

WINSFORD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday 28th April, 2022, 7.00 for 7.30

MINUTES

The Parish Council Chairman, Colin Wilkins, opened the meeting.

1. Apologies Attendance list attached.
Apologies were received from Tony Falkner, Bernadette Hunt, Steve Hunt, Frances Shone, Lynne Davey, John Davey, Ian Brookes.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Assembly as posted on the noticeboard and on the Parish Council website.
Proposed Kevin Connell, seconded Sarah Little. Approved.
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
None
4. Reports from:
 - Recreation Association
Fraser Lawrence, the recently elected chairman of the Association introduced himself and reported. After giving some background on the Association, he outlined plans for the coming year including improving fencing and raising funds to improve and refurbish the tennis court. He also reminded residents of the rules for dog walking on the field. He listed a number of forthcoming fundraising events. In response to a question, Fraser said that he would consider registering some recently planted trees as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. Residents were also reminded about their annual subscriptions.
 - Winsford Village Hall
Sue Hayes, Chair of the committee reported on the various clubs and societies that are getting back to normal in the hall along with various fundraising events.
 - George Joyce Trust
Roger Webber, chairman of the Trust, provided some background on the Trust and updated residents on the current position with regard to the house and the farm.
 - Winsford Trust
The Parish Council is the trustee and the Chairman, Colin Wilkins, reported on the maintenance of the Green, thanking all the volunteers who helped keep it looking nice. There are plans to replace the swings and upgrade the area including the skittle alley.
 - Henry Leigh Trust
Keith Lindop is the Winsford representative on the Trust. As he was unable to be present due to illness, Colin Wilkins reported. The Trust makes educational grants to young people in local villages including Winsford. It distributed £3000 a quarter last year and young residents were encouraged to apply.
 - Parochial Church Council
Brenda Staples described the work of the PCC including their involvement in several charitable activities. She provided some information about the church, the organ, the choir and the bells and thanked all the volunteers who help.

Chairman's Report

Before his report, the Chairman, Colin Wilkins, asked for a moment of silence to remember 3 residents who died this year, Tim Healey, Marion Whitely and Jean Bunn. He explained that the current council had only been in place for 3 years due to local government reorganisation and the next council would serve for 5 years instead of the usual 4. He thanked councillors for their work especially those who are standing down this time. He outlined several recent and upcoming highways and drainage improvements in the village. He reported the sale of the prints left to the Council by Ann Le Bar raising £3200, some of which has paid for the memorial bench unveiled yesterday beside the bus shelter. He reported on the success of the "reconnecting" event held in the village hall last December bringing people back together after Covid isolation. He thanked the National Park for the new noticeboard and gate and reported that the bus shelter would need replacing soon. He drew residents' attention to the Parish Council website with all PC business and information and a daily blog. Finally, he gave particular thanks to those councillors who are not standing again, Patrick Watts-Mabbott and David Luscott and he paid a special tribute to John Bray who has been on the Council for over 40 years. In closing, he encouraged everyone to vote in the election.

5. The Community Challenge of Maintaining Winsford as "The Prettiest Village on Exmoor" The Chairman encouraged everyone to keep their gardens and hedges tidy. The Council continues to try to deal with a particularly unsightly empty property in the village.
6. Jubilee "Big Lunch". The Chairman described the programme for the 5th June and encouraged everyone to attend.
7. Finally, he invited candidates for the forthcoming parish council elections to say a few words.