

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Winsford Parish Council Held on Monday 1st July 2024, at 19.00pm in Winsford Village Hall

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

Somerset Councillors Frances Nicholson (FN) and Steven Pugsley (SP) attended part of the meeting.

One member of the public was in attendance until 20.19.

SP arrived at 18.58

CW opened the meeting at 19.00pm.

73.1 Public Question Time: None

73.2 Apologies for non-attendance: None

73.2 Declaration of Interests: None

73.3 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 3rd June, and any outstanding actions: 72.6 The petition has closed re the use of the recreation field for helicopter landings and this has been passed. 72.11 A public meeting is to be held on 15th July re the tree planting projects.

SP fed back that there is as yet no news re Yellowcombe Leat but that FN does follow up on this whenever possible. Kier are now contracted but slow to get to know the rural area, ongoing planned works will still take place, eg Comer's Gate cattle grid. SP and FN are engaged in talks with Somerset County with regard to the car park. FN is working with the Highways team (Andrew Turner), but if this does not proceed SP suggested contacting the property services team with regard to transferring the responsibility to the Parish Council.

Discussion then moved onto the wall outside the Royal Oak next to the Winn Brook. Work to be done on the Hemlock Water Dropwort on 8th July using a local contractor at cost to the Winsford Charitable Trust, SP mentioned that FN may be able to refer this to a team at Somerset County for future work. IB mentioned that the bridge to Kemps is in need of urgent repair, but ownership is in question. SP will follow up with ENPA re this.

SP left the meeting at 19.11

73.4 To consider planning matters:

a) **6/40/24/003 & 6/40/24/004LB – Great Nurcott Farm, WINSFORD, MINEHEAD, TA24 7HR**

Proposal: Proposed repairs and conservation work of the Grade II listed Bank Barn to include replacing cement roof with natural slate, reinstating previously lost openings as well as installing doors and rainwater goods together with rebuilding and consolidating stonework and replacement lintels and thresholds: Following discussion it was agreed to support this proposal as this is welcomed as a further improvement to the property. Proposed CW, seconded BN, agreed by all.

b) **6/15/24/001 – Field gate along the A396 to the South of Copleham Cross, Copleham Cross, Winsford, TA24 7AF**

Proposal: Proposed removal of 4.26m of hedgerow to widen gateway to improve access and visibility: This is in Exton parish and is to be referred to them.

c) **Other Planning applications and matters:** The application re Jasmine Cottage is to be discussed on 2nd July at ENPA.

73.6 To discuss the matter of sewage discharge into the River Exe: KC has been in contact with a member of the parish who has found information that there was sewage discharge into the river on 96 occasions last year. It was agreed that a letter should be written to South West Water and the Devon Environment Agency (who cover the Winsford area) expressing concern.

73.7 Finance:

a) **To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due:** Payments were proposed by MM, seconded by IB and agreed as follows;

JY Pay and expenses Dec- March	£464.16
HMRC Tax Dec - March	£94.60
JY Salary and expenses April-May	£328.80
HMRC Tax April-May	£51.60
M Hillier (resilience grant)	£12.35
Zurich insurance (including 3 year discount)	£535.33
Village Hall	£250.00
Netwise Website costs	£396.00
Total	£2,132.84

The understanding is that the payment to the village hall is to cover a contribution towards the wifi, and for the use of the hall whenever needed.

b) **To agree the updates to the asset register:** It was agreed to discuss this further at the September meeting as there may be depreciation on some items and the new benches have been ordered and will need to be added along with the new resilience equipment, along with the removal of the old benches which are being gifted to the recreation association for the field.

c) **To agree insurance renewal:** We have received a discount as JY has set up a new three year agreement. Proposed IB, seconded IB

d) **To review and sign the AGAR documentation:** It was agreed that JY and CW go through all of the figures together and a further meeting to agree the papers to be held on 10th July.

FN arrived at 19.59

73.8 Reports from County Councillors: The County Council's financial difficulties are continuing and ongoing reorganisation is taking place. The meetings of the ENPA forum will now meet twice a year rather than bi-monthly as previously. It has been noted that the LCN pilot project was a success and is now being promoted across the County due to the good working relationship between our LCN and the Highways team. With regard to the wall by the Royal Oak which affects the Winn it is assumed that this belongs to the Highways department at Somerset County. It is being undermined and damaged by the growth in it. There is a possibility that support can be gained from the Somerset team with regard to

the Hemlock Water Dropwort removal as it could be a risk with regard to flooding. JY to list the issues re this area and forward to FN for follow up. FN was not aware of the public meeting re the tree planting projects at Withycombe and Upcott. Discussion was held re this project with the impact on farmland and agricultural production of local food and the impact on the carbon footprint if having to import food from further away. FN will raise it with SP and mention at the next ENPA meeting.

73.9 To consider Highways Matters

- a) **Yellowcombe Leat:** No update available
- b) **The Car Park:** No update available

FN left the meeting at 20.40

73.10 Winsford Charitable Trust

- a) **Maintenance of the Village Green:** Two quotes were received re the work on the Green and in the river. One has been accepted re the work in the river which was perceived as urgent. Payment of £125 was agreed for this work to one contractor who hold insurance, could provide his own tools and was able to remove the waste, JY to write to him to ensure he is clear about the hazardous properties of the plant and the need for PPE. Arrangements will now need to be made for the clearance of the rhododendrons etc on the Green, and for mowing from 2025 onwards. Thanks was given to Mike Hillier and Mel Mileham for their work in this area.
- b) **Financial Report:** CafCash balance at 30th June = £4,999.78, CafGold balance at 30th June = £1,762.92, Aegon Balance at 29th April = £26,094.85. Payment of £38.38 to MH re items bought to repair the bridge was approved. Thanks were given to Mike Hillier re the high quality of the work carried out on the bridge.
- c) **Discuss communication from NCVO and consider joining:** JY fed back that this organisation had been helpful in her research into new bank accounts and they had invited the Trust to become a member which would be free of charge. This was approved, proposed by CW and seconded by KC.
- d) **AOB:** Risdon Hosegood have informed CW that the solicitor handling the land registration has been changed and it is now being handled in the Minehead office. There will be an invoice for £150 shortly and the payment was approved, proposed by IB and seconded by KC.

73.11 Correspondence and Emails received: None. MM reported that she and CW can no longer access emails sent via the website – JY to report to Netwise.

74.12 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended: CW and JY attended the last LCN meeting. The main focus was on housing with a presentation given by Magna.

74.13 Items for Next Agenda: Tree planting project, charitable contributions policy. Asset register to be discussed at the September meeting.

74.14 Date of Next meeting – 29th July 2024 at 7.00 in Winsford Village Hall

There being no further business CW closed the meeting at 21.12