

## WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Winsford Parish Council Held on Monday 28th October 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 and Steven Pugsley (SP) attended part of the meeting.

CW opened the meeting at 19.07

**77.1 Public Question Time:** None

**77.2 Apologies for non-attendance:** None

**77.3 Declaration of Interests:** None

**77.4 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 30th September, and any outstanding actions:** Minutes approved, Proposed IB, Seconded BN approved by all. Comments on 76.8 – items are being collected in the shop for the food bank, but they are not being collected. Item 76.12 The poppy wreath has been ordered, plans are being put together for the day, as some people are not able to attend this year. CW to follow up re acquiring the Christmas Tree, and Mr Hunt has agreed to decorate it as usual.

**77.5 To consider planning matters:**

a) **GDO 24/20: Location – Access Road between Larcombe Foot & West Nethercote Farm - x:288610, y:136110, Winsford, Minehead**

**Proposal: Prior notification for turning point and parking area (12m x 10m) on access track at Bye Common:** For information only, a response has not been requested. The plans were discussed and it was agreed at this time no comment was to be made.

b) **Other Planning applications and matters:** None

**77.6 To discuss the proposal for block tree planting in the parish:** There has been no progress on this, no further information has been received at this time.

**77.8 Discuss the proposal to purchase a bleed kit:** The local PCSO team have recommended that isolated rural areas would benefit from having a kit available. The kits are at the cost to the Parish Council at the cost of minimum £199 + VAT. However, Winsford Parish Council has put in place items for use in emergency in the but shelter store which includes a comprehensive first aid kit, and a number of people in the parish have been trained to use this. Therefore, it was felt that enough is in place in this parish but MM and MH will check the current kit, and lighting in the shelter for accessing the current kit. The contents appear to be similar to the bleed kit advert sent to us, possibly other than a foil blanket which could be purchased. It was proposed that once the phone box is decommissioned (likely to be in 2025, CW is monitoring this) the Defibrillator and first aid could be moved into there as it has a power source and lighting. CW to investigate how this could be managed (eg an account may need to be opened with a power company and the monthly standing charges may be excessive).

**77.9 Feedback re updates to the website:** MM and CW have met to go through the website as it is out of date in places (eg the Tea Room is still on there). MM has prepared text to replace the current text on several pages and these were approved at the meeting – JY to liaise with the website provider on how to update this. CW has a further list of changes which ideally would be made on more technical issues which again the provider will need to advise on.

## 77.10 To consider Highways Matters

### a) To discuss potential arrangements for highways maintenance from Somerset

**Council and Kier:** JY has been in contact with Kier with questions/concerns raised at the last Parish Council meeting. It was felt that the responses received were disappointing and unhelpful. With regard to moving the 30mph zone out to the village sign at Edbrooke the County position was that it could happen (at 40mph for the extended stretch) but entirely at the cost of the Parish Council with consultations etc predicted to be £5,000 minimum. Clearly this would not be possible from our current precept allocation, and it was felt the cost should be met centrally. KC pointed out that the original sign had been put in the wrong place and it was queried vigorously at the time but without success. JY to enquire re details of the cabinet member for Highways for follow up.

It was confirmed that 'buying' Kier time of one vehicle with two men for eight hours would result in the full eight hours, with their travel time outside of that, and the Council was encouraged to work with other local parishes to share these hours to reduce costs. KC pointed out that this did seem to be different information that was provided in the FAQ document and needs clarification. Also, clarification needs to be sought re avoiding duplication of what service they will provide against what they will not. This is particularly in the area of gully/drain clearance as they appear to be willing to clear some annually, and some biannually/every four years. JY to follow up and request details of the Kaarbontech information. It was noted that there is no longer a County/Highway steward monitoring the state of the roads in the area, and the responsibility for reporting problems is now with the parishioners/Parish Council, to the Highways department who will then coordinate with Kier.

### b) Hedge Removal at Vicarage Bridge:

CW expressed concern that the removal of the hedge affects the eye line for drivers coming into the village and could result in an accident, particularly during the winter when it dark for more hours each day.

The risk is also exacerbated by debris and running water on the road in that area. It was noted that the slow sign and white edging lines on the road are worn away at that area, and the 30mph sign is damaged – JY to report and invite the Highways team to visit the site.

### c) Any Other Business:

JY to find contact details for Magna and ENPA re issues with use of verges for parking and storing of vehicles/other. There is a drain cover in poor condition in lower Ash Lane causing the tarmac around it to deteriorate – JY to report. It would be beneficial for 'Not Suitable for Wide Vehicles' signs to be placed at each end of Furzehill Lane. JY to follow up.

SP and FN arrived at 20.43.

## 77.7 Reports from County Councillors:

Advice was given re the Highways matters discussed earlier e.g. who to approach re reporting issues. There are no updates with regard to Yellowcombe Leat, and with the current financial situation there are unlikely to be. They are unlikely to repaint the road markings now until the Spring.

Re the food bank collections FN reported that Ali Sanderson is coordinating the move of premises and reorganisation of volunteer staffing/trustees. They still require further people to come forward to volunteer if anyone wishes to do so. CW recommended that the food bank team liaise with the medical centre who bring out prescriptions on a weekly basis and could potentially collect at the same time.

The main focus for the County Council at this time is the task of reorganising staffing, with cuts being made to staffing in all departments with up to 500 staff losing their jobs. SP reported that there is a consultation out re changing ward boundaries led by the Electoral Boundary Commission. This may affect the make up of the Exmoor wards and it was discussed that as the Exmoor parishes do have unique and joint challenges ideally this area would be left untouched to enable the current LCN membership to remain with their joint approach to local issues. There will only be one Councillor for each area following the reorganisation. More details will be shared. SP reported that

the wording on the brown signage for the Halse Lane caravan site is being reviewed as it is currently unclear about the access to the caravan site as the sign at White Cross discourages caravan users to go that way because of the road into Dulverton.

SP and FN left at 21.13.

**77.11 Finance: To receive a financial report and agree to pay amounts due:** Operating balance - £12,852.03, it was agreed to pay cheque for £60 for the works on clearing around the salt bins and £40 for the poppy wreath. It was further agreed that a new set of defibrillator pads need to be purchased. Proposed KC, seconded by MM.

**77.12 Winsford Village Green Trust**

**a) Discuss Petanque Court proposal:** The design includes a sand pit which could require regular maintenance with topping up the sand and keeping it clean. It was noted that digging down into the Green could be difficult as it is based on bedrock. Concern was expressed re animals soiling the sand, and other health and safety issues including it potentially being a trip hazard. Following a lengthy discussion it was decided that as the Recreation Association have the additional land recently provided on a lease from the Ann Le Bas bequest it would be preferable for the new Court to be placed on that land as there is little room on the Green following the recent installation of the new swings and picnic tables and the existing benches and bowling alley. This also avoids the issue of crossover of Trust and WRA with regards to maintenance and insurance. It also keeps the village sporting facilities together in one area.

**b) Finance Report:** CafCash Balance as at 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 = £2,137.29, CafGold Balance as at 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 = £1,774.03, Aegon Balance as at 29<sup>th</sup> July 24 = £26,618.01 (+451.11). No payments to be made.

**c) AOB:** The benches and picnic tables have been moved and installed to a good standard. The bill has not yet been received for the work on the benches. JY to feed back to the grant provider re the installation of the picnic benches. JY to share details of the play inspection provider with CW.

**77.13 Correspondence and Emails received:** Exmoor National Park sent us a notice re the completion of the new Bridge for display.

**77.14 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended:** None

**77.15 Any Other Business:** A van was recently vandalised in the village, and there have been several thefts from farms in the Exmoor area.

**77.16 Items for Next Agenda:** First aid kit/bleed kit, website updates

**77.17 Date of Next meeting – November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7.00 in Winsford Village Hall**