

e. Speed Limit - update

Jo Sharp, Traffic Engineer for SCC had recently visited Winsford. However it was felt that it would have been more helpful if the Chairman had been notified so he could have met with her. Repeater signs have been erected by Ash Lane & the Village Car Park today.

16:88 Financial Report:

Noted that Councillors felt the fee for the Play Inspection was somewhat high, other Parish Councils pay far less. The fee this year was £150.

Approval for payments to Mike Hillier for Grounds Maintenance & Sue Carless for Clerk Salary & Expenses given. Also agreed payment to G Strickland for repair work & concreting in of play equipment.

It was agreed that the total cost of the Play Inspection (£150), the Mowing of the Village Green (£165) & Rebuild of rotten play equipment (£617.88) which equals £932.88 should be transferred from the CAF account to reimburse the Parish Council Account.

Once ENPA Archive funding received Mel Mileham reimbursed for associated Archive expenses.

Agreed to donate £25.00 towards the cost of the wreath for the War Memorial.

Discussion took place on the Parish Precept for 2017-18. It was agreed to maintain the Precept at £3,102.50 for the coming financial year.

16:89 Village Green Maintenance:

Noted - 20ft Christmas tree arriving at the beginning of December. S Hunt donated 1000 battery operated white lights. Still to organise an event on 14th December with carols & food. It was felt that this should be an annual event.

The Village Green Maintenance had gone very well this year thanks to assistance from a number of helpful residents. It was felt that the Spring & Autumn work parties should continue.

16:90 General Village Maintenance:

B Heywood needs to know how many old litter bins were removed so he can then request the appropriate number of replacement bins.

During September and October 2016 the PC met with the ENP, Environment Agency, Somerset County Council Highways Water Management team, West Somerset Flood Group, and Frances Nicholson. The PC has also contacted by email and phone many agencies with photographs showing the problems with trees, bridges and banks. Somerset Rivers Authority is made up of all bodies involved with water.

F Nicholson said she would, on behalf of the Parish Council, bring up the issue of the different water agencies not taking responsibility for certain issues. The SRA have said they will visit Winsford. Thanks expressed to M Mileham & B Flanagan for highlighting the difficulties of dealing with 8 or 9 different agencies when trying to resolve an issue.

With regards to timber that flows down rivers & brooks during times of flooding it was noted that this timber is the responsibility of the landowner from where it originated. If people are buying the rights to riverbanks they have a responsibility to keep them clear.

16:91 Parish Archive

Reported by M Mileham that the Partnership Funding was nearly at an end. She has organised the purchase of an A3 printer & a laminator. She will also see if any of the old Village Hall & Parish Council records could be transferred to Somerset Records office.

The Parish Archive contains an history of the War Memorial with information on the Board of Committee who raised money and a corresponding newspaper article.

16:92 Emergency Planning/ West Somerset Flood Group

This needed to be changed from Emergency to Resilience Planning. A plan has been written which should be used to cover all eventualities such as loss of power, snow & flooding - all of which occurred last week. The idea is to encourage people to help themselves, e.g. a telephone tree, equipment such as generator, clothing, salt, flood training and first aid training. A meeting of the group had been arranged for next week. The lower part of the village is generally populated with older people & younger people live higher up, it is they who are perhaps better able to assist in times of emergency. It was seen as a priority to enable/facilitate communication within the community.

16:93 Exmoor Rural Housing Network

Reported by K Connell the discussion at the recent Forum meeting that Exmoor Rural Housing Network wants to work as a facilitator across Exmoor. They would like to have a contact in each Parish who would be in a position to advise where housing vacancies might be. This type of role used to be undertaken by S Hayes, K Connell will speak with her. Noted that Cllr Nicholson sits on the steering group of the Network.

16:94 Correspondence & Emails

a. Top 5 Priorities for Winsford

These were identified as water & flooding issues, road hedges, broadband mobile coverage, affordable housing & activity to combat loneliness.

b. West Somerset Advice Bureau Annual Report 2015-16

Report circulated for Councillors to read.

16:95 Reports from Committees

a. Exmoor Area Panel Meeting 8.11.16

No Police, Fire Service or National Park personnel attended the meeting. Also discussed insufficient cutting back of hedges.

b. Exmoor Consultative & Parish Forum 17.11.16 K Connell had previously circulated a written report.

16:96 Planning Applications & Decisions

a. Watersmeet, Exford Road	6/40/16/101	NYD
b. Hoe farm	6/40/16/114	NYD
c. Quarme Mounceaux Hse	6/40/16/115&116LB	NYD
d. Little Pitcott	6/40/16/117&118	Approved
e. River House, Exford Road	WTPO 16/02	Approved

16:97 Other Business Directed to the Clerk

None

16:98 Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held Monday 30th January 2017, 7.30 pm Winsford Village Hall.

Date.....

Signed.....