



WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT
THE JUBILEE HALL, WINSHAM
Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.30pm

In the Chair: Cllr J Everard (Chairman of Winsham Parish Council)

In attendance: Cllrs S. Love, H. Beentje, L. Miller, J. Hill, K. Fowler, S. Weller, J. Harding, Parish Clerk Mrs R Richards and 22 residents

1. Welcome and Introduction

Introduction from Cllr J Everard

2. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Clampett and District Councillor Sue Osborne

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting (April 2019)

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 25th May 2021 were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Weller Seconded: Cllr Miller Vote: 8-0-0

4. Matters arising from those minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report Winsham Parish Council

Cllr Everard presented the Chairman's report for 2021/22. He began by thanking all the councillors for their hard work and spoke of the support provided by, recently retired, County Councillor Linda Vijeh and District Councillor Sue Osborne. He updated the Parish on the community club, the new housing development, the planting scheme for the nature area, the proposed Small Improvement Scheme, highways and the challenges of the flooding as well as explaining how the council are maintaining the upkeep of the parish assets.

The full Chairman's Report is available to download from the council's website.

6. Financial Statement Winsham Parish Council

The Clerk presented the Financial Statement for the council which was available to view on the Power Point Presentation. These will be available to download from the council's website.

7. Presentation from the Jubilee Hall

John Sullivan reported on the loss of income during the pandemic and the fact that they only achieved 50% of their normal income during 2021-22. Thankfully due to a £10,000 grant their overall financial position is still good. However, the hall is an old building which needs constant upkeep. He then explained how the committee had decided to change the constitution, originally written in 1965 to make it easier to sign up new committee members. One of the greatest challenges they face is the zero-carbon target of which 75% of the target has to be reached by 2035.

8. Presentation from Winsham Recreational Trust (WRT)

Trustee Steve Weller explained that the WRT took over responsibility of the upper recreation ground and club house in April 2021. Since then, a significant amount of refurbishment work has been carried out. The WRT is running smoothly and the trustees are working on the next phase of development which includes the lease. The Community Club is working well thanks to several volunteers who keep the club operational. He went on to thank two people in particular for their hard work, Keith Fowler who has become the Club Caretaker and Sarah Love who is the driving force behind the day to day running of the club.

9. Presentation from Winsham Community Shop and Post Office

Paula Bramley-Ball reported that the shop is in good shape with new supportive landlords and a great team of volunteers so it looks like their future is secure. She spoke of how helpful it would be if the new households in the village were to use the shop and understand how the shares work. 60-70% of their costs are due to wages with electricity the second biggest cost. They are hopeful they will still break even despite these increases and she reminded us all that the only way to keep the shop going is to keep using it. Suggestions were welcomed from those present on how to improve the shops income as sales have remained static for some years but costs keep going up.

10. Presentation from St Stephens Church

Church Warden, Peter Saunders, reported how some still feel inhibited from joining large gatherings. Attendances, however, are encouraging, and this is due to welcome visits from friends from other churches in the Benefice. The church building is open every day of the year with only four services held each month due to the marked reduction in availability of clergy. They continue to support four different charities each year with the Easter, Harvest and Christmas celebrations all well attended. He reported on their work with the school and thanked the PC for the maintenance of the churchyard, flag raising, clock winding and drain clearance.

11. Presentation from United Reform Church

Margaret Tett reported on the loss of some of their congregation since the last meeting including their organist and previous minister, Reverend John McMinn. Margaret reported on the times that services are held and added that anyone wishing to join them would be most welcome.

12. Presentation from Winsham United Charities

Cllr Harding read a short report which started with a brief history of how two charities were started, one in 1680 by Sir Michael Holsworthy and a second in 1866 by John Wheadon. These charities were combined in 1912. Things have changed since then with the need for equipment for further education and help with fees largely replacing the need for apprenticeships. In the past year interest of £795 was received and £800 allocated in grants. The report ended by giving details of how applications can be made via the new webpage and email address set up in 2021.

13. Presentation from Winsham & Cricket St Thomas Royal British Legion Women's Section

Margaret Tett read a report on behalf of their secretary Margaret Long explaining how the past year had differed from other years. In May they lost their Vice Chair Jean Spurdle who is sadly missed. They held their first meeting since the pandemic in September 2021 and have started running trips again. They continue to support a number of various charities through their fund raising.

14. Presentation from Winsham C of E School and Pre-School

Cllr Love read a report written by Caroline Lancey, Associate Head of Accelerated Learning. The school is progressing well and the number of pupils across the school has been consistent. An extension to the Reception and Key Stage one class has provided additional space that has had an enormous impact on the pre-school. Having re-gained church school status, they are working to ensure that Christian distinctiveness is at the heart of all they do. They encourage the children to think about others so support events such as Comic Relief and Children in Need but recently Ukraine has given us much to consider. Also included in the report was a summary of activities such as dressing up for world book day, the cross-country tournament, sports day and school visits to Charmouth and the Pantomime.

15. Presentation from Winsham Street Fair

John Llewelyn, Vice Chair of the Street Fair, reported on how they are determined to hold a Street Fair this year. Activities in the past year included a Scarecrow competition in June which everybody enjoyed. People were also encouraged to yarn bomb with pompoms scattered throughout the village, this coincided with the Open Gardens which was a fantastic day. The Christmas tree event, with Santa's Grotto, was very well attended and he thanked Paul Anderson for the tree. The Street Fair will be held 25th June, the theme being Flower Power with fancy dress and another Scarecrow competition will be held around the same time. John went on to explain how all the events were only made possible due to volunteers and appealed for anyone who is able to give up some of their time to come along and help.

16. Presentation from Winsham United Football Club

Cllr Beentje read a report provided by Winsham United Football Club. The report began by explaining how it looked like they wouldn't have a team at the beginning of the season to now having a group of around 35 players. After struggling during the previous two seasons due to Covid they are currently looking at third or fourth place in the league. They have a healthy group of young players who they hope will be the future of the football club. They wanted to thank all their sponsors, including Paul Anderson of Anderson Business Travel, for providing the means to source new kit, tracksuits and equipment. They expect that the continued impact of COVID will mean that next season will also be difficult.

17. Presentation from The Bell Inn

Cllr Everard read a report provided by Jane Down at the Bell Inn. The annual review for the Bell was disappointing. The realities of life after the main pandemic became clear with people still nervous of social mixing meaning that habits have changed and people are content to stay at home much more. The furlough scheme was a godsend but the other staff costs, repairs to the skittle alley roof, upgrades to the kitchen and drinks cellar and the hidden costs of TV and music licences all come at a significant financial cost on a low income. They continue to hold their weekly lottery draw that raises money for the school, preschool, Royal British Legion, First Responders, Horticultural Society and the Street Fair. The Bell team would like to thank the villagers for their valuable support, and look forward to the year ahead starting with the Street Fair.

18. Presentation from the Art Club – No report was received from the art club

19. Presentation from Winsham Horticultural Society

A Power Point presentation was given by John Llewelyn. The success of Open Garden event was reported, with the next one being held in 2023. The annual show was an enjoyable day with the car boot adding to the day. With membership at very reasonable rates people were encouraged to join. Upcoming events are; 7th May, 'Making your Garden More Climate Friendly' at Limekiln House; the Plant Sale at the Jubilee Hall on the 14th May and a talk has been booked for 13th November. Henk Beentje was thanked for his talk last year.

20. Presentation from the Joint Parish Magazine –

It was reported that subscriptions and advertising were both going well.

21. Presentation from Cake and Compost Gardening Group

A presentation was given by Judith Hill who started her report by saying how difficult it had been to come up with a name for the group. The scheme was started with the upcoming Jubilee in mind in order to provide some more colour in the village. They started at the end of Ebben Lane which will eventually have a bench fitted. The path from Western Way to the cemetery has been widened by removing the brambles, volunteers are now planting along this stretch. A dead hedge has been built to encourage birds, insects etc. Most of the laurels in the church yard have been cleared with further work to be done. There are plans to brighten up the area at the back of the bus stop. They meet most Saturday's, at Old Manor Farm, and usually have a group of 10 or 12. It's a social group with the added benefit of helping people's wellbeing, with cake and coffee being to most important part. If you are interested, please join us.

22. Winsham Poetry Reading Group

Brian Turner explained how this is principally a reading group and how over the various lockdowns the group have tried to meet to share poems. There are 17 members in the group and when restrictions lifted, they initially met in gardens, followed by several months when meetings were held by Zoom after which they started meeting in The Bell. This year they are going to try and

publish a book of Poems to sell at the Street Fair and the Shop to raise money for a local charity. He then entertained everyone with a short poem entitled 'A Pioneering Zoom'.

23. Presentation from Winsham Music Group

Brian Turner reported how the group was set up in 2016 who meet in people's homes as it is not suitable to meet in gardens. They have been trying to share a piece of music online each month. They plan to recommence their group listening at the end of June.

24. Presentation from Winsham Players

Brian Turner reported on how Winsham had a long involvement in amateur dramatics, but regrettably these are hard times. Partly due to the pandemic and partly due to a shortage of those willing to take part but hopefully volunteers will come forward. A number of the group have been going to the theatre, last week they saw an Agatha Christie play at the Octagon in Yeovil. They also organise monthly play readings in members' homes, choosing the play for the Performing Arts Library in Yeovil. Anyone wishing to join them in future for the theatre visits or play readings will be most welcome.

25. Presentation from the Winsham Walkers

Cllr Harding read a report provided by David Lester. During the year Peter Pye announced that he would be giving up leadership of the Winsham Walkers. Having only moved to the village in February 2021 David and his wife Diane were initially reluctant to take on the role but when it became apparent that the group was likely to fold altogether, they agreed. Since January 2022 they have led three walks, a local circuit, a circular walk from Chard Reservoir car park and a circular walk from Chardstock Community Hall. Future plans are to provide a range of local and further afield walks. New members are always welcome, and details of walks will be published in the monthly Joint Parish Magazine.

Meeting Closed at 9.25pm

Minutes approved at the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting on: 26th April 2023 – Minute No. 4

Signed: Chairman