

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 6th March 2002 at the Jubilee Hall, Winsham, at 8.00pm

592 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present:	Mr.C.Slade.	Chairman
	Mr.J.Sullivan.	Vice Chairman
	Mr.P.Pye	
	Mrs.A.Rose.	
	Mr. Keith Marsh.	
	Mrs. H. Duke	
	Mr. E. Partridge.	
	Mr.T.Fuller.	
	Mr.P.Love.	
District Councillor	Mrs.S.Abbey.	
Parish Clerk:	Mr.F.Vaughan.	
Apologies:	Mr.P.Pye	
Guests:	Inspector Mike Veale, Sergeant Rob Smith	

593 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman asked *Mr Graham Winter* if he would be prepared to speak to the Parish Council and to the members of the public present about the reduction in opening hours of the shop and Post Office. What follows is the Clerks summary of Mr Graham Winter's reply. 'I am still trying to sell the shop as a going concern. I am not deliberately jeopardising the business but it can not run at a loss, it is a business not a social service. There are approximately 300 properties in the village and the shop/Post Office needs a lot of support from the village. The income from the business must pay the bills & wages of the staff. Trade has declined and the income is now not enough to cover the cost of opening all day'. Members of the public spoke of their sadness about the closure of the shop/Post Office in the afternoons and concerns were expressed about the ongoing viability of the shop/Post Office.

594 A PRESENTATION BY SOMERSET AND AVON CONSTABLUARY

The Chairman thanked Inspector Mike Veale and Sergeant Rob Smith for attending the meeting. What follows is a brief summary of the Inspectors presentation taken from the Clerks notes. There are 137 parish councils in South Somerset, excluding Yeovil & surrounding areas, they all have similar problems and they are all pushing for extra police resources. Over the past 15 months the police have responded by increasing the number of Beat Managers in South Somerset from 1 to 15. It was pointed out quite firmly by the Chairman that Winsham has actually lost its local police contact in Roger Saunders, but apparently in relative terms Winsham is a quiet village community. Levels of sickness, currently running at 30% in the Chard and Iminster force has prevented any progress in achieving a Beat Manager for Winsham

and areas surrounding Chard. 'You are going to get a Beat Manager but I can not promise when' said Inspector Veale.

Chard is the police's busiest area and it is no accident that crime is on the increase, most being drug related. Heroin on the streets is weaker since the supply from Afghanistan has been curtailed. Users need more £10 bags and, recently there has been an influx of crack cocaine through Bristol.

Somerset is a safe place to live and the best way to keep Winsham's quiet village community safe is to employ crime reduction measures, keeping vigilant and taking common sense precautions to protect your property. The police encourage Neighbourhood Watch, Farm Watch, Shop Watch and Speed Watch. A Beat Manager's role, when we get one, is to co-ordinate these voluntary groups, also to work in the community with schools and parish councils. In the meantime we should report all crime, even the theft of a garden gnome. However crimes reported will be investigated further dependent on the police's ability to respond at the time and on the quality of the information supplied when the crime is reported. Reporting all crime offers the police a view of the whole picture; their objective is to target the offender not necessarily the individual crime. Again report the crime, but try and have some factual detail to hand, it is better to be able to say, my garden gnome was stolen by someone in a red car at 9pm, than just to say it was stolen.

The question was asked, 'what is the point of reporting a theft if you know that no action will be taken and, is this not a licence for crime as nothing will be followed up?' The police's response was 'work is done on all crime reports, spates of thefts are analysed, and we target the prolific offender not necessarily the individual crime'.

To summarise the individual should take his or her own crime reduction measures, bright lights, alarms and impenetrable hedges are a few; although not deterring the professional criminal it will help prevent opportunistic crime. Neighbourhood Watch is to be encouraged. All crime should be reported along with as much detail as possible, **phone 01275 818181**.

Members of the public were given the opportunity to ask questions.

595 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2002.

The Chairman signed these as a true record

596 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

No matters arising.

597 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Planning Application 02/00370/FUL Manor Farm Silage Pits @ Cricket St Thomas. There was no objection to this application.
- b) Planning Application 02/00376/FUL New Cladding The Dairy Buildings Cricket St Thomas. There was no objection to this application.

- c) Planning Queries on Applications 98/01742,01/00068 & A Listed Building Query for The George. Roger Wotton has visited these premises advising that retrospective planning applications are required at Laurel Cottage & Bridge Cottage. A meeting has been arranged for an internal inspection of the George.

598 AMENITIES

Agenda item suspended until April meeting.

599 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques were signed in favour of - Clerk's salary & expenses & Winsham Jubilee Hall Committee.

600 CEMETERY

Agenda item suspended until April meeting.

601 HIGHWAYS

- a) **AP 145 Clerk**, will confirm, or not, with Mr Geoff Mountjoy whether gullies have been cleared for the whole length of the B3162 through Winsham.

The Highway Report was held over to the next meeting.

602 JUBILEE HALL REPORT

Agenda item suspended until April meeting.

603 CORRESPONDENCE

- b) It was agreed to give a donation of £50 to the Women's Refuge.
- c) Correspondence regarding the churchyard wall is to be forwarded to Mr Peter Lacey. **AP 146 Clerk**.

604 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

Mr Ernie Partridge asked for a progress report on the War Memorial planning application. The Chairman indicated that the bus shelter & War Memorial work would now again form one application.

605 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Closure of the Post Office/Shop in the afternoons was discussed at length. It was felt that ultimately the shop & P.O. will shut altogether and that the Parish Council should immediately start contingency plans for this eventuality. Members were asked and offered to make their own enquiries into possible courses of action. The way forward will be discussed at the April meeting. **AP 147 All Members.**
- b) There was a constructive meeting with South Somerset Homes regarding siting the bus shelter. SSH will write shortly with their response.
- c) It was decided to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 17th April at 7-30pm in the Jubilee Hall.
- d) The Annual Meeting of The Parish Council will proceed the Ordinary Meeting on Wednesday 1st May 2002

606 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 3rd April 2002 at 8.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall.

The meeting closed at 10-15pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

ACTION POINT No	ACTIONED TO	PROGRESS	ACTION TAKEN
145	The Clerk	Completed	
146	The Clerk		
147	All Members		