

# WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council

Held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Godsal (Chairman), Kevin Connell, John Bray, Steve Hunt, Mel Mileham, Colin Wilkins and Acting Parish Clerk Caroline Moore. WSC N Thwaites, B Heywood & SCC F Nicholson

**17:33 Apologies for non attendance:** Bev Flanagan

**17:34 Parish Clerk:** The Chairman explained that the previous Parish Clerk had resigned and introduced and welcomed the Acting Parish Clerk, Caroline Moore, to the meeting. The Chairman explained that an advertisement for the Parish Clerk vacancy will appear in the Parish Magazine, with a closing date of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**17:35 Election of Officers:** The acting Clerk took the chair, and the Chairman, David Godsal, advised he will re-stand as Chairman for another year; this was proposed by Kevin Connell and seconded by Mel Mileham with all present in favour. The Chairman thanked his fellow councillors and said that he intended to stand down in a year's time as he felt that 8 years as Chairman, whilst a great privilege, was quite long enough.

The Vice-Chairman, Kevin Connell, advised he will re-stand as Vice-Chairman for another year; this was proposed by Mel Mileham and seconded by Colin Wilkins with all present in favour.

**17:36 Declarations of Interest:** None

**17:37 Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**17:38 Actions from the Previous Minutes:** The Chairman advised a quote for £150.00 for new posts and rail, rather than gate, had been received. The Council agreed to have the repairs carried out to the posts and rail at this cost, and the Chairman will contact Mr Strickland to carry out this repair work.

- a. Annual Assembly - Bev Flanagan had previously sent an e-mail concerning a resilience plan to all, which was read out by the Chairman. There was discussion regarding voluntary help required from residents living in Ash Lane and a list of contacts is to be drawn up for approach either by letter or house visits. Bev Flanagan is to be asked to draw up a list of action points allocated to residents together with an emergency contact list. Kevin Connell thanked Bev Flanagan for all her hard work in connection with this project.

With regard to the 'prettiest village', the Chairman observed that there was no desire for a plan and the meeting was happy with things as they are.

- b. Highways - The Chairman advised the Committee he had received a recent complaint from the Landlord of The Royal Oak regarding a large vehicle which had been stuck on the corner outside the pub. There was discussion regarding additional road signs, although Mel Mileham advised Highways were not keen to put up any more signs. However, the Chairman asked Frances Nicholson to pursue a request for additional signage. In the meantime, the Chairman advised that photographs of vehicles in difficulty should be taken and reported both to the County Council and lorry companies. Colin Wilkins reported that he had been on a training day in connection with safe maintenance of the village signposts, when issues discussed included health and safety and risk assessment. There is to be a further training day on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

Colin Wilkins also reported there are two water meters starting to subside outside the Bridge Cottage Tea Room.

**17:39 Financial Report:** The Chairman circulated a summary page of the annual accounts to all present, and asked Frances Nicholson to check insurance costs with other Parish Clerks. The Internal Audit had been completed and the Annual Return was signed. Kevin Connell offered his appreciation of David Godsall's enormous effort to 'keep the show on the road during the difficulties with the previous Clerk' and all present supported this.

**17:40 Village Green Maintenance:**

- a. Wall repair - Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) has been received and Steve Blackmore (stone waller) has been contacted to confirm a date (early in July) to rebuild the wall along the VG. Awaiting confirmation from ENP for the Landscape Conservation Grant.
- b. Dogs on village green - On 7 April the Chairman had received an e-mail from Helen Richardson regarding dogs fouling the village green. This had been forwarded to all councillors and since then the Green had been checked twice daily. Councillors were sympathetic but whilst a ban would be unenforceable and not really appropriate, a number of other options were discussed, including fencing around the swings, which was rejected, but a 'No dog fouling' sign, which the council already has, is to be placed on the green. The Chairman will write to Helen Richardson.

**17:41 General Village Maintenance/Bins:** The Chairman was pleased to report that the old, damaged, waste bins by the bus shelter and cricket ground had been replaced, initially by small ones, but subsequently with larger ones. Following some discussion Colin Wilkins agreed to organise with Julie Lynch (the waste contract manager) for the large bin at the cricket field to be transferred to the village green in place of the current dustbin.

**17:42 Parish Flooding and Related Water Issues:** Mel Mileham reported on the Meeting of the West Somerset Flood Group and read out the following report:

- a. Mtg in VH of West Somerset Flood Group (WSFG). (Invoice for hire of meeting room and refreshments passed to Clerk for payment).
- b. WSFG reported that 2 contacts at the Exeter EA which dealt with West Somerset had now left. Awaiting info as to the replacements for our area.
- c. MM had a meeting with Dan Martin SCC Highways/Water Management Officer and Paul the new Highways Officer (replacement for Gerald Matravers who has retired). Despite the undermining of the bank and foundation of the SCC road bridge, the bank slip and berm formed in the Winn Brook, partially blocking the flow, the SCC reps were unable to confirm that the problem would be dealt with by SCC although it is still 'under review'.
- d. Dan Barnett ENP has confirmed that the removal of Large Woody Debris (LWD) in the River Exe between Larcombe Foot Bridge and Northern Mill Gate is imminent. They will also repair the footpath and gate that was damaged in the Nov 2016 floods.

**17:43 Exmoor's Natural Capital:** Mel Mileham reported that a meeting had been held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017. Mel Mileham sent notes on meeting to Winsford Parish Councillors. It is expected that Parish Councillors will be asked to consider the priorities for their Parish and ENP and how to translate that into funding from Government post Brexit. Kevin Connell thanked Mel Mileham for her reports.

**17:44 Parish Archive:** A 'Walk around Winsford' has been arranged by ENP and Winsford Archive Group on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 for Tiverton Archaeology Group and Winsford residents. The walk will be followed by a showing of some of our digital archive and the Winsford family Tree. See poster on Winsford website for info.

**17:45 Correspondence and e-mails:** The Chairman reported nothing else of note in connection with correspondence and e-mails received.

**17:46 Reports from Committees:** The Chairman advised that the Exmoor Panel meeting scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017 had been postponed.

**17:47 Planning Applications and Decisions:** (as at 18.05.2017) Torre Farm 6/40/17/104 - The Chairman had circulated the details of the planning application (to convert part of a barn at Torre Farm into a 2-bedroomed holiday let) for councillors to consider prior to the Meeting. Some concern was expressed in connection with diversification and the diminishing number of active farms, but it was considered there were no grounds for objection and therefore the planning application was supported.

**17:48 Other Business Directed to the Clerk/Chairman:** None.

**17:49 Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017, 7.30pm, to which the Chairman offers his apologies. The meeting closed at 8.55pm, and The Chairman thanked all those present for attending.

Date.....

Signed.....

DRAFT