

# WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council

Held on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors: Kevin Connell (Chair, KC), John Bray (JB), Steve Hunt (SH), Mel Mileham (MM), Bev Flanagan (BF), Colin Wilkins (CW) and Parish Clerk Caroline Moore (CM). WSC N Thwaites (NT),  
B Heywood (BH) & SCC F Nicholson (FN)

**17:50 Apologies for non attendance:** David Godsall

**17:51 Declaration of Interest:** There were no declarations of interest.

**17:52 Minutes of the previous meeting - 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017:** There were no issues with the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

**17:53 Actions from the previous minutes:**

- a. Large vehicles: There was much discussion regarding the issues involving large vehicles and lack of warning signs in the village. FN suggested that all incidents involving large vehicles should be logged to quantify this increasing problem, thus providing evidence for action from the County Council/Highways, and SH kindly offered to co-ordinate this. The number of incidents will also be reviewed at the next Parish meeting. FN suggested in the meantime the Parish Council should write to David Peake at Highways advising this evidence is being collected, to which all present agreed. JB also asked if cameras could be placed at strategic points in the village, in a similar manner to those at Wheddon Cross, but FN pointed out the latter were more for the purpose of catching criminals rather than road safety issues. CW pointed out that the hedge near to the old village hall had been cut back, making the road 2 feet wider at that point. **Action: SH / KC / CM**
- b. Signposts: BF reported that CW is now trained to work on signposts. There was to be another signpost management training day on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017, but unfortunately no-one was able to attend. BF reported that there are 3 signposts which need painting, and Mark Bradley from The Royal Oak has advised that he will pay £95.00 to have The Royal Oak brown sign replaced. BF has also advised the camp site that it will cost them £95.00 to have the camp site sign replaced and this is being considered. BF and SH will try to attend the next signpost management training day, when it is arranged. **Action: BF / SH**
- c. Howetown Bridge: BF advised that the bridge is to be repaired this week, and will write to thank contractors for their work once it has been completed. **Action: BF**
- d. Emergency Plan: BF reported the Annual Assembly gave a poor response to the emergency plan. Next stage: BF to put a letter in the next parish magazine asking for volunteers to help with services. **Action: BF**

**17:54 Financial Report:** CM read out the finance report to date, advising that since the last meeting the following cheques had been written:

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 AON UK Insurance £810.24  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 Winsford Village Hall £8.00  
15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 George Strickland £150.00  
30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 SALC/NALC Affiliation Fee £78.25  
30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 C Moore £197.80  
27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 M Hillier £300.00  
27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 M Hillier £275.00

All expenditure was approved.

SH expressed concern that the Parish insurance costs may overlap with other village activities, ie, insurance costs incurred by the village hall and recreation ground, and will talk to the Recreation Committee about this. SH requested an insurance working party be formed, which he suggested CM should be a member of, to establish what the Parish Council insurance covers and compare this with insurance costs incurred by other parish councils. FN offered to e-mail CM a link to the other Exmoor Parish Clerks to assist in contacting them in connection with this. SH will then provide an insurance update at the next Parish meeting. **Action: SH / CM / FN**

#### **17:55 Village green maintenance:**

- a. Gate repair and dog fouling sign: MM advised that the gate has been repaired and the dog fouling sign is now in place.
- b. Wall repair: MM also advised that Steve Blackmore has done an excellent job in connection with repairing the dry stone wall, and his invoice is awaited. Money from an Exmoor National Park conservation grant will pay for this. BF has put an update concerning these repairs on the Parish website.

#### **17:56 General village maintenance:**

- a. Noticeboard: BF advised that she has most of the necessary items to put up a noticeboard in the bus shelter, and Dave Mileham is to help with this. KC expressed thanks to Dave Mileham for his assistance.
- b. Bins: CW reported the cricket field bin is now in place on the village green. CW also reported fly-tipping of hard core on the village green, together with rubbish being dumped by the bus shelter, possibly from people using Thorn Cottage as a holiday let. CW also advised that he had contacted the District Council and the fly-tipping had been removed. After some discussion, it was suggested that the Parish Council should write to the owners of the village holiday lets requesting that rubbish is not dumped. In the meantime, CW will speak direct to the people involved. FN advised the Committee that Exford have experienced a similar problem. CM is to contact the Exford Parish Clerk regarding this matter and ask if they might let us see a copy of the letter they sent to their holiday lets. KC and CM will then work together to create a letter advising against illegal fly tipping to be sent to all holiday let owners. CW also advised that the bin on the village green looks tatty and needs to be replaced with a smarter one, which could possibly be attached to the ground. It was agreed that the bin should be replaced subject to cost. CM is to contact the Dulverton Parish Clerk to establish whom they have recently purchased their bins from with costings. **Action: CW / KC / CM**
- c. Car Park - voluntary contributions: CW raised the possibility of a 'voluntary donation box' in the car parking area adjacent to the tea rooms where summer visitors would be invited to give a contribution. However, KC reported that the Parish do not own this car park and therefore thought this was not possible. FN said as long as it is not linked to the car park we could just do it. There was also concern expressed about security and collection of the contributions. It was agreed that the idea of a collection box towards the general upkeep of the village should receive further consideration but not linked to the car park. CW is to look into the logistics and costs of this idea and report back at the next meeting. In the meantime, John Bray was opposed to this idea. There was also discussion regarding a duty of care, led by SH, following JB report of an alleged accident in the car park where a lady apparently tripped and fractured her ankle, though this has not been officially reported to anyone. JB is to provide more information regarding this accident. Somerset County Council Highways may need to be informed of this incident once more information is available. **Action: CW / JB**

**17:57 Parish flooding and related water issues:** MM reported on-going struggles to make any significant progress with the Environment Agency, due to staffing problems at Exeter. There are also water related problems caused by landslip/sediment between bridges and sediment formation together with weeds growing that are poisonous to stock and impeding

the flow of the Winn. FN is to speak to Dan Martin of West Somerset Highways Water Management. KC expressed thanks to MM for her work in connection with these issues. MM advised that Winsford is covered by Devon Environment Agency, where the new contact is Marie Bond. Theresa Bridgman of the WSFG is attempting to build a working relationship which may eventually help the rural upland areas. MM also reported that the flood damaged footpath at Larcombe Foot has been re-surfaced and the gate mended by ENP. **Action: FN**

**17:58 First aid and defibrillator training:** BF reported there has been no update/ training on the use of the defibrillator for 2-3 years. BF also reported that Mark Bradley from The Royal Oak is happy for the defibrillator to be removed from the pub into a secure cabinet provided by Heart Start and there was some discussion regarding the best place for the defibrillator to be relocated. SH advised it will need to be located next to power, and will speak to the Village Hall Committee regarding this and update at the next meeting. BF is also to arrange more first aid and defibrillator training in the near future. **Action: SH / BF**

**17:59 Recreation Association and playing fields:** BF reported that the fencing around the cricket ground is to be replaced. BF suggested that there should be small brown 'rustic' signs to the cricket grounds and tennis courts, and FN advised that the Park would do these. Everyone present was in favour of this. **Action: BF**

**17:60: Website:** BF advised that MM wished to include the archives on the website, and it was thought a sister website may be required for this purpose. BF is to explore ownership and control of the Parish website together with proposals and costings for a sister website and do comparisons with other village websites. It was thought grants may be available for this purpose, and FN suggested talking to the Park about this. **Action: BF**

**17:61 Parish archive - follow-up on Winsford walk with Tiverton Archaeology Group:** MM reported that 23 people from Tiverton Archaeology Group (TAG) had enjoyed a walk around the village and an interesting discussion. A member of TAG has done extensive research on the Acland family (on behalf of the National Trust, and it was acknowledged that Lady Acland and her family had done a lot in the village in the past and should be recognised in our archive.

**17:62 Correspondence and e-mails:** The Chairman had previously circulated the ENPA draft landscape character assessment supplementary planning document and was keen to give a positive response. KC advised those present to forward comments on this to the Chairman before 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

**17:63 Reports from Committees:** CW advised that he had attended a recent Housing Needs Survey meeting, where it was suggested a 7-page survey be delivered and collected to all homes, which he is happy to co-ordinate, and advised there is to be a panel meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017. KC thanked CW for attending this meeting. **Action: CW**

The report from the WSFG meeting had already been circulated to PC's and a copy was passed to FN.

**17:64 Planning Applications and Decisions:**

- |                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| a. Torre Farm 6/40/17/104      | Approved |
| b. Royal Oak 6/40/17/105&106LB | Approved |
| c. East Nurcott GDO 17/16      | NYD      |

Kevin Connell also advised that the owner of the Royal Oak Farm is keen to develop the site and has had a meeting on site concerning this with David Wyborn and the Chairman. CW advised there was no news on the unsightly bungalow with broken caravan in the garden in Ash Lane. FN suggested the District Council should be contacted regarding

getting empty homes back into use. KC will discuss this with the Chairman. **Action: KC / DG**

**17:65 Other Business Directed to the Clerk/Chairman:** JB expressed concern regarding the 30mph sign and speeding, but FN felt unable to do anything more about this. CW advised that the old village hall has been tidied up, with removal of the broken door and it is no longer an eye-sore.

**17:66 Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

KC thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and closed it at 9.20pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

DRAFT