

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Winsford Parish Council Held on Monday 29 November 2021, at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors: Colin Wilkins (CW) – Chair, Kevin Connell (KC), John Bray (JB), Sarah Little (SB) David Luscott (DL), Mel Mileham (MM), Patrick Watts-Mabbott (PWM), SCC Cllr Frances Nicholson (FN), SWT Cllr Steven Pugsley (SP), and Parish Clerk Jennifer Yates (JY)

This meeting was recorded for the benefit of the Parish Clerk

CW opened the meeting at 19.56pm.

49.1 Public Question Time - no member of the public in attendance

49.2 Apologies for non-attendance - none

49.7 To consider Highways Matters

Item brought forward for the benefit of the external councillors.

MM thanked SP and FN for their support in the major works done re drainage at Exford Road and Furze Hill Road which had improved matters, although there is yet to be heavy rain which will be the true test. Further work would be beneficial. The team carrying out the job had worked supportively with the residents. FN reported that it was a good learning experience for the County Team re small outlying communities and the issues they face. Alyn Jones had attended the village and a panel meeting, and will attend a further meeting in January to continue to move forward with the pilot Local Community project. He is keen for the Highways team at all levels to understand the issues faced by small communities with small roads and how they affect both local residents and businesses. FN will feed back that Winsford PC are pleased with the way they are working with the parish now about issues such as potholes.

49.6 To receive update reports from County and District Councillors – There is still no news re the plans for elections in 2022, however this is now looking likely. SP recommended planning for the cost when budgeting. SP encouraged councillors to take part in the online meeting taking place on Thursday 2nd December with regard to a review of the Local Plan including protocols relating to housing etc. If unable to attend there is the option of sharing views via a feedback form which has been circulated via email. CW informed the external councillors of the PC plan to use the Reconnecting Communities fund – the event will be on 9th December and so far 40 local residents have agreed to attend the social function to bring them together during this extended time of isolation due to the pandemic.

49.3 A moment of silence held to recognise the passing away of past Chairman Francois Jones. It was felt that it is important to recognise the great commitment to the parish he made.

SP and FN left the meeting at 20.13pm

49.4 Declaration of Interests. PWM declare an interest with regard to item 8 on the agenda

- 49.5 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 27 September 2021, and any outstanding actions** – The minutes were approved – proposed KC and seconded JB CW will set up a meeting in the New Year about the arrangements for the Jubilee. MM has arranged to collect the free trees this week – a site is to be chosen and children will be invited to be involved in the planting. MM questioned whether ENPA had responded re our contact about mobile phone coverage/BT replacing phone lines. JY had received a limited response only at this time. Councillors mentioned that this is becoming a national issue with other communities reporting similar concerns. PWM mentioned that battery powered converters can be purchased.
- 49.8 To consider planning matters:**
- a) 6/40/21/118 – SOUTH HIGHER COMBE, EXFORD, MINEHEAD, TA24 7PD**
Proposal: Lawful development certificate for the proposed replacement of wooden front door and conservatory French doors with PVCu double glazed doors.
Outcome: Unanimously passed as an improvement to the property.
- b) Other Planning applications and matters - none**
- 49.9 Finance:**
- 49.9.a To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due** – Council noted the financial report circulated by the Clerk. KC proposed, DL seconded, approving payment to Mrs J Yates £124.75 Clerk's Salary and Expenses; HMRC £31.40 tax due; Mrs M. Mileham £49.20 for advertisement costs (Ann Le Bas sale); Mr T. Little £50.00 for salt bin maintenance; Mr M. Hillier £270.00 for Village Green Maintenance and Yellowcombe leat clearance; Mr C. Wilkins £26.99 for Poppy wreath; and SALC £50.00 for clerk training. A further sale had been held for Ann Le Bas paintings raising another £330.00 bringing the total to £3,113.
- 49.9.b To set a date for the budget planning sub-committee to meet** – 6th January was agreed.
- 49.10 To consider the flood risk to the parish** – MM raised the concern that residents need to be encouraged to sign up for receipt of flood warnings as it has been centralised now. It was agreed to put the poster on the website and notice board. It was further agreed to advertise the 'citizen's forum' poster which was recently circulated. It was suggested that in order to encourage engagement this could be discussed further at the Annual Meeting. JB mentioned that removing the weir behind the riverside properties has led to the riverbed washing out and lowering, potentially reducing the flood risk. However, flooding is still a considerable concern from all waterways including the ford.
- 49.11 To consider the mobile boost scheme in relation to the parish** – JB reported that Ashcombe Farm were aiming to install a mast. CW reported that the Halse mast plans have been amended with more suitable colours to be used. DL will advertise the mobile boost scheme on the website. SL noted that she has investigated this and there can be a downfall re charges, so it may not be of benefit to all.

- 49.12 To discuss the George Joyce Trust** – The farmland which was given to the parishes of Cutcombe, Wootten Courtney and Winsford is managed by a Trust. Three representatives of each parish sit on the Trust board. Two of Winsford's representatives, while longstanding members of the parish, have now moved elsewhere and discussion was held about them continuing to represent Winsford. It was unanimously agreed that Richmond Harding and Steve Hayes could continue in the role. Action – JY asked to seek further information with regard to this Trust including the length of time in office for the board members, and whether accounts are being received.
- 49.13 To discuss the Henry Leigh Trust** – CW wanted to be sure families are aware that applications need to be in by a date in December and that the fund is to support children and young adults up to the age of 25. This will be advertised on the website.
- 49.14 To discuss updates on the Ann Le Bas Memorial and Field** – MM shared proposed designs by a local artisan blacksmith for Councillors to express preferences. His work on producing a bench will cost approx. £2,000 which will be very personal to Ann Le Bas. It was decided that the rotary club would need to be approached re getting permission to replace their old bench in order to use that site, and that the concrete base on that site would need to be replaced as part of the installation. JB mentioned that a plaque will be needed once the field bequest goes through.
- 49.15 Update re the Reconnecting Communities Event** – so far 40 residents have agreed to attend this event, to be held between 2-4pm on 9th December, without the need to use the proposed taxi service. CW invited all councillors to attend. PWM suggested that children and parents could call in towards the end to support the reconnecting theme. The event and participation of all will match the covid regulations at the time. CW thanked DL, MM and JB who have all helped circulate invitations to the event. MM requested that DL carry out a risk assessment for the event including covid security and support with recording the event through photography.
- 49.16 To note correspondence and emails received** – none received
- 49.17 To receive reports from Councillors on meetings attended** – none received
- 49.18 Items for next agenda** – budget and insurance arrangements for volunteers.
- 49.19 Date of next meeting** – Monday 24 January 2022 at 7.30 in Winsford Village Hall

There being no further business, CW closed the meeting at 21.23pm.

Date.....

Signed.....