



Winsham Parish Council Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 7th February 2024

Present: Cllrs J. Everard, S. Love, K. Fowler, H. Beentje, J. Harding, G. Earl, F. Vickers

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

0357 To Receive Apologies for Absence and to Approve the Reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr Weller and the reason give approved

0358 To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Harding declared an interest in Item 0366

0359 Members to fill the vacant position on the Council by Co-option

A ballot was carried out which resulted in Nathan Mode being elected to fill the vacancy.

Cllr Mode signed the Acceptance of Office declaration and joined the councillors

0360 Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 10th January 2024 and the Extraordinary Meeting held 24th January (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

Proposed: Cllr Harding **Seconded:** Cllr Beentje **Vote:** 5-0-3

Resolved: Members approved the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting

Proposed: Cllr Everard **Seconded:** Cllr Vickers **Vote:** 3-0-0

0361 Outstanding Items Update

- a) Update on the appointment of a new Bus Champion

Action: Cllr Everard volunteered to create a poster for the bus stop to try and find a volunteer

- b) Update on whether Citizens Advice Somerset are regional or national organisation

It was clarified that they are a regional organisation. Donation to be agreed at March meeting.

0362 Planning Matters

- a) Members to resolve Applications received – None received

- b) Application Decisions received –

23/02655/FUL Land At Swandown Cricket St Thomas Chard TA20 4DQ - Permitted with conditions

23/02562/S73A Midnell Farm Crewkerne Hill Winsham Chard TA20 4EQ - Permitted with conditions

0363 Finance

Proposals:

- a) To note the schedule of cheques as contained in the February List of Payments and approve the bank reconciliations for 2nd January 2024

- b) To appoint an Internal Auditor for the 2023/24 Annual Accounts

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

Proposed: Cllr Harding **Seconded:** Cllr Vickers **Vote:** 7-0-1

Resolved: Members agreed to appoint Microshade VSM to carry out the 2023/24 Internal Audit

Proposed: Cllr Everard **Seconded:** Cllr Love **Vote:** 8-0-0

0364 Document Review – All documents have been checked for website accessibility

Proposal: Members to review and adopt the following policies:

- a) Financial Regulations – No change

- b) Home Working Policy – No change

- c) Training Policy – Updated consistent with SLCC new model policy

Resolved: Members adopted all three policies **Proposed:** Cllr Beentje **Seconded:** Cllr Harding **Vote:** 8-0-0

0365 Sign Posts

- a) Members to decide what action to take regarding listed/heritage sign posts that have been removed by Somerset Council
- b) Members to discuss the need to clean and repair finger sign posts in the parish
Further research to be carried out regarding the number of signposts that need refurbishing or replacing.
- c) Members to decide on repairs and re-instatement of the S.A.C. sign
Repairs required to be assessed prior to the March meeting.

0366 Members to consider the Grant Application received from Winsham Street Fair

Resolved: Members approved the application for the full cost of the Road Closure of £575

Proposed: Cllr Love **Seconded:** Cllr Everard **Vote:** 6-0-2

0367 Members to decide on the date for the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

Members agreed to hold the APM on Wednesday 29th May on the provision that the Jubilee Hall is available

0368 Members to consider the Lengthsman duties that will need to be funded following Somerset Council's Services Devolution

Four tasks were identified as being something Winsham Parish Council would need help with. Removal of dog faeces; Clearance, digging of ditches, drains etc.; Drainage maintenance - cleaning existing grips and outfalls, localised ditching, hand cleaning gullies/channels, rodding of pipes; Removal of fly tipping. The form was completed and will be returned to Ilminster Council.

0369 Members to carry out the quarterly review of the Risk Management Scheme

Cllr Harding remarked that two items have been added and the need for councillors to go through the list item by item to make sure what is being done is sufficient to mitigate the risks.

0370 Chairman to report on the Insurance Considerations for Local Councils Briefing

Cllr Everard reported the things we need to consider are; making sure we are not underinsured, for instance the rebuilding of the Band Hut which has only been insured to rebuild on a smaller scale also the risk of copyright infringement.

0371 Items for Report

- a) Parish Assets:
 - ◆ Cemetery and Churchyard – Grass cutting bins have been cleared of non-compostable material by the gardening group.
 - ◆ Lower Recreation Ground – The area next to the new fence needs work to remove the stones and lay grass seed. Quote to be obtained for March meeting.
 - ◆ Bus Shelter – Nothing to report
 - ◆ War Memorial – Pointing still needs repair
 - ◆ Seating, Signage and Bins – Seats in the lower rec by the war memorial and the bus shelter need attention as does the one in the cemetery. Dog Waste bin previously approved to be purchased. Clerk to look at the cost of a digester dog waste bin.
 - ◆ Telephone Box – Nothing to report
 - ◆ Allotments – Nothing to report
- b) Defibrillator – Nothing to report
- c) Web Sites – Clerk to contact website host to find out why the PC site is not secure
- d) Public Rights of Way – Paul Welters is happy to start again as PRO. He has been asked to walk all the footpaths and report any issues as soon as possible to Somerset Council before funding runs out
- e) Grass Cutting Report – Nothing to report
- f) Gardening Group – Cllr Vickers gave a short report
- g) Environmental Issues – Report fly tipping of tyres to be checked and reported as necessary
- h) Highways and Bus Services – A report has been received from a concerned resident about the poor conditions of the pavements along Bakersfield, Davies Close and the Lower Rec. These have all been

report to Highways together with the photos provided. I will report back once a response has been received from Highways.

- i) Reports from member representatives on outside bodies:
 - ◆ Jubilee Hall -
 - ◆ Winsham Recreational Trust – AGM was held 26th January 2024. Four new trustees have been elected from the community club members and a new constitution has been approved and uploaded to the Charity Commission website. Cllr Everard thanked Cllr Harding for all the hard work he had put into making the changes happen and for explaining the situation well at the AGM so that everyone understood.
 - ◆ Winsham Community Resource Centre – Railings and church pews to be removed as soon as possible
- j) Clerk’s report and correspondence – see Agenda Notes
- k) Training – Cllr Vickers has been booked on Responding to Planning Applications

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.

0372 Quotes for consideration and decision by Members

- a) Members to decide on a quote for replacement/repair of the wet pour surfacing in the Lower Rec
It was agreed that more research needs to be done before a decision can be reached

0373 Date of the Next Meeting – Wednesday 6th March 2024

Meeting Closed at 9.43pm

Minutes approved by Winsham Parish Council on: 6th March 2024 – Minute No. 0376

Signed: Chairman