



Winsham Parish Council Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting Held 10th January 2024

Present: Cllrs S. Love, K. Fowler, H. Beentje, S. Weller, J. Harding, F. Vickers

In attendance: Clerk to the Council R. Richards, three residents and Somerset Councillor Sue Osborne

0334 To Receive Apologies for Absence and to Approve the Reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllrs J. Everard and G. Earl and the reasons given approved

0335 To receive any Declarations of Interest – None received

0336 Members to fill the vacant position on the Council by Co-option – No applications received

0337 Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 6th Dec 2023 (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 6th December 2023 with the note on the recording of item 0322 being challenged with regards to the decision to write to the Street Fair Committee as it was felt it should have been put to a full councillor vote. Also item 0323 was challenged by a member of the public regarding the accuracy of this statement but the councillors disagreed with this

Proposed: Cllr Love **Seconded:** Cllr Weller **Vote:** 3-0-3 (Chairman's casting vote was used 4-0-3)

0338 Outstanding Items Update

- a) Update on the appointment of a new Bus Champion – No volunteer yet
- b) Update on whether Citizens Advice Somerset are regional or national organisation – This will be looked into further

0339 Planning Matters

- a) Members to resolve Applications received

Application Reference: 23/00790/FUL

Proposal: Provide off road parking for both 22 & 25 Western Way, works to include excavation of existing spoil banks, construction of retaining walls, steps and permeable hardstanding to provide parking for 3 vehicles RETROSPECTIVE

Location: 22 & 25 Western Way Winsham Chard Somerset TA20 4JH

Applicant: Alex Hanson

Comments Required by: 24th January 2024

Resolved: Members resolved to support to Planning Application 23/00790/FUL

Proposed: Cllr Vickers **Seconded:** Cllr Beentje **Vote:** 6-0-0

- b) Application Decisions received – None

0340 Finance

Proposals:

- a) To note the schedule of cheques as contained in the January List of Payments and approve the bank reconciliations for 2nd December 2023
- b) To consider the 3rd Quarter Spend to Budget report
- c) Members to consider the 2024/25 Budget Proposal

Resolved: Members noted the schedule of cheques and approve the bank reconciliations

Proposed: Cllr Harding **Seconded:** Cllr Love **Vote:** 6-0-0

Resolved: Members agreed the Spend to Budget **Proposed:** Cllr Harding **Seconded:** Cllr Beentje **Vote:** 6-0-0

Resolved: It was agreed an extraordinary meeting would be held 24th January to finalise the Budgets

Proposed: Cllr Love **Seconded:** Cllr Vickers **Vote:** 6-0-0

0341 Document Review – All documents have been checked for website accessibility

Proposal: Members to review and adopt the following policies:

- a) Social Media Policy
- b) Safeguarding Statement

Resolved: Members adopted both policies **Proposed:** Cllr Harding **Seconded:** Cllr Fowler **Vote:** 6-0-0

0342 Members to carry out the quarterly review of the Risk Management Scheme

Cllr Harding has identified some areas that need to be addressed. Including the effect of services devolution from Somerset Council and flooding issues

0343 Members to decide where and how to re-instate the S.A.C. Sign recently returned to the council

The sign to be assessed for damage and a decision made at the February meeting

0344 Members to discuss the Asset and Service Devolution letter received from Somerset Council

Very limited information has been provided by Somerset Council

0345 Members to agree the meeting dates for 2024/25

Resolved: Members agreed to accept the following dates for the 2024/25

2024 - 3rd April, 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th Sept, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December

2025 – 8th January, 5th February, 5th March **Proposed:** Cllr Weller **Seconded:** Cllr Harding **Vote:** 6-0-0

0346 Report from the Christmas Lighting Up event held on Sunday 3rd December 2024

The councillors commented on how well the event was organised and asked the clerk to write and thank the Street Fair Committee

0347 Winsham Village Calendar 2024 – Approved dates for the 2024/25 council meetings to be sent to the committee for publication

0348 Members to consider covering the cost of high visibility waterproofs and wellington boots for Flood clearance volunteers

The councillors appreciate the work of the volunteers but after considering the request it was agreed that the council would not be able to provide equipment. The main reason is that by supplying resources the council would be accepting liability and this would not be covered by the council's insurance.

0349 Items for Report

- a) Parish Assets:
 - ◆ Cemetery and Churchyard – Nothing to report
 - ◆ Lower Recreation Ground – **Action:** Clerk to approach Miles Logging for a quote to cut back the lower branches on the tree
 - ◆ Bus Shelter – Nothing to report
 - ◆ War Memorial – Repairs still to made by the Stone masons
 - ◆ Seating, Signage and Bins – Sandblasting sign posts was discussed
 - ◆ Telephone Box – Still being used, the outside will soon need refurbishing
 - ◆ Allotments – All good, letters re rent increases have been sent to all allotment holders
- b) Defibrillator – No further forward with a second one
- c) Web Sites – Nothing to report
- d) Public Rights of Way – Currently too wet, one north of Forde Abbey has recently been improved with new metal gate
- e) Grass Cutting Report – Nothing to report
- f) Gardening Group – Nothing to report
- g) Environmental Issues – Drains frequently get block and are being cleared by volunteers
- h) Highways and Bus Services – Pots on the road down to Broadenham Farm have recently been filled
- i) Reports from member representatives on outside bodies:
 - ◆ Jubilee Hall – Cllr Vickers gave a short report

- ◆ Winsham Recreational Trust – Cllr Harding gave a short report
- ◆ Winsham Community Resource Centre - Really full again, a decision needs to be made on the railings
- j) Clerk’s report and correspondence – see Agenda Notes
- k) Training – Nothing to report

Confidential Items

Proposal: Under Standing Orders 3d and 10xi the Parish Council resolves that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted (legal, personal or commercial), the press and public be excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

0350 Quotes for consideration and decision by Members

- a) Members to consider the Clerks Rate of Pay following the NJC Pay Agreement for 2023/24

Resolved: Members agreed to increase the Clerks pay to the new 2023/24 rate for her current scale Point

Proposed: Cllr Love **Seconded:** Cllr Harding **Vote:** 6-0-0

- b) Members to decide on a quote for replacement/repair of the wet pour surfacing in the Lower Rec Clerk to obtain quotes from Somerset Landscapes and Andy Peters before a decision is made

0351 Date of the Next Meeting – Wednesday 24th January 2024

Meeting closed at: 9.31pm

Minutes approved by Winsham Parish Council on: 7th February 2024 – Minute No. 0360

Signed: Chairman