

WINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Winsford Parish Council Held on Monday 25th November 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).

CW opened the meeting at 19.03

78.1 Public Question Time: None

78.2 Apologies for non-attendance: Councillors Frances Nicholson and Steven Pugsley

78.3 Declaration of Interests: None

78.4 To agree the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 28th October, and any outstanding actions: Minutes agreed as a true record, proposed IB, seconded KC. Comments made – the foodbank is now set up in new premises in Dulverton and arrangements are in place for a weekly drop off from the village.

78.5 To consider planning matters:

a) 6/40/24/010LB: Bevins House, Winsford, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7JE
Proposal: Listed building consent for the proposed removal of section of internal wall.

It was agreed to fully support this proposal. Proposed CW/Seconded IB, agreed by all.

b) 6/40/24/011: Withycombe Cottage, Ash Lane, Winsford, Dulverton, Somerset, TA24 7AB

Proposal: Proposed recovering in natural slate of existing roof to main cottage to include installation of integrated PV panels on west elevation, together with installation of on-roof PV panels to south & west return roof slopes of outbuilding.

It was noted that the appropriate surveys had been carried out, and councillors support the addition of solar panels. It was agreed to support this proposal. Proposed IB/Seconded MM, agreed by all.

c) 6/40/24/012LB: Withycombe Cottage, Ash Lane, Winsford, Dulverton, Somerset, TA24 7AB

Proposal: Listed building consent for the proposed recovering in natural slate of existing roof to main cottage to include installation of integrated PV panels on west elevation, together with installation of on-roof PV panels to south & west return roof slopes of outbuilding.

Agreed as above

d) 6/40/24/013: Jasmine Cottage, Winsford, Minehead, TA24 7JE

Proposal: Proposed erection of a single storey replacement rear extension.

This was agreed as it was seen as an improvement to the property. Proposed CW, Seconded MM, agreed by all.

e) Other Planning applications and matters

78.6 Follow up on the proposal to purchase a bleed kit: Councillors have had sufficient time to review the current kit provided in the resilience store and also the details circulated by the LCN team. As a result it was agreed that it would be a good purchase for the village and that it could be placed with the defibrillator for ease of public access. There are sufficient remaining funds in the resilience fund to cover the cost. Furthermore it was agreed that movement activated lights would be beneficial in the resilience store. MH and MM will source and set up these. BH suggested putting a 'cut out and keep' notice in the parish magazine with the details for the resilience store.

Further discussion mentioned the positive impact of the WhatThreeWords app which can now be used more effectively with the improvement of mobile signal in the parish. It is possible to map your property with a WhatThreeWords marker which can then be provided to emergency services. It was proposed that this service could be offered to villagers and that it would be shared at the Annual Assembly.

78.7 Follow up on updates to the website: JY has carried out the requested changes. The next step is to contact local clubs and organisations to see if they would like to amend their entries.

78.8 Updates from Somerset Councillors: The councillors were unable to attend on this occasion due to multiple commitments.

78.9 To consider Highways Matters

a) To discuss potential arrangements for highways maintenance from

Somerset Council and Kier – update following LCN meeting: CW fed back from the recent LCN meeting. The main focus of the highways news was of drastic cuts in staffing at County level. The leader Mr Turner has resigned and his three deputies are being reduced to two, and at the next level the ten current staff are being reduced to four. This is likely to include at least one (or both) of our area team, who know and understand the challenges presented by our local road network. Whilst Somerset Council will still maintain standards where health and safety may be impacted but have accepted standards will drop. Discussion took place about concerns re the provision of services going forward. It was felt that people will be paying for the services through their Council Tax but that they will not be provided, and there is a pressure on the Parish Council to try to fill this gap. It was agreed that JY should draft a letter to Rachel Gilmour expressing concern re the withdrawal of these services and cuts to staffing with local knowledge of both specific problems (eg Yellowcombe Leat) and our road network. Concerns also that we had already had to put up our precept towards meeting the costs of paying for future services and may need to do so again. There is some uncertainty about what will and won't be provided in the future although the County has sent out a document some time ago. Further concerns are with the proposals to train up volunteers to carry out some of the work, and the related insurance costs which we have now been informed would be at our cost.

b) Any Other Business: None

78.10 Finance: To receive financial report and agree to pay amounts due and discuss arrangements for budgeting/precept:

Some costs have arrived since the finance report was prepared.

It was agreed to rejoin The Exmoor Society at the cost of £25.

It was agreed to pay MH £195 for Car Park Maintenance.

The finance report was approved with further payments agreed as JY salary and expenses Aug-Nov £473.60, JY tax £97.

It was agreed to have our precept planning meeting on 9th January at 2pm.

78.11 Winsford Village Green Trust

a) Finance Report: Two invoices were presented at the meeting and were approved for payment – MH £216 for the Village Green Maintenance, and Castle & Barry £360 as the costs for the installation of the new picnic benches.

b) AOB: CW to contact and arrange for the inspection on the swings. JY to produce a sign to put on the Green with local contacts as recommended on the last report.

78.12 Correspondence and Emails received: None

78.13 Reports from Councillors on meetings attended: CW fed back in item 78.9 re Highways. He reported that housing was also discussed, with a planning proposal to build 18 properties behind the village Hall in Wheddon Cross having been refused, largely due to concerns due to access and impacts on highways.

- 78.14 Any Other Business:** CW reported that Captain Walter Godsall is shortly to celebrate his 100th birthday. A card was circulated which will be passed to him at the celebration organised by Sue Hayes's coffee morning team. A sign put up near a Magna property re no parking was raised as a concern. CW will follow up by contacting the local Magna representative. It was mentioned that the Ann Le Bas pictures gifted to the village hall have not yet been displayed and it would be good to see these framed and on display. Will Rayner at Courtyard framing still has the others and has been waiting before proceeding as the market was flooded following her death. It is anticipated that he should be proceeding with this now and we will make contact with regard to this. It was mentioned again that a formal place of safety needs to be identified for the resilience plan, which would ideally be the village hall. MH to raise at the next village hall meeting. JY has a clash of dates for the Annual Assembly and it was agreed to move this forward one week to Thursday 15th May.
- 78.15 Items for Next Agenda:** The Precept
- 78.16 Date of Next meeting – January 13th 2025 at 7.00 in Winsford Village Hall**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.56.