

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 4th June 2003
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham, at 8.00pm.

DRAFT

817 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present:-	Mr.Colin.Slade	Chairman
	Mr John Sullivan	Vice Chairman
	Mrs Nicola Slade	
	Mr Peter Harper	
	Mr.Keith Marsh	
	Mr.P.Pye.	
	Mr Roger Beer	
	Mrs H Duke	
	Mr Simon Fewkes	
Parish Clerk:	Mr.F.Vaughan.	
District Councillor	Mrs.S.Abbey.	
County Councillor	Mr David Gordon	
Apologies:		
Present:	Residents from Western Way	
Absent:	None	

818 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Residents of Western Way enquired ‘what progress has been made regarding the concerns of residents from Western Way?’ The Clerk has received a reply from The Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police, only to say, expect a delay of about 2 weeks. The Clerk A.P.4 has been asked to write to Caroline Mathews SSDC Community Safety Officer for advice.

819 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

820 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7th May 2003

The Chairman signed the minutes of the AGM & the Ordinary Meeting as true records.

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

1. Speed Watch

South Somerset District Council is now supporting this initiative and, it is possible, at no monetary expense, for the Parish to get involved. It will however need volunteers, a minimum of four, to go through a

training exercise and be prepared, as a team, to work together on the highway. The police will carry out a risk assessment to find a suitable location in the village. The Parish Council agreed to support the project, but they need volunteers. Members pointed out two issues on the down side. Are we doing work that the police should be doing? Historical evidence shows that the people recorded as exceeding the speed limit are more that likely local people.

The Clerk A.P. 5 was asked to contact Roger Meecham SSDC to pursue the possibility of organising Speed Watch.

2. Quality Parish Councils

The Clerk was given authority, proposer Councillor Pye, seconded by Councillor Beer, to proceed with the application to become a 'Quality parish Council'. This was agreed on the basis that The Clerk will give his free time to qualify and the Parish Council will reimburse all expenses.

3. Skate Board Area

This project is now on hold. The Upper Recreation Ground Committee held a meeting, which was attended by some children, however there was a lack of parental support.

4. Charitable Contribution Criteria

Councillor Mr John Sullivan suggested the creation of a template of acceptability against which you could match all applications for money to screen out the majority, leaving the PC to consider individually those that match up.

The criteria suggested was: -

Q1.Does it relate to people (No animals or inanimate objects).

Q2.Is the Charity well known?

Q3.Is its work, now or potentially, likely to benefit some of our parish community?

Q4.Is its work likely to have popular appeal?

Q5.Its work generally seen as not having a political or religious viewpoint. (Abortion, immigration, Euthanasia, Racism etc. etc)

Q6.Is its work specific to Somerset or West Country generally?

A 'YES' would score one point .If it scores four or more it is worth bringing it to the council with a positive recommendation, if we have the budget.

It was agreed to use these criteria but all applications must come to the Council.

In this financial year £200-00 as been allocated for gifts to charities, to date £50-00 has been given to NSPPC.

822 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No Planning Applications this month.

823 AMENITIES

- a) Councillor Mr Peter Pye has carried out safety check on the lower recreation ground, (no immediate problems).
- b) Mr Pye was handed the SSDC report.

824 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques were signed for The Clerk's salary,
- b) The final accounts to 31st March 2003 were distributed to Members before the meeting. There were no problems with the accounts. The Chairman signed the accounts.
- c) The requirements for the Audit to 31st March 2003 were distributed to Members before the meeting. It was possible to answer YES to all questions asked. The Chairman signed the Audit.

Thanks to Mrs Mary Pye for all her work as the Internal Auditor.

825 CEMETERY

- a) As a response to a letter from Mr Loring, a flowering cherry is to be planted in the Northwest corner of the cemetery. Mr E Partridge was consulted on this matter.
- b) Councillor Mr John Sullivan has spoken to Mr Ernie Partridge, Ernie is happy to continue as the Cemetery Officer, with the help of Mr Sullivan.

826 HIGHWAYS

1. There was a meeting with Highways on Tuesday 13th June. Unfortunately the Clerk was confused with the dates and passed the wrong date to Councillor Mr Keith Marsh, apologies. At short notice Councillor Mr Peter Harper helped out. The Clerk submitted a report of the meeting: -

- (a) The reason given for not resurfacing the whole of Colham Lane to the junction at Back St. "The surface dressing was an overlay, which if applied at and below Lockwood Cottage would change the level & adversely effect water run off."
- (b) Tony Shire asked a question about ownership of the land directly in front of the George & Dragon House. Councillor Mr Simon Fewkes owns the land in front of the George & the Cross.
- (c) Improvements to Western Way exit & footpath widening are in the LTP program. The Parish Council will have an opportunity to comment on the design. The design will incorporate kerbing on the War Memorial side to protect the War Memorial. There will be a dropped kerb to the south of the shop & a dropped kerb at Pooles Lane.
- (d) Court Street should be programmed for future surface dressing. (Tony Shire agreed).
- (e) White lining or the lack of it was again emphasised. The call centre has been in touch & taken details (requested by David Gordon).

- (f) Flooding, drainage improvements are at the design stage for implementation in Q3. (Before winter).
- (g) PC needs to contact Colin Fletcher re Signing & Traffic Calming (Gates?)
- (h) Potholes, lanes to the west, Ammerham, Bridge & Leigh have had potholes filled.
- (i) Water problem on Pye Lane, potholes filled but wet in low-lying area, Anthony Warren to investigate field drain.
- (j) Junction at Bridge & Ammerham needs sweeping Highways to contact (SSDC Phil Jones).
- (k) Fore St up to the A30 potholes at Hill Barn Cottages, approach, dip & exit all need attention. Pothole at Greencombe Farm near farm entrance. Lower end near village needs sweeping; wash off still there since October 2002. Highways to contact (SSDC Phil Jones).
- (l) Road to Purtington covered in soil, mud & gravel, caused by traffic too & from lime pits, Clerk A.P. 6 to write to owner (Mr Whitehouse?).
- (m) Pond, near Windwhistle Farm silted up causing water on road & erosion. Highways to write to owner? Involve SWAG? It is believed that the pond belongs to Cricket St Thomas Estate? Clerk A.P. 7 to contact Mr John Taylors. Mr Dennis Howers had a motor cycle accident at this location.
- (n) Lime Kiln Lane (Purtington to Winsham) Road failed in parts & rOPY near Purtington. Road needs sweeping. Highways to contact SSDC (Phil Jones), can sweeper gain access? If not what?
- (o) Davies Close, apparently road surface defects within tolerance?
- (p) Street Farm, flooding on road & ineffective drain, Anthony Warren to monitor.
- (q) Dorset's work at Axe Bridge pointed out to Tony Shire, they can white line, what about Somerset?
- (r) Trees outside Plumb Tree Cottage, Tony Shire suggests in the first instance the PC write to the owner. Clerk A.P. 8
- (s) An SSDC issue, yet again a resident of Winsham (Julian Dorse) has found it necessary to arrange for the roads around the village to be manually swept. The PC says thank you to Julian. Where are the services from SSDC?

The Chairman wants the County Council to take the initiative on all 'Highway Issues' in future.

2. The County Council has set up a 'Highway Control Centre' to deal with enquiries, fine but the Parish Council has lost its direct contact with appropriate Offices. This is seen as a backward step. The Clerk A.P. 9 is to write to Geoff Dight expressing strong disapproval believing that the PC should be able to contact Officers directly.

3. Dorset County Council has done some white lining at the Axe Bridge and plans to sign the approaches with road narrows & flooding.

827 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Criteria for 'Dealing with Correspondence'. It was decided that the Clerk should copy all important, i.e. not circulars, correspondence to at least two appropriate Members before the meeting.
- b) Neighbourhood Watch

A letter from Mr Guy Crowden outlined the following: -

The 'Neighbourhood Watch' scheme in Winsham will not remain 'active' beyond July unless a co-ordinator comes forward. There will be no contact point to which the police can pass 'Watch Information', Horse Watch, Farm Watch etc. There will be no feed back procedure, unless individuals dial 01275 818181 at Portishead. Local co-operation with the 'Beat Manager' will be affected. Can you really still claim your home insurance discount if there is no active Neighbourhood Watch?

The Parish Council asked The Clerk to advertise the vacancy again. This has been done. There is support both practically and financially. There is the 'Neighbourhood Watch Administration Office' in Yeovil and the services of the 'Local Crime Reduction Officer' plus the 'Local Connection' with the 'Beat Manager'. On the financial side there are still funds in the kitty locally and there are grants up to £1,000 from 'Safer South Somerset Partnership'. (Note Mr Crowden has asked for a further item to be placed on the July agenda.

- c) Donation to Victim Support, it was decided not to donate to this charity at this time.
- d) SALC Events, new Members were offered training courses.
- e) Air Ambulance (Donation), it was decided to donate £50-00.
- f) Somerset Community Recycling. This scheme is now up and running. Questions were asked, is it an efficient use of resources? Collecting small amounts of recyclable material from rural locations may not cover costs!
- g) Road Safety Guide was made available to Members.
- h) Rural Housing Awareness Event (Saturday 5th July). Information was made available to Members.

828 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

1. Councillor Mr Roger Beer questioned whether Cooks or the County Council gave much thought to the narrowness of our laned when they chose the type of bus used on the 99 Service? With leave of the Chairman County Councillor David Gordon replied that the bus design had to comply with EEC regulations on isle widths and must therefore be wider.

829 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Web Site.

Councillor Mr John Sullivan passed around a hand out and then gave a small presentation on the structure of the web site. The site is now operational. There was a long discussion on whether local businesses should be approach for advertising on the web site. It was decided to place an item on next months agenda.

2. War Memorial Damage.

On Thursday 22nd May a lorry hit the Railway Bridge on the Dorset border. It could not get under the bridge, so the driver proceeded to reverse all the way back to Western Way. In an attempt to turn around he then continued to reverse into Western Way. The vehicle then emerged, only to hit and damage the War Memorial. Fortunately there were witnesses who took note of the registration, M 382 KYA.

Because of high annual insurance premiums, 10% of rebuild costs, the War Memorial is not insured, therefore the Parish Council must attempt to recover costs from the vehicle owners. Our Chairman reported the accident at Ilminster Police Station. The Police would not release the address of the registered vehicle, because of the rules of the 'Data Protection Act'. A Police Officer must take witness statements and then another Officer in some distant corner of the British Isles must contact the owners with a summons. The Parish Council is awaiting information from the Police.

3. War Memorial (Estimate for Works).

The Chairman has agreed to obtain estimates for the damage repair and separate estimates for the job of realigning the steps.

4. Bus Shelter Progress

The Chairman reported that progress was good, the oak for the upper part of the structure has been obtained locally and originated from Forde Abbey.

830 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 2nd July 2003 at 8.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall.

Signed.....Date.....

ACTION POINT No	ACTIONED TO	PROGRESS	ACTION TAKEN
4	The Clerk	Completed	
5	The Clerk	Completed	
6	The Clerk	Completed	
7	The Clerk	Completed	
8	The Clerk	Completed	
9	The Clerk	Completed	