

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council Held on Monday 28 March 2022, at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors: Colin Wilkins (CW) – Chair, Kevin Connell (KC), Mel Mileham (MM), John Bray (JB) Sarah Little (SL), Patrick Watts-Mabbott (PWM) and David Luscott (DL)
Also in attendance Mr Mike Hillier and Mr David Green

CW opened the meeting at 19.34pm.

51.1 Public Question Time

51.2 Apologies for non-attendance: None received

51.3 Declaration of Interests: PWM – re planning matters due to his work at ENPA.

51.4 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 24 January 2022 and 28 February 2022, and any outstanding actions: Minutes for 24 Jan 2022 were approved - proposed by KC, seconded by MM and approved unanimously.

Request was made to ensure up to date financial information is recorded in the minutes where appropriate. The precept agreed at the meeting on 24 Jan 2022 was for £7,500.

Minutes for 28 Feb 2022 were approved - proposed by MM and seconded by KC, approved by all.

51.7 To consider planning matters:

a. 6/40/22/104 – Location: Exe Vale House, Winsford, Minehead, TA24 7JE

Proposal: Proposed change of use of art studio into mixed use (class E) to include Improvements to existing access.

CW explained that Class E means that it can be used for business use only, but not for retail or residential purposes. MM wished to ensure that the access to the highway had the appropriate splay for safety reasons. All councillors (except PWM who declared interest) expressed their support for the application.

b. 6/40/22/105LB - Location: LYNCOMBE, EXFORD, MINEHEAD, TA24 7PD

Proposal: Listed building consent for the installation of water filtration and associated pumping equipment.

CW explained that this is to improve water quality drawn from the borehole.

All councillors (except PWM who declared interest) expressed their support for the application.

c. Other Planning applications and matters

51.8 Finance:

a. To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due

Due to illness the clerk had been unable to present a report.

Proposed expenditures of stamps, salary, Mr Hunt and recorder were approved, proposed by DL and seconded by SL.

CW gave a report that he had calculated that following expenditure the balance is estimated at £6,072. That included expenditure of £662 from the Reconnecting Community grant. It is estimated that the bench and siting of the bench will cost £2,000 approx. This would leave an estimated end of year balance of £2,500 approx. FN was asked to find out the arrangements for returning the grant monies would be.

It is recommended that any costs to come re the Ann Le Bas bequest will be taken from remaining funds.

KC mentioned that although it may appear that we over budgeted last year but money had been built in to cover Ann Le Bas costs (it wasn't known that there would be a bequest) and for the swings. CW pointed out that £1,500 carry forward could need be used for election costs in May.

51.9 To consider arrangements for Parish Council Elections on 5th May

Forms were shared by CW and he explained that they needed to be completed and returned to Williton by 4pm on Tuesday 5th April. These can also be downloaded. If more than 7 people apply an election will take place on 5th May. KC suggested organising a hustings meeting for candidates to present themselves on 2nd May.

CW mentioned he is arranging the Annual Assembly and inviting all local committees and Trusts to participate.

51.10 To discuss arrangements for the village re the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A meeting has been held and the initial plans for Sunday 5th June are very promising. There will be a group singing for 3 sessions with music playing between while they rest. Attendees will be asked to bring their own lunch and alcohol. Marquees will be put up and tables provided so families/friends can sit together and share their food. The pub and tearoom will be offering refreshments. Vintage cars will be available to view in the car park area. A cake table will be put out for all to bring and share. There will also be Maypole dancing and a duck race. KC is to contact Morris Dancers to see if they could be available. If there are any further trees to plant the children could be involved in this, along with a flag colouring task.

JB is arranging the Beacon Lighting for 2nd June at 9.30pm.

FN and SP arrived at 8.28 pm.

51.5 Reports from County and District Councillors

SP mentioned the Panel meeting which recently took place. The local community network pilot is beginning to take shape with the role of Highway Steward having now been advertised with the aim of them starting during May. It was discussed at the Panel whether parishes may wish to include Emergency Planning on their agendas in future, particularly in light of extreme weather conditions and power outages. Other parishes are considering purchase of a generator to allow people to recharge their hearing aids and phones, and to provide power to a community shop. The landscapes consultation is ongoing if anyone would like to go online and view/comment. The new arrangements for recycling are now in place with some teething issues, in Ash Lane due to road closure, but this is generally a good service. The emergency mast network is not yet in place so SP is pursuing chasing up BT on getting the new arrangements in place to preserve a service during power outages.

51.6 To consider Highways Matters, including:

a. Drainage at Exford Road

MM stated that there is an improvement, however the main drain by the stables cannot manage with the additional flow and it is overflowing. Jetting has not resolved the problem as it does not have sufficient capacity for the new influx. FN responded that she has met with the team and the contractors are behind on jetting and unable to manage the amount of requests, but will endeavour to secure a visit as soon as possible.

b. Glebe Drive to Upcott Cross

MM reported that this jetting has not taken place either and she had been told that it is on a two year cycle that will not be often enough to keep the drains functioning properly. MM reported that through the Flood Group she has had contact with Chris Carne who is part of the Environment Agency in North Devon but would be able to offer some support as he has expertise with head waters. FN was keen to talk to him to follow up to link in with work on Highways.

c. Highways Improvements for 2022/2023

3 projects will be redusted with surface dressing. Ash Lane has been patched in preparation, Howtown Lane is due, and then also Upcott Lane to the main road. The verges will be worked on from Stone Cross to Comer Cross. CW thanked FN for her help with all of this work.

51.11 To discuss the Ann Le Bas Bequest

a. The Field

CW and KC have met and agreed to contact Risdon Hosegood re acquiring the land for the Recreation Committee.

b. The Memorial Seat

This will be put in place in the week after Easter. This has been specially designed to celebrate Miss Le Bas with paintbrushes, the church and cricket all being represented. The plinth is being prepared shortly. Action – clerk to ensure it is included on the insurance.

c. Archive – to South West Heritage Centre or Somerset Museum

MM is waiting to hear from the Exmoor Society re arranging for them to take the items. She had invited them to visit and view it but not had a response since her first contact. SP said they have had a change of archivist and will encourage them to get in touch.

d. Replacement Trees for the Recreation Field

Seven trees were received and are waiting to be planted. MM has them and is waiting to hear from the recreation association how many they wish to take. There is a delay due to taking down a tree to make room.

In addition – SL has a contact who is willing to take the remaining pictures for auction and that was approved.

51.12 To receive an update on the planting of trees

As discussed above (51.11d)

51.13 To receive an update re repairs on the noticeboard and gate on the Green

The noticeboard has been repaired and is of a very high standard. The gate has also been repaired and again this has been an excellent repair. Clerk has been asked to send thanks.

51.14 To receive an update re bus shelter repairs

Following the tree damage the shelter was repaired but is in need of further attention following further storm damage. There is damage from rot at the bottom. The County Council originally provided it in 1998 when the school closed for shelter while they wait for bus transport. SP has given CW some contacts who may be able to support with obtaining grants.

51.15 To receive a report on the dog bin at the recreation car park.

Action – clerk to contact the District Council to add this bin to our current contract.

51.16 To discuss a plan to welcome new residents, holiday home and rental visitors to the village.

DL has circulated some ideas to Councillors re making the village more inviting. He recommends that a working group would be beneficial to put plans into action, adding items such as a new welcome board offering visitors an informative guide to the village. There could also be a working party 'tidying' the village, clearing up after storms etc. There was discussion about who owns the car park land re getting permission to put up the sign. DL was thanked for his proposals. MM mentioned that the Council do pay for upkeep of the verges currently, however they do become damaged by drivers. The National Park do support with the upkeep of some of the hedging by pathways, but others are privately owned and the owners/tenants may need encouragement to keep them tidy. Volunteers have helped to clear Winn Brook. The rubbish from these clearances needs to be removed and disposed of, which will need to be considered if a working group start this work.

SP mentioned that the new Highways Steward may be able to support with some of the ideas which have been put forward. They will have a large area to cover and therefore it is not yet clear what capacity they will have initially.

51.17 Correspondence and Emails received: None received.

51.18 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended

KC reported that he had attended a Forum meeting on 17th March and mentioned that the recording is available if anyone wished to listen. The attendee from Western Power did not attend and it is hoped he will instead attend the next meeting in Withypool in June. However another speaker did present re local initiatives for renewable energy and would be a good contact should we have any projects of that nature in future. He is willing to attend Parish Council meetings should it be of interest.

MM attended the West Somerset Flood Group meeting and it was fed back that when the group representative had attended area meetings a lot of agencies had not been able to send representatives and this was causing a hold up with getting matters seen to.

51.19 Items for Next Agenda

New Council to be appointed.

51.20 Date of Next meeting – Monday 16th May 2022 at 7.30 in Winsford Village Hall

CW expressed his appreciation to the current council for their support and hard work over the last three years.

CW closed the meeting at 9.36 pm.