



Winsham Parish Council Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on the 20th November 2024

Present: Cllrs J. Everard, S. Love, J. Harding, G. Earl, L. Rich, N. Mode, H. Beentje and T. Beer;
Mrs Larsson (Clerk)
Somerset Council Cllr S. Osborne

0508 Apologies for Absence and to Approve the Reasons given (LGA 1972 s85(1))

Cllrs J. Harding and K. Fowler

0509 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Beer declared and interest in item 0522a.

0510 Minutes of the previous council meeting (LGA 1972 sch 12, para 41(1))

The clerk noted an error with the attendees on the draft minutes, which has been corrected.

RESOLVED: Members approved the minutes of the meeting on 16th October 2024 as amended above, which were duly signed by the Chair.

0511 Planning Matters

a) New applications:

- i) 24/01993/FUL - The Old Farm House Down Lane Winsham TA20 4DH- Erection of 4m x 4m sheep shelter on 6m x 4m retained area of existing concrete

Following lengthy discussion, the council RESOLVED to OBJECT to the proposed application. The land is subject to an outstanding enforcement notice for which appeals were dismissed and the notice upheld by the Planning Inspectorate. The council concluded that the new application is contrary to the requirements for refusal of the enforcement notice and as such permission should not be granted. In addition to the outstanding notice, the council commented on harm which would be caused to the character and appearance of the area, overbearing and detrimental effect on public amenity which would be contrary to the terms of SSLP Policy SD1 as it would cause harm to the character and appearance of the area, and does not represent sustainable development and is therefore contrary to the terms of SSLP Policy SD1 and the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- ii) 24/02167/FUL - Land to The South of Cherington Court Street Winsham TA20 4JE - Erection of a new single storey dwelling and detached garage

RESOLVED to SUPPORT the application which will allow the owner/occupiers to remain in the village by creating a property suitable for future needs. The council commented that the placement of the development was well thought out and would cause no detriment to visual amenity.

- iii) 24/02143/FUL - Land at Whatley Hazelwood Hill Winsham - The erection of an agricultural barn

RESOLVED to SUPPORT the application on the basis that it would not be expected to have any detrimental effect on visual amenity and that the proposal includes additional planting to aid ecological habitats.

b) Application Decisions/Notifications received:

- i) 24/02516/TCA - Stuckey Farm Fore Street Winsham TA20 4DY- Notification of intent to Fell No. 2 Trees within a Conservation Area.

The council commented that consideration to felling both trees should be given, commenting that the Ash tree seemed crowded and due to issues with Ash dieback steps should be taken to ensure its preservation.

d) Planning updates and enforcement issues

No matters raised.

Initial

0512 Finance

- a) RESOLVED: To approve the latest bank reconciliations and new style financial report.
- b) RESOLVED: To approve the schedule of cheques as contained in the November List of Payments.

0513 Possible actions to improve the upper recreation ground entrance and alleviating issues with flash flooding

Possible solutions as advised by SC Highways were discussed but would all require significant funding. At this stage it was agreed that the feasible measures initially would be those implemented as part of the biodiversity plan, which was to be discussed in more detail under item 0514.

0514 Proposals for grass cutting and tree planting as part of the biodiversity plan

An updated proposal for planting and grass cutting at the upper recreation ground was presented by Cllr Rich. Councillors were supportive of the planting, but agreed that the owner of the perimeter hedgerows needed to be identified and their permission sought before any work affecting the boundary could take place. The principal idea of a reduction in grass cutting in certain areas was supported, but plans for future use of the football pitches is currently under discussion by the Winsham Recreational Trust. This will need to be re-visited once plans are clearer. RESOLVED to allocate £500 to the purchase of trees/shrubs for the planting.

Cllr Rich left the meeting to attend to a personal matter.

0515 Potential flooding resources for the parish

Resources for flooding were previously available from Chard Town Council and Somerset Council, although it is believed there was a requirement to collect them when needed. This will be investigated to see what arrangements and resources are available. To be updated at the next meeting.

0516 Provision of a defibrillator at Davies Close

Options for supply have been investigated with three different providers, and grant funding has been identified, which is a 50% contribution with remaining cost being £750. RESOLVED to a maximum sum of £750 being allocated to purchase of the defibrillator.

0517 Response to the Somerset Local Plan engagement exercise

Councillors agreed that responses should be in line with the parish plan.

0518 Updates and any actions on the following areas:

- a) Parish Assets:
 - iv) Cemetery and Churchyard: No updates to report.
 - v) Lower Recreation Ground: No updates to report.
 - vi) Upper Recreation Ground: No updates to report.
 - vii) Bus Shelter: No updates to report.
 - viii) War Memorial: No updates to report
 - ix) Seating, Signage and Bins: No updates to report.
 - x) Telephone Box: No updates to report.
 - xi) Allotments: No updates to report.
- b) Winsham Community Resource Centre: No updates to report
- c) Defibrillator: No updates to report
- d) Web Sites: Progress is slow, documents need to be manually downloaded from the current site which is taking time. WRT emails will need to be moved across when the transfer takes place.
- e) Public Rights of Way: No updates to report.
- f) Grass Cutting Report: Grass cutting has completed for the year.
- g) Gardening Group: No updates to report
- h) Environmental Matters: No updates to report.
- i) Highways and Bus Services: It was noted that an area of verge at the end of Western Way appears to have been fenced for private use and a highways sign has been obstructed by doing so. This will be reported to Highways to take appropriate action.

- j) Reports from member representatives on outside bodies:
 - i) Jubilee Hall: The hall broadband and telephone line contracts are due for renewal, as the phone line is no longer used by the council it was agreed this was not necessary if the hall did not want to keep the phone line and instead take an internet only contract.
 - ii) Winsham Recreational Trust: AGM is scheduled for January. Cllr Love reported the kitchen is being refurbished to comply with health & safety requirements, with the costs being covered by the WRT.
- k) Training: No updates. Future training dates will be circulated when received.
- l) Clerk's report and correspondence: No items in addition to those on the agenda.
- m) Outstanding items not covered by another agenda item: Reminder of LCN and LCN working group dates to be circulated to councillors.

0519 Proposals for items for the next meeting.

- a) 2025/26 budget proposals
Motions for inclusion should be submitted by members to the Clerk in line with the councils adopted standing orders.

0520 Date of the Next Meeting – Wednesday 18th December 2024

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.

0521 Local Government Services Pay Agreement: To note revision to the SCP salary rates effective 1st April 2024. Clerks hourly rate to be amended to reflect the new pay scales, with the increase backdated to 1st April 2024. The backdated increase will also be paid to the former Clerk as recommended by the National Joint Council for local government services.

Cllr Beer left the meeting at this point due to his declared interest in item 0522a.

0522 Members to consider quotes received

- a) Refurbishment of finger posts:
After lengthy review of the proposals for refurbishments and replacements of posts, councillors felt there were other priorities to address at this time, noting that there was not currently any budget allocated to the works. It was suggested that once appropriate Chapter * (or similar) training was available, that some works could be completed by councillors and/or volunteers. Possibility of any grant funding will also be looked into.
- b) Requirements and quotations for remedial works to play equipment:
Cllr Fowler was not present to advise on any costs he had established for works. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact appropriate suppliers to offer quotes for the work identified in the inspections.

The chair closed the meeting.

Minutes approved by Winsham Parish Council on: 18th December 2024 – Minute No. 0526

Signed:

Initial