

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council held on Monday 25th January 2016 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors David Godsal, Kevin Connell, Steve Hunt, Mel Mileham, Colin Wilkins, Beverley Flanagan and Clerk Verity Vigers. SCC Frances Nicholson, WSC Bruce Heywood and Nicholas Thwaites arrived later having attended another Parish Council's meeting.

16:01 Apologies for non Attendance - None.

16:02 Declarations of Interest - None.

16.03 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 30th November 2015 (as circulated) be approved and signed as correct.

16:04 Actions from the Previous Minutes

a. Village repairs and maintenance

This item was covered later, when the date was arranged for Saturday 6th February to cut back the overgrown Rhododendrons and brambles on the Village Green.

b. Speed Limit

The Clerk read the email previously passed on from FN from Gary Warren that said "all is progressing well, we had no objections, the signing work is ordered and the implementation is imminent".

c. Broadband

SH reported some people had received slips notifying them they could get BT fibre optic when others had not, but that some had been inaccurately distributed. He had telephoned BT and established that the determining factor on whether or not villagers can avail themselves of BT's Infinity or just its Superfast broadband, is the distance from their home to the exchange, and he was told it is not first come, first served. The Chairman thanked him.

e. Wi-Fi access in the Village Hall

SH reported that he registered Village Hall interest with Airband and asked them to reconfirm that it would be free of charge. He read the email reply that said it was a subject to planning, that it being free was still being determined and expected rollout was March to December. It was suggested to raise it at tomorrow's meeting with David Wyborn. SH reported that the Village Hall Committee position is to wait and see whether it is free of charge before pursuing the BT option. KC reported that his garden was suggested as a potential site for a mast but they had not come back to him with an answer.

d. Highways (including signposts)

An earlier email had reported that over 100 signs had been surveyed and that FN would be attending a meeting in March. There had been no funding from Hinckley. Councillors considered that the £10,000 grant already available could cover several signposts at £300/£350 each, but FN confirmed later in the meeting that this amount was for match-funding.

Councillors were disappointed that the village signpost had been vandalised with the ripping off of the Karslake fingerpost. It was **AGREED** that CW would dispose of the broken off piece.

f. Empty/incomplete/derelict properties

The Chairman reported that this had not really moved forward and it was suggested to raise it with David Wyborn tomorrow evening. BF was still researching contact details for one of the landowners.

MM pointed out that affordable housing was not actually affordable on local wages and highlighted the Exmoor Voices Group. Again, it was suggested to raise tomorrow evening.

16:05 Financial Report

The financial report was received including that the paperwork was submitted for the 2016-17 Precept (£3102.95) as agreed at the last meeting, by the 8th January 2016 deadline; a cheque for the Western Power Wayleave payment of £19.19 had been received but not yet banked; and that a cheque for £672.00 has been raised to Office Furniture Online for the Parish Archive cupboards, which will be reimbursed by the ENP grant. It was **RESOLVED** to pay the Clerk's Pay and Expenses of £265.86 from September to November 2015 and a cheque was issued. It was also reported that the NS&I statement had been received which listed annual interest of £20.65.

16:06 Procedures - Nothing to report

Items were taken out of order.

16:14 Planning Applications and Decisions.

It was noted that Staddon Farm was not yet decided but that the listed building consent had been withdrawn. Also, the adjoining parish application form for the bridleway at Worth Wood which is not yet decided was noted. It was also reported that the appeal for the Land East of Winsford had been rejected. The plan for Watersmeet was discussed and as the only difference seemed to be an additional window and that planning was previously granted in 1991 but never taken up, it was **RESOLVED** to support the application and the Clerk would respond.

16:13 Reports from Committees

- a) Exmoor Area Panel – Tuesday 19th January – JB, BF & MM had attended. The main topic was public toilets and that they are being passed from WSC to Parishes to look after. Currently, Winsford's is run by the National Park and it is believed that will remain the case, particularly as they converted one of them to a store cupboard. It was also reported that information was distributed from Jane Birch, the Community Involvement Officer for CCS. There are opportunities for grants up to £1215 and BF has arranged to speak with her for more details. An interesting presentation on Digital Villages Toolkit had also been made.

FN, NH and NT arrived.

- b) Parish & Consultative Forum – Thursday 21st January - MM reported that an interesting report on tourism had been distributed which she had a copy of. It was **AGREED** that BF would upload a copy to the website. They are looking at ways of boosting winter tourism with things such as courses. KC had asked what had been done about moor parking, which the answer was nothing. Although, subsequently Dan Barnett had contacted him and told him they had taken it on board and were considering leaflets about off-road driving as well as thinking of revising leaflets to include camping advice. It was **AGREED** to keep in touch with him for progress. Another topic covered was collisions with ponies and whether the verges should be cut back.

16:07 Parish Archive

As previously mentioned, the cheque had been issued and when it clears, the cupboards will be made. They then need fitting in the room. An invoice is needed before the money can be recovered from ENP.

16:08 Emergency Planning / Community Resilience Plan

BF highlighted that a Community Resilience plan could cover things such as flooding, extended loss of power, bad weather, name places where a helicopter can land etc. and then lists points of contact. There is plenty of information out there than can be adapted. It was noted that there is CRISP money available for emergency planning. Another session with the Environment Agency to see what they can do to help might be useful. It was noted that the flood resilience packs had not arrived, so we do not know what they contain. BF **AGREED** to contact the Village Agent and CRISP. NT reported that Dulverton's flood plan is currently being updated.

16:10 Village Website Update

BF reported that it has been live for nearly a year now and is getting quite a bit of traffic but would like more visitors. Advertising cards are being distributed in the Parish Magazine and now looking at approaching businesses to advertise so it is self-funding. It was **AGREED** that any income would come through the main Parish Council account rather than needing to set up a separate bank account.

16:09 Annual Assembly

It was **RESOLVED** to hold it on Wednesday 23rd March, 2 days after the next meeting. Community Resilience was suggested as a topic. FN also recommended a good speaker, Peter Radford ‘the bridge man’ and would pass on his contact details. Signposts could also be covered depending on funding.

16:11 Village Litter Pick Up / Clean for the Queen

The Clean for the Queen event runs on 5th/6th March and BF has registered the village. Special litter bags are being issued. It was **AGREED** to hold the annual Village Litter Pick Up on Sunday 3rd April, which can also be promoted at the Annual Assembly, as well as advertised in the Parish Magazine and on the website. It was then **AGREED** to hold the Village Green Rhododendron and bramble clearance day on Saturday 6th February and the Chairman would check the availability of Mike Hillier and Mike Hayes.

16:12 Correspondence and Emails

a. Planning meeting with David Wyborn – Tuesday 26th January, 6.30pm, Withypool – noted and shared lifts were arranged as everyone planned to attend.

b. Celebrating the Queen’s 90th Birthday – the national beacon lighting on 21st April was discussed but it was concluded that it was not a convenient time of year for the landowners.

c. Somerset Village Agent Annual Stakeholder Survey - noted.

d. Somerset Youth Housing and Advice Strategy 2016-2018 consultation – noted.

e. West Somerset Council – Corporate Strategy Consultation – BH reported that does not affect us. CW raised the issue of waste bins and that there is a very broken bin by the Cricket Ground, which is being used as a dog bin and is hazardous. BH reported that he had previously alerted Keith Richards but that he would chase. As there is a limit to the number of dog bins and waste bins that are collected a discussion followed on best locations and it was decided that as they do come and empty the bin a replacement should be sought.

f. ATWEST – Concessionary fare – FN pointed out that it was an SCC saving to try to cut volunteer car schemes, which she thought was a bad idea. The decision is expected tomorrow.

FN then raised the likely rise in Council Tax, which has not seen a rise for 6 years. It is expected that there will be general 1.99% increase (maximum without referendum), plus the imposed 2% for adult social care (which will not actually cover it), plus an additional 1.25% for the Somerset Rivers Authority – total: 5.24% It was then reported that there was a rise expected from WSC because of the repayment of Hinckley Point business rates.

FN, BH & NT left.

Other correspondence was considered.

16:15 Other Business Directed to the Clerk

Queen’s Birthday – a suggestion was made to hold a Garden Party in June - something to raise at the Annual Assembly.

Recent press coverage of hazardous paints on children’s playgrounds was raised – it was decided that the annual play inspection should have picked this up if it was used on the Village Green equipment.

BF reported that she had received some correspondence regarding a Nationwide grant of £600. She had telephoned the branch and it seemed genuine but she was going to find out some more.

16:16 Date of next Meeting

Monday 21st March 2016 at 7.30pm. The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

Date.....

Signed.....