

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE JUBILEE  
HALL WINSHAM ON *APRIL 30<sup>th</sup> 2003 at 7.30pm***

**DRAFT**

**ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Those present:      Mr.C.Slade.              Parish Council Chairman  
                         Mr.J.Sullivan.          Parish Council Vice Chairman  
                         Mr.& Mrs.Rose.  
                         Mrs.H.Duke.  
                         Mr.& Mrs.Pye.  
                         Mr.F.Vaughan.        Parish Clerk  
                         Mr Peter Harper  
                         Mr.R. Smart.  
                         Mrs.Stella Abbey District Councillor  
                         J Bone  
                         C Slater  
                         Belinda Harris  
                         Cynthia Peadon  
Apologies:            Mr.G.Crowden, Mr.J.Dorse.

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2002.**

The Chairman presented the minutes. It was agreed that they represented a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked the Officers who helped with the business of the Parish Council over the last year: -

- a) Ernie Partridge, Cemetery.
- b) Peter Pye, Hazel Duke, Lower & Paul Love Recreation Ground
- c) Dennis Shaw & Peter Pye Footpaths & Peter for organising walks.
- d) Geoff Peacock Trees
- e) Keith Marsh for Highways & lately Upper Recreation Ground Committee.

- f) John Sullivan Jubilee Hall & recent work on Village Web Site.
- g) Mary Pye Accounts
- h) Tony Fuller, Keith Marsh Winsham School
- i) Anne Rose Winsham Charity and attending SALC meetings
- j) Guy Crowden Neighbourhood Watch

This is the end of the Council Cycle, Ernie Partridge, Anne Rose & Tony Fuller have all decided not to stand again for election. Thanks for all their valuable work.

Guy Crowden is looking for a replacement to take over co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch. The vacancy has been advertised.

This years Parish Council Election: -

*(a) Nine electors for Winsham have been nominated. It was confirmed, on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2003, that the number of candidates seeking election equals the number of vacancies. The candidates are therefore elected unopposed.*

*Person's Elected are: -*

*Beer Roger William*

*Duke Hazel Dawn*

*Fewkes Simon*

*Harper Peter James Walton*

*Marsh Alan Keith*

*Pye Peter William*

*Slade Colin John*

*Slade Nicola Jayne*

*Sullivan John Shaun*

Ongoing from last year: -

1. Paul Love stood down & Roger Bear was co-opted.
2. The Parish Council has now received Listed Building Consent to rearrange the War Memorial steps and making the entrance/exit from the Lower Recreation Ground safer. This should attract grants from Friends of War Memorials. Ongoing, we have proposed to Highways further modifications to improve the junction at the end of Western Way, by constructing a wide footpath on the shop side of the junction, with a disabled ramp.
3. The Bus Shelter is under construction, with a planned completion date for the end of June. Somerset County Council contributed £6000-00 to the shelter. The PC has £2000-00 in reserve & will be borrowing a

further £3000-00 to complete the project. We had a large involvement in the siting of the new bus stops. I must thank to the Hammetts for negotiating a piece of the land for use as a bus stop for traffic from Chard.

4. Highways.
  - a) Colham Lane has been resurfaced.
  - b) We are still lobbying County Hall for 20 MPH a speed limit. This will happen outside all schools. The question is when? We are low on the priority list. Perhaps 'Speed Watch' is the answer?
  - c) Flooding has again been a problem. Roger Meecham from SSDC is producing a flood reduction plan.
  - d) White line markings are still being followed up.
  - e) We are in correspondence with Dorset Highways over the condition of the Axe Bridge.
5. The first Affordable Housing survey was completed last May with a very good response, showing a need for 6 dwellings. Since then there has been considerable progress. SSDC has appointed Mark Dillon as their Rural Housing Manager. Mark is now co-ordinating the project in Winsham. We have had a 'Task Force' meeting, only to identify potential sites. This is promising from a planning & highway viewpoint, but the outcome must depend on any land owners willingness to sell at the right price. 16 possible locations are under consideration. There will be a follow up needs survey to all households, again in May, with an advertising display of the project in the shop window, week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> May. It is important that we have another good response to the survey
6. The Village Web Site is under construction. In the near future all PC Minutes & Agenda will be available at <http://www.winsham.org.uk/>
7. We now have a Beat Manager (Roger is desk bound due to a shoulder injury, but you can contact him directly with local problems).
8. With a Full Council of 9 Members we qualify for Quality Parish Council status, this will allow the PC to take on some direct responsibility for services like, road sweeping & litter picking, demanding funds from the District Council.

Undoubtedly the great success of the year is the saving of the Post Office & Shop. Thanks to the efforts of the Shop Committee and all the people who generously bought shares & bonds.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Clerk presented the financial statement for years ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002, audited, and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003, not yet audited, explaining the details. Mr Roy Smart asked a question on VAT. He was reassured that VAT is being reclaimed although it is shown as zero in the income & expenditure actual, this being the correct accounting procedure.

## **REPORT BY UNITED CHARITIES**

Mrs Anne Rose presented the financial statement, which has been signed by the trustees, The Rev Mr Ernie Chivers Mrs Anne Rose & Mr Colin Slade.

The income to the fund was £569 this year. Grants of £200 have been distributed this year.

There are two funds, one, which makes small grants available to Winsham children moving on to university or into apprenticeships. The older fund was 'for relief of the poor' which is interpreted to meet present day issues. The charity is advertised once a year in the joint parish magazine, in the shop and Winsham School.

## **REPORT BY RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr Roy Smart presented the report.

Sporting activities have continued regularly through the year, the Cricket Club generally having a home match every other weekend and the 'Wednesday' team also playing at home every other week, from May to early September. The Football Club has two teams, so there is usually a match every Saturday during the winter months. Frequently both football teams meet up at the Club after their matches. Junior football training is due to start in May. The Short Mat Bowls Club meet regularly in the Pavilion every week. Their members have had major successes in local and county competitions.

Following a request that a skateboarding facility be provided, the Management Committee has agreed that a 'half-pipe' could be built in the corner above the pavilion, subject to agreement on the details. An independent group, including children, is working on this project and on fundraising. The cost is likely to be around £6,000.

The facilities at the Club have been kept in reasonable order, but the changing facilities are not up to today's standards.

Planning approval has been granted for the proposed new changing accommodation. There has not been any progress recently on grant applications, but it has been decided to set up a project committee again. Grass cutting has been undertaken by the Cricket Club for a fee of £400 p.a. There was rather a late start in 2002 because of problems with their machinery, resulting in complaints from the public because (a) the grass was too long, (b) noise for many hours of the day when work did start, and (c) grass cuttings left on the field, as is normal.

The Annual General Meeting was held in November, at which an attempt was made to elect a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, without success, Roy Smart having stated that he would not stand for re-election as Chairman.

A further open meeting was held in January, still with no officers being elected, but RS agreed to stay in office until the next AGM. Subsequent to the meeting, Stella Abbey agreed to become Secretary and her appointment was confirmed, with grateful thanks, at the next committee meeting.

The financial situation was stressed at both public meetings. The users of the facilities have been paying very low fees, with reliance on the Sports and Social Club to generate income. Unfortunately, the Club made a small loss in the year 2001-02, which has been remedied now, but an accurate figure is not yet known for 2002-03.

It has been learnt in the last few days that Winsham Cricket Club has apparently closed, but no formal notification has been received. This clearly results in further problems with finances and with grass cutting, for which alternative arrangements are being investigated.

Due to proposed changes in the Charity Commission rules, it is likely that the Recreation Ground, with receipts of less than £10,000 pa, will cease to be a Registered Charity at some point. This would not seem likely to make any difference to the operation of the committee, except for a little less paperwork.

### **REPORT BY JUBILEE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Mr John Sullivan presented the report. It has been a quiet year with no major problems. The garden is working out well.

Mrs Janet Smart has given up her work on the 100 Club; we need to keep it rolling, as it is a major source of fund raising. The work on the disabled access will be carried out through July & August. It will cost about £5,000. Grants are not yet approved. We have other sources of revenue, if things go badly on fund raising we can just about afford the project by taking money from reserves but this is dangerous.

Bookings are marginally up. The hall is well used. Mrs Stella Abbey asked, why are you late in approaching SSDC for grant aid? We have approached 'Awards for All' and hope to get 75% grant aid. Someone asked if planning permission had been applied for? No not yet but there should not be a problem. Some technical questions were asked but detail drawings were not available at the meeting. Someone asked if public toilets could be provided. The Chairman said in reality no because of ongoing cleaning & maintenance costs, which would have to be funded from the parish precept.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was a long discussion about unsocial behaviour and how to deal with incidents, keep diary sheets and write to your MP. There was considerable concern about the lack of police response to a 999 call. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2003 there as a serious incident of assault on Western Way. A call was made to 999 at 11-40 a.m. The Police arrived at 7-00 p.m. The Clerk took details and will write to the Chief Constable asking for an explanation.

Parking is still an issue for the people who own shares in the car park to the rear of Western Way. Some residents have paid for car park spaces and have notes written in their deeds. Other people leave cars there without road tax, abandoned car, what can be done? One suggestion was for residents to set up an association and write as a group to SSH. For abandoned cars contact SSDC.

There was a request for a dog bin on Court St. Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey reminded the meeting that there was no funding to empty any additional bins, this has been discussed at a previous PC meeting.

No further business. The meeting ended at 9-15 pm