

**WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th May 2003**  
**At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham, at 8.00pm after the AGM.**

**803 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:	Mr Frank Stuttard	
Absent:	None	

**804 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*Mr Frank Stuttard* asked ‘what progress has been made regarding the concerns of residents from Western Way?’ The Clerk has written to South Somerset Homes and The Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police. (Replies are now available).

**805 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**806 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2003**

The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

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

**1. Affordable Housing**

. The ‘Task Force’ met and looked at sites for ‘Affordable Housing’ around the village. Sixteen plots of land have been considered for potential sites. The Parish Council is involved in the discussions but

the choice of favoured plots must remain in the hands of the professionals, and of course the landowner has to be willing to sell at the right price.

The new questionnaire on Rural Housing was circulated to Members, before the meeting, for comment. Mr John Sullivan proposed that the wording be accepted. The Clerk suggested an amendment to box F adding Chard as an adjacent town. The wording was agreed. The Housing Needs Survey will be distributed to all households in the Parish week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> May. Mr Keith Marsh & Mr Peter Harper offered to help with posting the survey. To coincide with the survey distribution there will be a display on 'Rural Housing' in the shop window, thanks to Winsham Shop Ltd.

## **2. Countryside Rights of Way**

In February the PC received a letter from County Hall Rights of Way Group asking for comments on improvements to Rights of Way around Winsham. Councillor Mr Peter Pye took on this project and has now reported back with detailed plans for improvements in four locations. Copies of an amended map were passed around. It was decided to adopt the suggestions and the **Clerk A.P. 1** was asked to forward the report to Sarah Littler Team Leader Rights of Way Improvements Somerset County Council County Hall Taunton TA1 3JR 01823 355604 [slittler@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:slittler@somerset.gov.uk) The project is part of a 5 year plan so immediate results will not be seen.

## **3. Quality Parish Councils**

Winsham Parish Council can qualify as a Quality Parish Council. It has met the initial criteria; it has an electoral mandate. A document outlining the pros & cons was distributed to all Members for comment at the next meeting.

## **4. Village or The Year Competition.**

Councillor Mr John Sullivan has submitted an application for Winsham.

## **5. Skate Board Area**

This item has been deferred to the June meeting.

## **6. Tree Planting ( Memory of Jan Loaring )**

In response to a letter received on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2003, the PC has agreed to a slow growing tree, planted in a corner of the cemetery. After further discussion with Mr Ernie Partridge it has been agreed that a flowering cherry type tree can be planted in the north west corner near

the seat. Mr Loaring to provide protection for the tree from wind & rabbit damage.

## **808 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

1) Planning Application 03/00942/FUL Erect Fence 17 Church St.

The Parish Council has been asked to comment on the appearance & visual impact of this fence with respect to the conservation area and the listed building.

The comments in the listed building register refer to the frontage of the houses with a reference to their group value, being opposite St Stephens Church. It is obvious that this application has no impact on the frontage of the properties. If the previous aspect to the rear of the properties was open plan then there is obviously a visual impact, but this is not apparent to the general public. The fence is of a temporary nature being of wooden construction and over the long term can be removed easily. For these reason the Parish Council has no objections to the fence, but request a condition be placed on the application whereby the fence always remains as a temporary structure allowing the possibility of the land reverting to open plan in the future.

2) Planning Application 03/00533/COU&LBC Barns Whatley Farm. The Parish Council reluctantly notes the comments of the Development Control Officer re: 'historical consents relate to the access in the current position', as applied for. The Parish Council therefore can not object to this application on highway grounds, however they still think there is a traffic hazard but given the circumstances, reluctantly recommend the application be granted.

3) Planning Application 03/00593/FUL Mill Brook (Demolition & Rebuild). The Planning Committee gained access to the site on the evening of Monday 14th April. They are still of the opinion that the application should be refused for all the reasons stated below.

a) In relation to adjacent property the site is a monstrous over development and is not a replacement dwelling in the countryside. At present the neighbouring property is the predominant structure. This would change if the development were allowed to proceed. The committee would like to have seen a more detailed site plan showing the relationship of the two buildings. It is feared that the new structure would have an overbearing impact on the adjacent house.

b) The base plan of the proposed development does not accurately reflect the contours of the existing building. The walls of the existing building are angled. This is not represented in the base plan of the proposed building. The base plan of the proposed building appears to be larger than the existing structure. The committee would like to have seen a detailed drawing of the existing structure, to enable a before and after comparison.

c) Flooding is a major concern. The committee would like to see a flood assessment of the site.

d) Are the foundations below cill height sufficient to carry the second story?

4) Planning Application 03/00555/LBC War Memorial (Granted)

## **809 AMENITIES**

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

## **810 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) Cheques were signed for The Clerk's salary, NSPPC, Allianz Cornhill & SALC.
- b) The Bank Reconciliation for year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2003 was presented by the Clerk. It was decided that **The Clerk A.P. 2** should complete the accounts for year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2003, presenting them to all Members well in time for the June meeting.

## **811 CEMETERY**

- a) Please refer to earlier comments, re letter from Mr Loaring.

## **812 HIGHWAYS**

Councillor Mr Keith Marsh has updated the spreadsheet on 'Highway Problems' and has sent it to Mr Tony Shire. A meeting has been arranged with Highways. Topics are many, but should include the pond at Purtington, manual sweeping at Purtington, the 'Road Sweeper' will not fit down the lane, trees on the side of the road at Plum Tree Cottage Winsham & white lining at critical road junctions in the parish.

County Councillor Mr David Gordon attended the meeting at this point, what about progress on our 20mph limit past schools asked the Chairman? 'I have been through the formula again with the Officers but the priorities do not favour Winsham'. How come 'Urban Areas' can get 20mph asked the Chairman? That is a different budget said Mr Gordon, we are still 3 or 4 years away from achieving 20mph in Winsham. Councillor Mr Simon Fewkes asked the obvious question, why could not the PC simply erect its own signs. Bureaucracy is the answer.

County Councillor Mr David Gordon suggested that the PC look towards other ways of speed management, gateways for example.

'Speedwatch' and the 'Safety Camera Partnership' are these not just yet other jobs the Police should be doing, are we getting value for money from the Police asked Councillor Mr Peter Pye. **Speedwatch will be an item on the June agenda.**

## **813 CORRESPONDENCE.**

- a) Data Protection Act (Confirmation of Entry on Register).
- b) Donation to Victim Support & Air Ambulance, it was proposed by Councillor Mr John Sullivan, to review the criteria for donations, certainly an item for the next agenda.
- c) Developing Community Hospitals (Consultation). Paperwork taken away by Councillor Mrs Nicola Slade.

- d) SALC Events. New Councillors were made aware of future training events.
- e) CVS News, made available to Members
- f) Somerset Community Foundation (Funding Source Skate Boards!).  
Councillor Mr Keith Marsh was given the correspondence

**814 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME**

No Questions

**815 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 1. Councillor Mr John Sullivan has taken photographs of all Members & The Clerk for inclusion on the Web Site.
- 2. **The Clerk A.P. 3** was asked to seek the advice of SSDC's Tree Warden with regard to the condition of the Yew Tree in the Church Yard.

**816 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2003 at 8.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall.

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

ACTION POINT No	ACTIONED TO	PROGRESS	ACTION TAKEN
1	<b>The Clerk</b>	Completed	
2	<b>The Clerk</b>	Completed	
3	<b>The Clerk</b>	Completed	