

Winsham Parish Council Newsletter: Winter 2017

Issue: 1

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Greetings, & welcome to the first ever dedicated Winsham Parish Council Newsletter. There will be four issues a year; Winter, Spring, Summer & Autumn, & we decided against printing & posting copies to each household owing to both cost & environmental considerations, but - would you like your own copy? Drop us a line & let us know.

So, why a newsletter? We are very fortunate in Winsham to be blessed with excellent means of communication; the E-letter, the parish website, the joint parish magazine – but in amongst that, we've never really had a voice for the Parish Council. Granted, we've put the occasional articles & news items into the above means, but nothing dedicated to council & community business. Part of the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) assessment of what makes a 'quality' local council is for us to have means of communicating to the masses, so that includes what we already do (website) & social media (Twitter). But it also includes the more traditional means, a newsletter, for those who are not computer enabled or indeed, prefer the printed word. So here we are!

Throughout this newsletter, & future issues, you'll find summaries of some of the main news, offers, services & appeals that the Council is involved with or needs your assistance with. If anything grabs your attention, don't hesitate to contact us.

You all pay council tax & we then decide what to do with our portion of that (known as 'the precept') – be it cut the grass, repair seats & bins, look after the cemetery & the closed churchyard, maintain the children's play area, offer grants & subsidies, run events...the list goes on. So, if you have any feedback, ideas or suggestions, do let us know. We'd love to see more attendance at our monthly meetings. Appreciating that these are quite formal affairs, you also have the opportunity to field questions in a more relaxed environment at our monthly surgeries – see the diary dates elsewhere in this newsletter. So, don't be shy, get in touch!

Finally, I'd like to mention a special thank you to Portia of Octopus Small Business Solutions for her advice & support in making this newsletter a reality. So, until the next time, in 2018!



Jason Stevens
Chairman, Winsham Parish Council

Winsham Parish Council Receives Foundation Award



At the end of September the Parish Council found out that it had been awarded 'Foundation' status from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC)...*cont*

Winsham Parish Council Mission Statement

"The Parish Council seeks to foster true community spirit. We aim to encourage full co-operation between councillors - parish, district & county, & to residents & local businesses, thereby promoting a better quality of life for all residents & visitors alike, whilst improving local relationships to the betterment of all in Winsham Parish".

...This achievement recognises that the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement & council improvement. Moreover, Winsham Parish Council goes above & beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities & continuously seeking opportunities to improve & develop even further. I am absolutely delighted with us receiving this award. We've put a lot of effort into overhauling all our policies & assets & making sure everything we do is fit for purpose. We want to be seen as leading the way & we won't be resting on our laurels – we will be applying for higher levels of accreditation! I thank everyone involved with getting us this far.

Jason Stevens

Chairman, Winsham Parish Council



What does Winsham Parish Council do?

Winsham Parish Council, comprising nine councillors who serve a four year term, makes all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community.

Probably the most common topics that Parish Councils get involved with are planning matters, crime prevention, managing open spaces & campaigning for & delivering better services & facilities.

The Parish Council has the ability to negotiate with, & the power to influence, organisations that make the final decisions, such as other tiers of local government, health authorities, Police etc.

The council also has the power to raise money through taxation, the precept. The precept is the Parish Council's share of the council tax.

What Winsham Parish Council does:

- Looks after the interests of the community & its inhabitants
- Acts as a consultee for planning applications within the parish
- Contracts the grass cutting within the Parish, other

than areas owned by Housing Associations

- Manages & maintains one play area
- Maintains the Liberty Trail in partnership with Somerset County Council
- Provides Grit Bins
- Manages Winsham Cemetery
- Manages & maintains the Allotments & Winsham Community Resource Centre (WCRC)

The public are invited & welcome to attend Parish Council meetings. There is a period set aside before the formal start of the meeting for members of the public to raise any concerns or ask questions. Similarly, time is set aside for County & District Councillors to address the meeting.

The dates of meetings are published on our website: www.winshamparishcouncil.org.uk & agendas are posted on the Jubilee Hall notice board & on the website at least 3 clear days before each meeting.

Community Grants

The Council is delighted to announce recipients of grant funding - congratulations to the following organisations!

£2,000 to Winsham Primary School towards their laptop appeal.

£1,000 to Winsham Sports & Social Club towards refurbishing the toilets.

£200 to St Stephen's Church towards a new urn, better porch lighting & a lectern microphone.

Please keep an eye on our website for news on any possible future schemes.



Meet your Councillors

Monthly Parish Council surgeries are now running. These two hour open door sessions give you an opportunity to meet with councillors, outside of formal meetings, for advice & assistance, to give feedback or give us your ideas.

The next surgery is on Saturday 18th November 12pm – 2pm in The Bell – no need to book, please just turn up on the day.

All surgeries are planned for Saturdays 12pm-2pm & held in The Bell, although we do recommend checking with our website for any late changes to date, time & location

Please note, there will be no December surgery.

Date	Councillor 1	Councillor 2
18/11/2017	Nigel Eastick	Stu Davie
13/01/2018	Diane Wallbridge	Andrew Simkins
17/02/2018	TBC	Trevor Harris
17/03/2018	Jason Stevens	Rita Miller
14/04/2018	TBC	TBC

Traffic Calming



Many residents express their concerns about speeding cars & ask what can be done about it.

Councillors Rita & Andrew recently held a constructive meeting with the Somerset Traffic Officer, Gary Warren, to investigate options for calming traffic through the village.

A number of potential options were discussed:

- Illuminated signs
- Build outs/ chicanes
- Speed bumps
- Additional & better placed School signs
- Removal of the central white lines
- Drop kerbs – for better placed crossings
- Speedwatch - The Police & County Council endorse the use of Speedwatch as a way of monitoring speed within the village. **It helps any case for further enhancements.**

The Members have agreed to ask County Councillor

Linda Vejih to submit an application for a Small Works Improvement Scheme (Highways) on behalf of the Parish Council. This will be based on the recommendations from Gary Warren concerning traffic & calming measures in Winsham village, with special regard for the School.

To make our roads safer & increase the effectiveness of our application we need volunteers to join the Speedwatch team. Please contact **Trevor Harris** on **01460 30389**, or email **trevor.harris939@gmail.com**

Dog Fouling



There are a minority of dog owners who think that it is acceptable to allow their dogs to foul pavements, footpaths & recreation grounds. This is disgusting & antisocial behaviour.

Thankfully most people make every effort to clean up after their pets but there are still an inconsiderate few.

Anyone caught permitting their dog to foul in a public place can be fined up to **£1,000**.

Please clear up after your dog. Specific dog waste bins are in various locations throughout the parish.

Activities & Support for Kids & Teenagers - with money off!

The Parish Council has been looking at ways it can support kids & teenagers & provide activities. Whilst there's no club, as such, running in Winsham, there is one on our doorstep - Active Learning & Skills (ALS).

ALS is a not-for-profit organisation & currently delivers 12 regular evening sessions of exciting, fun-packed & relevant programmes, for different age groups in the towns:

- **Chard:** Chard Young People's Centre (approx. 4 miles)
- **Crewkerne:** The George Reynolds Centre (approx. 6 miles)
- **Ilminster:** Ile Youth Centre (approx. 10 miles)
- **Bridport:** Bridport Youth & Community Centre (approx. 12.5 miles)

Plus, they have the **ACE** Learning programme - designed to help young people of secondary school age or older, who are not in (or struggling with) full time education & training, & **YEP** (Youth Enterprise Project).

To get a real flavour of the activities & services on offer visit www.alsyouth.org.uk/what-we-do/ace-learning/

We said “money off”, & it’s true! At the Council meeting on 6th June 2017 the members unanimously resolved to offer subsidies to any activities booked with ALS. Any subsidies will be considered on a case by case basis with proof of booking being evidenced, & applies to residents of Winsham Parish only.

Please take a look at what ALS do, & get yourself involved – remember – Winsham Parish Council can help make the activities more affordable!

Christmas Tree event



The date is confirmed as Sunday 10th December & it will be held in its usual location, by the village cross, outside The George. Chard Town Band will be in attendance & there will be an abundance of mince pies & punch!

If you are interested in helping bring this wonderful event to life, the organising committee always need an extra pair of hands. It won’t happen on its own!

This event is not run by the Council, but by some fabulous volunteers, if you want to know more please get in touch with us & we can pass your details to the organisers.

Forthcoming Events



Parish Council Meetings

First wednesday of every month
7:30pm at the Jubilee Hall
Meeting dates can be viewed on the Parish Council website - winshamparishcouncil.org.uk

Remembrance Service

Sunday 12th November
3pm at St Stephen’s Church.
Followed by a procession up to the Winsham & Cricket St. Thomas War Memorial for wreath laying & Last Post.

Christmas Bingo – Winsham Preschool fundraiser

Saturday 25th November
Eyes down 7pm, Jubilee Hall.

Winsham Primary School Christmas Fair

Saturday 2nd December
11am – 2pm at Winsham Primary School.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Sunday 10th December

Village Shop AGM

Wednesday 13th December
6pm at the Jubilee Hall - all shareholders welcome

Business Forum Networking event

Thursday 15th February 2018
Jubilee Hall – time & details TBC.

Winsham Street Fair

Saturday 30th June

Phone Mast



As of Sunday 1st October, the new telecommunications mast in the Playing Fields became operational. This is great news for Winsham & its surrounds as it provides better mobile reception & 4G – finally! It also marks the end of an 18 month journey that the Council have been on to bring this much needed facility to the area. (Note: Networks using it are O2, Vodafone, Tesco & Giff Gaff).

If you have any comments or concerns about issues which affect the Parish, please contact:

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