

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Winsford Parish Council Held on Monday 29th April 2024, at 19.00pm in Winsford Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors: Colin Wilkins (CW) – Chair, Mel Mileham (MM), Ian Brooks (IB), Bryany Neal (BN), Kevin Connell (KC) and Clerk Jennifer Yates (JY).

Somerset Councillor Steven Pugsley (SP) attended for part of the meeting.

One member of the public was in attendance for items 1 and 8.

CW opened the meeting at 19.02pm.

71.1 Public Question Time: Brief explanation given re item 8 the planning application for Jasmine Cottage. The aim is to make it more 'cottagey' in appearance and to create a more active living space by amending the current layout. The rear structure which was an addition to the original building is poorly constructed and leaking.

SP arrived at 19.06

71.8 To consider planning application 6/40/24/002

Location: JASMINE COTTAGE, WINSFORD, MINEHEAD, TA24 7JE

Proposal: Proposed erection of a single storey rear extension and replacement windows.

Councillors discussed the proposal. The applicant was encouraged to consult with Mr Thurlow at Exmoor National Park Authority as the property falls within the conservation area in the village, and this is likely to affect the part of the application referring to replacement windows. He was also encouraged to talk to the Environment Agency as the property falls within the flood zone.

Councillors felt that as the extension is at the rear of the property and not viewed from the road, and that the aim is to improve the property, they were happy to approve this application. All were in agreement.

71.2 Apologies for non-attendance: Councillors Mike Hillier (MH) and Sarah Little (SL), and Somerset Councillor Frances Nicholson (FN).

71.3 Declaration of Interests: None

71.4 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 25th March, and any outstanding actions: These were approved, proposed by BN and seconded by MM. JY was requested to follow up on getting advice re confidentiality issues relating to issuing a list of names and/or numbers of resilience volunteers. Also, JY asked to follow up re keyholders for the village hall in the event of an emergency, as recommended by the Somerset Flood Group.

71.5 Updates from Somerset Councillors: With regard to the grazing cattle and subsequent damage on Winsford Hill there is going to be a visit from Natural England. SP and FN have been raising the Car Park at every opportunity, and have identified that Sally Stark who was previously with West Somerset District Council may be able to help.

71.6 The new telephone mast: CW reported that the emergency signal is now active and it can be accessed by EE users. The extension is due to be constructed in June, and then it can be put out for tenders by other mobile phone providers. SP reported that

Withypool will be connected to their new mast shortly and they are having fibre installed currently.

Discussion arose re the fact Smart Meters cannot work without a mobile phone signal and WAN (Wide area network) access, but people are being encouraged to have them installed. It was noted that people who have solar panels are restricted in the ability to export excess power to the grid without this access too so once the mast is in full use it will be very beneficial. KC has received communication re potential issues with the mast affecting TV reception and that it would be resolved, however other Councillors had not received this.

71.7 Winsford Village Car Park: Covered in item 71.5.

71.9 To consider Highways Matters;

- a. **Yellowcombe Leat:** SP/FN have passed on the pictures supplied by MH at the last meeting. There is no progress to report but FN is continuing to emphasise that there is no benefit in delaying the works and waiting for it to collapse as that may end up being a more expensive task.
- b. **AOB:** The works at Exford Road are now completed, well ahead of schedule. It has been recognised by Somerset Council that there was a notable increase in traffic through Winsford village, in particular using Ash Lane. They have stated that they will aim to work on the verges this year, and the drains/gulleys next year as part of the 'putting right' works. There has been no data received as yet re the SIDS machine which was loaned from another local council, however it was recognised that this had been helpful in raising awareness of speed on that part of the highway.

SP left the meeting at 8.02

71.10 Finance: To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due: deferred

71.11 Discuss and agree criteria for charity donations: The paper prepared by Cllr Connell was discussed and some small amendments were agreed. JY to make the amendments and circulate/put onto the website. Proposed KC, Seconded IB, agreed by all.

71.12 Winsford Charitable Trust

- a) **Financial Report:** Deferred
- b) **Arrangements for Village Green maintenance going forward:** No responses have been received in response to the advert. CW has a contact he will approach and JY to see if she can identify any other local contractors who may wish to take on this task.
- c) **Update re Risdon Hosegood work:** No update at this time
- d) **Benches including the Orgill bench:** MH has kindly done some upkeep on this privately provided bench and the Councillors wished to pass on their appreciation.
- e) **AOB:** Further thanks were expressed to Councillor Hillier for the work carried out on the bridge with the replacement slats.
JY was asked to check on the status re an inspection of the new swings in relation to the guarantee, and book it if needed.

71.13 Correspondence and Emails received: CW has a note in support of the landing of helicopters as it supports the local economy. However, it was handed in at the shop and is not addressed to the Council so he will pass it on to the Recreation Association

who are going to consult with the villagers. MM asked JY to check whether the Exmoor Society had been in contact re a local consultation.

71.14 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended: MM attended the recent Somerset Flood Group meeting. Exmoor National Park Authority and the Exeter Branch of the Environment Agency have been notified of the build up of debris upstream near Larcombe Foot, although they were unwilling to commit to carrying out follow up work. MM suggested this could be brought up with the bridges team at the next LCN meeting. There is a tree across the Exe in the village and that is being dealt with. The blocked drains and gulleys damaged in the Exford Road works were mentioned. It was noted that when the roadsweeper carries out works they sometimes leave behind debris that can then block the drains and culverts. IB reported that a bridge leading to Watersmeet is collapsing. There is debate as to who owns the bridge, which does form part of a bridleway so it is likely to be Exmoor National Park. MM has mentioned this to her contacts, but feels it does need ENPA to revisit and review. Mike Winzer has been in contact with the Park and is following up on this.

71.15 Any Other Business: The Annual Assembly will be held on 9th May. CW/JY will open up at 6.30 to get out chairs etc.

71.16 Items for Next Agenda

71.17 Date of Next meetings – Annual Assembly 9th May 2024 and Council meeting 3rd June at 7pm in the village hall.

There being no further business CW closed the meeting at 21.02.