

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Winsford Parish Council Held on Monday 26 September 2022, at 7.30pm in Winsford Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors: Colin Wilkins (CW) – Chair, Kevin Connell (KC), Mel Mileham (MM), Ian Brooks (IB), Bryany Neal (BN), Sarah Little and Clerk Jennifer Yates (JY). Frances Nicholson SCC Councillor (FN) and Steven Pugsley (SP) SW&T Councillor joined part way through the meeting. Also in attendance was one member of the public.

CW opened the meeting at 19.35pm.

55.1 Public Question Time - None

55.2 Apologies for non-attendance – Mike Hillier

55.3 Declaration of Interests - None

55.4 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meetings held 25th July and any outstanding actions – The minutes were agreed to be a true record, proposed CW, seconded KC approved by all.

55.5 To note the Moment of Reflection and Book of Condolence contribution following the death of Queen Elizabeth II – A moment of reflection was organised and held in the village hall. It was well attended by over 30 people. Brenda played the piano for the National Anthem, and Bernie accompanied her on the cornet. Thanks were expressed to Colin Wilkins for arranging this at such short notice.

55.8 Finance:

- a. **To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due –** This was agreed but with an amendment – the cost of the salt bin was £123.00. Proposed KC seconded MM, agreed by all.
- b. **Discuss transfer of funds to savings account –** It was agreed that it will be good practice to move some funds to have the recommended level of reserve. However, it was agreed that it would be best to seek to clarify whether SW&T will be billing the council for the election costs as previously advised, and whether SALC will be reclaiming the outstanding reconnecting community grant funds. Action – JY to contact SW&T and SALC

55.9 To discuss the Ann Le Bas Bequest

- a. **Update re bequest of field –** JY has been in communication with Hunters who are keen to progress with the field bequest. They have forwarded paperwork which will need completion and we have provided them with requested information re the previous lease arrangement. The next step is for the Recreation Ground to appoint new Trustees – BN will arrange for this to take place.
- b. **Archive – update re Exmoor Society –** MM has met with the archive representative from Exmoor Society and they have gone through the Ann Le Bas Archive materials. They are keen to have items relating to Winsford and Exmoor, but do not want the medals or photo albums. The new owner of her home has offered to take the remainder of the archive as they have appropriate storage. This was viewed favourably, proposed by CW, seconded by KC and agreed by all. Some items will remain in the village hall – MM will sort through and arrange this.
- c. **Remainder of prints and plan to clear –** Courtyard Framing have taken the Jubilee photographs (the old one from the village hall and the new one from this year) and will frame them in a matching style. It is expected that the remaining Ann Le Bas prints will be used in exchange – CW to arrange.

55.10 To receive an update re bus shelter repairs – JY has been in communication with Somerset Bus Partnership. She has provided details of the issue, and a map/google map photo. Further photographs have been requested, and she has taken some to send prior to the meeting. IB has

been exploring whether the Local Community Network discretionary budget may be able to provide funds as it is mentioned in the list of possible uses for the fund.

FN arrived at 20.15

55.6 Reports from County and District Councillors – FN reported that the Highways pilot scheme has been successful so far. Sam Murrell is now brokering this work on behalf of Mr Gay and it is being explored how such an arrangement will work going forward into the unification process and beyond. Sam will manage getting costings for the work that needs doing etc, freeing up Mr Gay for more practical work.

As the unification progresses and the new County Hall arrangements progress it is likely that the Local Community Networks will change in style, name and arrangements. They will potentially become aligned to/linked to planning but nothing has been finally decided. The Consultation is taking place re local network sizes/grouping with various options having been put forward with differing arrangements for West Somerset.

55.7 To consider Highways Matters, including:

- a. **Collection of Road Signs** – These need to be collected, some are having to be stored as they are no longer relevant
- b. **Highways Steward** – Some work has been carried out as requested and it was expressed how well that had worked, with the communication between the Council and the Steward working well. FN suggested adding Yellowcombe Leat to the list for his discretionary grant work.
- c. **Furzehill Lane drainage work** – It was expressed that ‘time will tell’ how effective this will be with the water being diverted. However, it does appear to have been a good quality piece of work. Work is due to begin on the road by the Stables shortly which will hopefully address the issue of the diverted water going onto the road.
- d. **Update on Exford Road** – This is ongoing with no further update

SP arrived at 20.43

SP mentioned the sunken drain cover at Larcombe Foot which could be put forward to the Highways Steward for his attention.

He also mentioned that Exmoor National Park is currently very short staffed on their planning team so it would be prudent to expect some delays in getting work done.

SP is trying to arrange a Panel meeting with Dunster to discuss the proposed LCN areas as mentioned above. He will circulate a date once in place.

55.11 To discuss progress on the Halse Lane Mast – SP has been asked to find out progress and potential dates for completion and switching on.

SP and FN left the meeting at 20.53

55.12 To discuss community resilience – communication between M.Mileham and Ian Liddell-Grainger (power cuts and the danger to parishioners re communication outages) – MM has emailed Mr Liddell-Grainer twice but had no response. The village is still in a vulnerable position should there be a power cut leaving it cut off with very limited communication. BT have agreed to delay the switchover to fibre but that is all. MM was asked to continue trying to raise it and was asked to write on behalf of the Parish Council. IB is willing to support and also write. MM is booked to attend a community resilience event shortly, with networking opportunities and the opportunity to raise this as an issue on a wider platform.

55.13 To discuss the LCN consultation (divisions) - MM shared the map and plan which had been sent out with the possible new divisions. There was discussion as to the best arrangements for Winsford within the new divisions. It was agreed that the Council would be represented at the meeting SP is arranging to discuss this further. The preference was expressed that it would be ideal if the new arrangement could be kept to the ENPA area if possible to match the planning authority.

- 55.14 To discuss Somerset Day** – it was felt that the village does participate, and does own and use the Somerset flag. As a small parish it was felt that this was a suitable commitment.
- 55.15 To discuss Winsford Charitable Trust Standing Orders and procedures** - KC shared that the Parish Council is the sole trustee, and therefore it would be preferable for the Trust to share similar processes and procedures, as it does to a large extent. Finance is currently separated out but governance arrangements could be agreed upon. Decisions may be easier to make if the WCT agenda is embedded within the main agenda. This was proposed by KC and seconded by IB
- 55.16 To agree placement of gifted apple tree** – It was agreed that this should be placed next to the new Ann Le Bas bench. More trees have become available and MM has offered to order these.
- 55.17 Update re the proposed designation of Winsford as a conservation area** – Mr Thurlow has now started the consultation with the villagers. He is arranging for two meetings to be held in the village hall, for all to attend and with the intention of answering questions, particularly for people whose properties fall within the proposed conservation area. The meetings are to be held on 3rd October 16.00 – 18.00 and 20th October 12.00 – 14.00. They are ‘drop in’ sessions. Discussion was held re the proposed area which was considered to be small and with some surprises as to which properties were included, and most councillors will attend the sessions.
- 55.18 To discuss a plan to welcome new residents, holiday home and rental visitors to the village** – Now that the conservation consultation has begun it was deemed inappropriate to discuss this as the outcome of the consultation could affect how this gets taken forward.
- 55.19. Correspondence and Emails received** – An email was received thanking Mr Wilkins for his support in organising the Moment of Silence.
- 55.20 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended** – CW attended the recent Panel meeting. A talk was given by the crime officer, with particular reference to road safety on Exmoor. SP had encouraged councils to make full use of the Highway Steward.
KC attended the Forum meeting. There were two interesting presentations, and he felt reassured that Western Power have understood the localised difficulties and would do their best to support development across Exmoor.
- 55.21 Items for Next Agenda** – The plan for new residents, holiday home and rental visitors (dependant on progress with the conservation area outcomes). Also the Defibrillator.
- 55.22 Date of Next meeting – Monday 28th November 2022 at 7.30 in Winsford Village Hall**
There being no further business CW closed the meeting at 22.01.