



Winsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on the 18th December 2024

0523 Present: Cllrs N. Mode, H. Beentje, K Fowler, J. Harding, G. Earl, L. Rich and T. Beer; Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

0524 Apologies for Absence and to Approve the Reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))

Cllrs J. Everard, S. Love

In the absence of Cllrs Everard and Love, Cllr Mode was nominated as Chair for the meeting.

0525 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fowler declared a personal interest in item 0526b(i) as a neighbour of the property.

0526 Minutes of the previous council meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

RESOLVED: Members approved the minutes of the meeting on 20th November 2024, which were duly signed by the Chair.

0527 Planning Matters

- a) New applications: None.
- b) Application Decisions/Notifications received:
 - i) 24/02900/TCA - Court Farmhouse Church Street Winsham TA20 - Notification of intent to carry out tree surgery work to No. 3 trees within a Conservation Area.
 - ii) 23/00529/S73A - Land West of Limekiln Lane Winsham TA20 4ER - Discharge of Condition No. 3 (Vegetation) and No. 4 (Trees and Hedgerow Protection) of planning application.

Councillors had no concerns or comments with either notification above.

- c) Planning updates and enforcement issues

A request for Cllr Everard to speak at the next Somerset Council Planning Committee (South) meeting has been requested to raise concern with regards to enforcement cases. Confirmation is awaited.

0528 Finance

- a) RESOLVED: To approve the latest financial report and bank reconciliations.
- b) RESOLVED: To approve the schedule of cheques as contained in the December List of Payments.
- c) Draft 2025/26 Budget:

A draft budget was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. In addition to review of the proposed budget lines, detailed discussions were held with regards to reserve levels and longer-term financial planning. The clerk highlighted that the council currently use an amount of unallocated general funds to make up the shortfall between the annual expenditure and the precept, which is the councils only guaranteed income, and that this needs to be considered when setting both the budget and precept for the next financial year to ensure both appropriate reserves and funds for operational costs are maintained. It was agreed to defer the decision on setting the budget to January, to give councillors time to review in detail and raise any queries and put forward any recommendations for consideration. Decision DEFERRED to January 2025.

0529 Flooding Resources

Councillors discussed potential grant funding from the SRA and felt that following the drainage works, flooding should be less of an issue but there may be an opportunity for funding to address issues at the upper recreation ground affecting properties on Bakersfield. Item to be discussed further in the new year.

Chard Town Council are to be contacted to establish if they have flood resources available for outlying parishes. **ACTION:** Cllr Everard/Clerk to contact Chard TC.

0530 Defibrillator for Davies Close

Match funding has been applied for via the Department of Health & Social Care and the outcome is awaited. There is possible full funding available from the British Heart Foundation, but needs written permission from the building owner before an application can be submitted. Once this is received an application can be made. **ACTION:** Clerk to submit application once information received.

0531 Purchase of lighting for the resource centre

Suggestion had been made to purchase solar lighting with the funds from the railing sale, but it was felt the damaged door needed attention and should be prioritised. The contractor who carried out the initial installation to be contacted to establish the position on repairs and a decision can be made following their feedback. **ACTION:** Clerk to contact the contractor.

0532 Updates and any actions on the following areas:

- a) Parish Assets:
 - iii) Cemetery and Churchyard: The Cypress due to be felled in January lost a branch during the recent storms which has been removed. **ACTION:** Clerk to follow up with contractor undertaking works to confirm a date.
 - iv) Lower Recreation Ground: No updates to report. Quotations for repairs are hoped to be received for the January meeting.
 - v) Upper Recreation Ground: The landowner to the north-west of the ground has been contacted and they have confirmed they are happy for the bracken in the boundary hedge to be cleared and whips planted. Volunteers will be sought to help with the planting.
 - vi) Bus Shelter: No updates to report.
 - vii) War Memorial: No updates to report
 - viii) Seating, Signage and Bins: No updates to report.
 - ix) Telephone Box: The phone box is kindly being looked after by residents.
 - x) Allotments: There is availability of 1 plot, any enquiries should be directed to the Clerk. A small area of plot 4 which has been split is available and it was suggested this could be used to temporarily plant the whips for the upper recreation ground.
 - xi) Winsham Community Resource Centre: No updates to report
- b) Defibrillator: No further updates to report.
- c) Web Sites: No significant progress, to be prioritised in January.
- d) Public Rights of Way: Some debris was found following the recent storms but this has been cleared where necessary. Paths have generally been found to be clear.
- e) Grass Cutting Report: Grass cutting has completed for the year.
- f) Gardening Group: No updates to report
- g) Environmental Matters: Mention was given with regards to the efforts, professionalism and courteous nature of the team working on the drainage in Church Street to alleviate flooding issues. Feedback has also been passed to Highways.
- h) Highways and Bus Services: Grit bins are beginning to be filled across the county.
- i) Reports from member representatives on outside bodies:
 - i) Jubilee Hall: It as reported that matters regarding the party wall are being progressed. A new heating system is being investigated.
 - ii) Winsham Recreational Trust: No updates to report.
- j) Training: Training dates will be circulated when received. Requests to attend training should initially be sent to the clerk.
- k) Clerk's report and correspondence:
 - a. The next LCN Highways meeting is on the 16th January 2025.
 - b. A consultation on the Somerset Council budget has opened and will close on the 22nd January 2025. Please see the following link [Budget Consultation 2024/2025](#)
- l) Outstanding items not covered by another agenda item: Councillors briefly discussed the possible ward boundary changes, but await further details from Somerset Council Cllr Osborne.

0533 Proposals for items for the next meeting.

- a) 2025/26 budget
- b) 2025/26 precept
- c) Ward boundary changes
- d) Review of councillor responsibilities

Motions for inclusion should be submitted by members to the Clerk in line with the councils adopted standing orders.

0534 Date of the Next Meeting – Wednesday 15th January 2025

The chair closed the meeting at 9.22pm.

Minutes approved by Winsham Parish Council on: 15th January 2025 – Minute No.

Signed:

DRAFT