

# WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Godsall, Kevin Connell, Steve Hunt, Mel Mileham, John Bray, Colin Wilkins, Beverley Flanagan, SCC Frances Nicholson, WSC Bruce Heywood and Nicholas Thwaites and Clerk Verity Vigars. Two members of the public were also present.

**15:58 Apologies for non Attendance** - None.

Councillors spent a few moments reflecting on the sad news that past Vice Chairman, Katherine Lindop had passed away.

**15:59 Declarations of Interest** - None.

**15:60 Approval of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (as circulated) be approved and signed as correct.

*Items were taken out of order to allow the County and District Councillors to leave early to attend Exton PC meeting.*

**15:61 Actions from the Previous Minutes**

Firstly, it was noted that residents had not be notified directly of the recent Halse Lane road closure. FN responded that this had been an oversight and there has since been an apology, although nothing had been sent to the Parish Council.

a. Speed Limit

FN reported that Gary Warren has passed it on to Traffic Regulation for an order, with progress expected in 4-6 weeks (subject to other factors). The next stage is for a notice to be published, offering time for objections, then the decision is made considering any changes as a result of any representations received, then it will happen.

b. Broadband

KC attended the Parish Forum meeting last week, where it was discussed, as per the circulated parish briefing. Details given about Airband seem to be on track and it is assumed that the fibre-optic will be going live in October as always intended. Attendees were reminded that that will only work for those within a couple of miles of the cabinet; the rest are covered by phase 2, which is delivered wirelessly.

Mobile masts were also discussed at the Forum meeting, where it was reported that applications for Winsford among others had been put in but funds had since been removed and so there are to be no more with Haddon looking like the last one. FN did point out that it is a National Park priority and that they have worked hard to get this far.

c. Highways (including signposts)

BF and MM attended the recent meeting on signposts at which they volunteered to be the 'guinea pigs' for the online app. They had successfully recorded the 3 remaining signposts in the village (Spire Cross, bottom of the steep and Copleham - the central village one was done as a demo at the meeting). Since then they have offered to help neighbouring parishes including Exton and Withypool with the app. FN thanked them for their help and efficiency and reported that a signpost in Dulverton had already been replaced because doing this exercise had established that it was in a very bad state!

#### d. Village repairs and maintenance

There had been an email exchange initiated by CW prior to the meeting regarding tidying up the Village Green. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Mike Hillier. It was **AGREED** that a day would be arranged by the Chairman for volunteers with chainsaws, tractors and trailers etc. to clear back all the overgrown Rhododendrons and brambles. Then once it is manageable again, routine upkeep of it can be added to Mike Hillier's task list.

#### e. Speeding quad bikes

Councillors are aware that this is still going on and so need to keep up reminders and ensure the PCSO actively follows up with offenders.

#### f. Dog fouling

It was noted that a copy of the letter had now been received for the record.

#### g. Wi-Fi access in the Village Hall

It was reported that there had been a softening in the position of the village hall committee and that they had been persuaded to contribute to a trial period. However, the realistic accurate costing is £115 for installing the line, which has to be business and not residential, and then line rental of £20 per month. Unlimited broadband would then be £17-£20 per month on top for a minimum 2 year contract. The option to upgrade to the new superfast fibre optic is £32 per month for 40mb or £40 for 80mb.

NT, an ex-Vodafone employee, recommended contacting Airband and talking to them about a line of sight connection of 2gb or 5 ghertz microwave, from perhaps the church to the village hall. You'd then need a router booster to spread it and it can be backhauled via Western Power so no BT involvement. It was **AGREED** that SH would look in to it and that NT would send some further information to him. There was no idea of the likely cost, but it was pointed out that BT line rental would not be needed. The point was also raised that you can use a thing called SureSignal to gain mobile coverage over a Wifi connection.

#### h. Empty/incomplete/derelict properties

The Chairman reported that David Wyborn has offered to have a meeting on site with the Parish Council and the owner of the development opposite the pub. The Parish Council does not know who the owner actually is and so it was **AGREED** that the Chairman ask DW to find out through Land Registry. KC reported that eyesores will be discussed in future at Forum meetings as there are other villages with the similar problems. It was **AGREED** that BH would report the unnumbered property next to the Old Dairy (TA24 7JH) to WSC.

#### **15:62 Financial Report**

The financial report was received including that the money had been transferred from the Reserve Account to the Current Account (as agreed) and also that the second instalment of the Precept had been received. It was **AGREED** to remove the CoFunds figures from the financial report in future. It was noted that one donation of £100 had been received from Withypool and Hawkridge Parish Council for the Parish Clerk's training and that hopefully the second would come in after they next meet.

The Chairman reported that he had received the latest time log from the Clerk for the period June to August.

#### **15:63 Parish Council Procedures**

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the updated Standing Orders, which had been circulated ahead of the meeting. SH raised the question of the General Powers of Competence from the training they attended and it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would find out exactly what was meant by it.

#### **15:64 Parish Archive**

It was reported that the inaugural meeting would take place on 4<sup>th</sup> November in the village hall, where it was planned to work out how to take different parts forward with volunteers. MM also reported that she

was having a meeting with a professional archivist to see how they would tackle what there is which is partially indexed but not cross-referenced. There is a lot of material which it may not be necessary to keep and it was suggested that it should be a Parish Council decision. MM and SH would have a look through the village hall cupboard and take copies of anything of interest.

#### **15.65 Byelaws on Winsford Hill - camping/littering**

The Chair had not yet spoken to Guy Thomas-Everard but would endeavour to do so. KC had written to Steven Pugsley, who had agreed that it would be worth discussing at the Forum meetings. MM highlighted that she was looking for a level of agreement to establish who is responsible. JB pointed out that the 'right to roam', has made things more complicated but that we are all on the same side. In any event, if anyone sees anything serious, it should be reported straight away to the Police and/or the land owner.

#### **15.66 West Somerset Standards Advisory Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Penny Webber and **AGREED** that the Clerk would reply by the closing date (tomorrow).

#### **15:67 Correspondence and Emails**

a. Parish briefing - Connecting Devon and Somerset - noted but had also already been circulated by email.

b. Inter Parish Quiz - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October - KC offered to co-ordinate a team to enter.

c. Community Emergency Flooding Plan - The Clerk reported that she had received an email from the Environment Agency who are keen to raise awareness of possible flash flooding in the village. They have identified 17 properties in greater risk and either wish to come to a PC meeting or hold a separate meeting to address and inform residents. It was **AGREED** to ask them to hold a separate public meeting and to try to get a list of the 17 properties they have identified.

d. Tractors through villages - this was discussed.

e. Smaller Authorities Transparency Fund - it was noted that because the website was built before March the Parish Council is not eligible to apply for the fund.

f. Shoppers' parking permit - noted.

g. Historic Environment Review - noted.

h. Let's make isolation and loneliness history in West Somerset, Conference - 17<sup>th</sup> October - Councillors would try to find someone from the parish to attend.

#### **15:68 Report from Committees and Highways**

a. Exmoor Area Panel - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

JB attended, it was all about winter salting and routes and the forthcoming badger cull. It was noted that the next two meetings are in Winsford on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 19<sup>th</sup> January.

b. Exmoor Consultative and Parish Forum - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September

KC attended and reported that there are changes in the Environmental payments so there will be a lot less money from Natural England for environmental schemes on Exmoor. Fears were expressed that this might mean a shift towards abandoning upland farming and re-wilding it. There have also been some changes in the Localism Bill, particularly with affordable housing and retrospective planning.

#### **15:69 Planning Applications and Decisions.**

a. The Old School **6/10/15/110** **NYD**

Following on from the prior email communication, the Chairman is keen to ensure that the common-sense solution for this application is chosen. He has had 2 site visits and seen the problems and safety issues with the existing windows in the property. Whilst fully aware that the original rules stated wooden windows, the cost implications of replacing them does not fit with it being an affordable house. It cannot be seen by any other property and there are already some UPVC windows on the other part of the building. Plus, a recent application has just been approved for new UPVC windows in the village hall. The Chair offered to present to the Planning Committee on this, if it was necessary. FN pointed out that one of the issues is that the ENPA is against the unfriendly materials and manufacturing of UPVC windows. It was **AGREED** that the

Chairman would draft a detailed response supporting the application from the Parish Council, which he would circulate for approval by email, as the consultation deadline is the end of the week.

It was also noted that there had been an email exchange about Dowry Cottage but as it is on the same footprint, all is in order. Councillors were reminded that by raising queries like this it ensures plans are examined in detail, which is important.

**15:70 Other Business Directed to the Clerk**

A point from the Forum meeting is that Cosmic are offering to provide training courses. As the previous ipad session was so popular it might be worth speaking with the Winn Club about organising another one.

**15:71 Date of next Meeting**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

DRAFT