

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Winsford Parish Council Held on Monday 26th June 2023, at 19.00pm in Winsford Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors: Colin Wilkins (CW) – Chair, Kevin Connell (KC), Mel Mileham (MM), Mike Hillier (MH), Ian Brooks (IB), Bryany Neal (BN), Sarah Little and Clerk Jennifer Yates (JY).

CW opened the meeting at 19.02pm.

Before the meeting began the Councillors paused to show respect to Mr Dave Williams who had done much for the council and the village, and who sadly died this week.

64.1 Public Question Time - None

64.2 Apologies for non-attendance – Councillors Pugsley and Nicholson

64.3 Declaration of Interests - None

64.4 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 5th June, and any outstanding actions – Proposed IB, Seconded MM and recognised as a true record of the meeting.

64.5 To consider planning matters:

a) 6/40/23/005 – HOE FARM LODGE, WHEDDON CROSS, MINEHEAD, Somerset, TA24 7EY

Proposal: Proposed erection of a single storey extension

Very little information was available on the planning website so the Councillors found it difficult to comment due to insufficient detail.

b) Other Planning applications and matters - None

64.6 Finance:

a) To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due;

JY Salary and Expenses £325, HMRC JY Tax £51.60, Netwise Website costs £396, SALC training costs £40

Payments agreed - Proposed IB, Seconded KC

b) To review and sign the AGAR documentation – Deferred to next meeting

CW suggested that the finances be reviewed at the next meeting with a view to moving some money into the reserve account.

64.7 Update re the Post Office - CW reported that a letter had been received which stated that there were no plans at present to reinstate the service to the village. Carhampton had shared their petition which has been adapted, it was agreed to put it out in the village for one week (shop/pub/coffee morning). KC offered to write a letter to the Post Office.

64.8 To discuss the Cave Foundation application – The focus of the application will be on refurbishment of the Village Green including the skittle alley, along with a bin and five benches/picnic tables. IB will draft a letter and send ready for their next meeting.

64.9 To consider Highways Matters;

a) Yellowcombe Leat - CW attended the LCN meeting at which he and Councillor Nicholson spoke to Kevin Bridgewater. He explained that this has been moved to

the Bridges team at the County Council as it rises to more than a meter above ground. Paul Nation is involved from their team. The County Council legal team are now involved as there is a dispute as to who owns the land. The work will be carried out by an external contractor now that it no longer falls within a District Council area. It was discussed that previously work has been carried out by Walton who are based in Minehead and it was questioned whether it would be possible to obtain their report/risk assessment as evidence of their involvement and assessment of the issue. There is concern re lack of progress with this work as the current patching will not last, and all are keen to see this work carried out before the bad weather arrives in the Autumn/Winter, as it is there will be overflowing following any heavy rainfall. CW will contact Mr Nation with regard to this.

- b) **AOB – MH** mentioned that the road sweeper is only working in the centre of the village rather than the four lanes in and out of the village which is where there tends to be a build up of debris in the culverts.

IB will continue to pass information to the highway steward. Concern was expressed by the lack of work being carried out despite applications, with the issue being lone working by the Highway Steward. Mr Andrew Turner has recognised IB's comments with regard to this. Mr Turner will be copied into the application to Sam Murrell for jetting/gully clearing.

64.10 To receive and update re Ann Le Bas field bequest – WRA have received papers from Risdon Hosegood re the lease. JY hand delivered the papers received by Winsford Parish Council to the Solicitors in Taunton along with a cheque deposit.

64.11 To discuss the Forestry England plans for woodland at Bye Common – This appears to be a landowner initiative along with Forestry England. IB and other councillors will attend the meeting to be held on 3rd July and will ask questions with regard to the implications re highways. ENPA will also attend the meeting as they will be involved re the planning, and their views are not known currently. The Councillors are keen to encourage the ENPA to pay attention with regard to the change of use of the land and the changes to the landscape. There is concern that farmland/grazing land is being lost, and that this land can be equally efficient in achieving net zero. KC will write to share the views of the Council.

64.12 Winsford Charitable Trust

- a) **Maintenance of the Village Green** – This is ongoing with further work to be carried out when nesting season is complete. Work will need to be carried out on the wall, Mr Steve Hayes has given advice re what needs to be done. It was agreed that clarification is needed re whose responsibility it is. Also work will need to be done at some point on the fence between the Village Green and Sunnymeade. CW to take advice from Councillor Pugsley.
- b) **Financial Report** - Aegon as at 23rd May was at £25,707.59, CAF Cash as at 5th June is £873.65, CAF Gold as at 5th June is £2,201.25
- c) **Feedback and follow up from Financial Advisor visit** – Councillors are disappointed with return on the investment in the current arrangement. CW proposed moving the money to a savings account to simplify the arrangements and make it easier for the Councillors to monitor progress. JY raised the issue that they would need a trust fund account, and that it may be difficult to find a bank or building society to set up new accounts. It was agreed that JY would check the rate received on the CAF

account, and to consult with SALC about how other Trusts manage their savings. In principle it was agreed that moving the funds to a simpler account would be beneficial.

d) Wooden Slats on Bridge – This was previously agreed in principle and has now been agreed that the work will be carried out, proposed KC and seconded IB. MH agreed to arrange this.

e) AOB – JY to access VAT training and take advice from SALC with regards to Trust funds. Mrs Gill has offered to donate a bench to the Trust for the Village Green.

64.13 Correspondence and Emails received – CW has received two emails re potential purchasers of 4 Ash Lane and the neighbouring property and fed back on his responses.

64.14 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended – CW attended the LCN meeting in Wheddon Cross. This was very well attended by 40+ attendees. Councillor Pugsley was elected as the Chair and Mr Ellicott as the Vice-Chair for this committee. Voting will be organised as one per parish. Health, education, transport and other bodies will be organised into sub-committees. The next meeting will be in September. KC and MM attended the Forum meeting. The ENPA partnership plan and plans for car parks were discussed and the links have been circulated should anyone wish to comment on these consultations.

64.15 Any Other Business – CW reported that MM/MH have found a potential solution to the problem of storing the new equipment which MM has applied for as part of the village resilience plan. It has been proposed that the bus shelter has a built in store to house this equipment which makes it central and easily accessible for all. MH is ready to do the work on the base ready for the new shelter.

64.16 Items for Next Agenda – Code of Conduct, AGAR

64.17 Date of Next meeting – 24th July 2023 at 7.00 in Winsford Village Hall

There being no further business CW closed the meeting at 21.19