

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

*Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 3rd December 2003
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham, at 8.00pm.*

DRAFT Issue1

893 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present:-	Mr.Colin.Slade	Chairman
	<i>Mr John Sullivan</i>	<i>Vice Chairman</i>
	<i>Mr Peter Harper</i>	
	Mr.Keith Marsh	
	<i>Mrs H Duke</i>	
	Mr Roger Beer	
	<i>Mr Simon Fewkes</i>	
Parish Clerk:	Mr.F.Vaughan.	
District Councillor	Mrs.S.Abbey.	
Apologies:	Mr.P.Pye, Mrs Nicola Slade, Mr David Gordon	
Public Present:	None	
Absent:	None	

894 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

895 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

District Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey reported on a pilot scheme set up by SSDC, the introduction of a 'Length Man' for street cleaning. There would be a named individual in each village, paid by SSDC, who was responsible for the manual street cleaning & litter picking. If the pilot is a success it will be introduced District wide. The Officer at SSDC in charge of 'Street Scene' is James Parry. The Chairman could see potential health & safety issues, but remained hopeful that the pilot would succeed. Clerk's comment, draft issue only, (Perhaps the threat of Quality Parish Councils having the right to take on the street cleaning budget is having an influence already?).

SSDC are promoting 'Parish Plans' perhaps Winsham should revisit this issue? Councillor John Sullivan commented that the issue was looked into thoroughly in January 2002 where a decision was made not to proceed.

Councillor Abbey made a final comment that 'many of SSDC's new financial burdens are government lead, where responsibilities, such as licensing, have been taken from magistrates and placed with the Local Authority without a transfer of funds to match'.

896 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman declared an interest in agenda item 12b. It was decided to move this item to the end of the agenda. The Chairman left the meeting before this item was discussed. For completeness of the minutes the item will be reported as 'Correspondence, War Memorial Access Estimates', at its original place in the agenda. Mr John Sullivan was elected Chairman for this item only.

897 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st October 2003

Councillor Mr Peter Harper pointed out an error in the minutes. Councillor Harper was not in attendance at the meeting of 1st October & sent his apologies. This error was corrected. The Chairman then signed the minutes as true records.

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

- a) Cyber Café, The Clerk read out, in summary form, an email from Mr & Mrs Robert Shearer, proposing the idea of a cyber café for the village and asking for the PC's support. The PC's view is that the principle is good but an organisation needs to be put in place which is capable of putting forward realistic plans to make a project work financially and practically, grants, building space and supervision. If a viable business plan is produced the PC will seriously consider the project.*
- b) Most of the graffiti at the bus shelter has been removed. However there still remains a concern about children gaining access to the roof space, which is misuse of the facility. How far should misuse be a consideration in risk assessment and what would be considered reasonable to prevent misuse. Is a sign sufficient or is a physical barrier needed, especially where a physical barrier would distract from the aesthetic appearance of the building? **The Clerk A.P.28** to ask the insurance company for guidance.*
- c) An update of the Rural Housing Project was made available to Members.*

899 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Notice 03/03140/TCA 29 Church St Tree Surgery. Application approved by PC*
- b) Permanent Diversion of Bridleway at Greencombe Farm CH30/19. Application approved by PC.*
- c) Draft Local Plan (17th December Crewkerne). Members made aware or dates.*

900 AMENITIES

- a) Items deferred to January meeting.*

901 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques were signed for the Clerk's Salary, Grass Cutting & Age Concern.*
- b) Upper Recreation Ground grass cutting. In the absence of any business plan for the future or documentary evidence of how current monies are allocated to recreation*

ground maintenance the PC, at this time, is unable to allocate a specific amount of money to the Recreation Ground Committee. They do understand that there are uncertainties, will the cricket club re-form? Also that the Social Clubs ability to raise or provide funding for ground maintenance is limited by the poor condition of the facilities on site.

A decision was made to increase the contingency element of the precept 2004-2005 sufficient to allow for minimum ground maintenance should this responsibility fall back on the PC's resources. The PC is not closing the door to the Recreation Ground Committees request, but asks that a forward plan be produced, outlining the scope of ground maintenance necessary, how this is funded at present and how it is seen that future funding can be achieved.

- c) It was decided to give a donation of £50-00 to Age Concern but at this time not to give a donation to Victim Support.
- d) On the matter of Councillor's allowances it was decided unanimously that Councillors would not take the option of the 'Basic Allowance', which is now available to them under the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) Regulations 2003. They would however retain the option to claim out of pocket expenses when travelling outside the Parish on Council business.
- e) After taking into account the above issues it was decided that the precept for 2004-2005 could be set at £7770-00 a decrease on last year of 0.2%. There was an additional amount of money allocated to the essential repair of cemetery headstones (£280-00). Also an allocation of £200-00 for expenses in achieving Quality PC status.

902 CEMETERY

Representatives of the families concerned agreed that the provision of new gates for the cemetery would be a good idea. The Chairman is to formulate some plans.

903 HIGHWAYS

Councillor Keith Marsh reported that Highways are going to take another look down the drains with a camera. The white lining team will return to complete their job, when it isn't raining. Any road resurfacing will have to be planned for next year, when it isn't raining. Highways are taking advice on whether they can release the 'Methods Statement' on road repairs! The PC requested this 'Methods Statement' to enable them to check on the quantity of contractor's work.

It was decided that the way forward, to make progress with highway repairs was to have a joint approach with other PC's in Area West. The Clerk has a data base of addresses & Councillor Marsh will draft a letter asking for support from other PC's, Dowlish Wake, Tatworth & Forton also Chillington have the same problems as Winsham.

Councillor Peter Harper is, yet again, concerned about the condition of the road into Purtington. The District Council has just swept the road, where upon the farmer has covered the road again in mud. This is a matter for Highways. The PC has previously corresponded with the farmer & copied correspondence to Tony Shire. It is Tony Shires responsibility to take action against the farmer. The **Clerk A.P. 29** will copy all correspondence to Councillor Harper.

Problems with the disabled access at the bus shelter will be brought to the attention of Highways. The Clerk has learned from Councillor Marsh that Geoff Dight; Highways Manager will visit Winsham on Friday 19th December.

904 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) *Council Tax (Have Your Say), correspondence was made available to Members*
- b) *War Memorial Access Estimates*
- c) *Flax Hemp & Rope Project, correspondence was made available to Members*
- d) *Adult Learning for the Community (Free Residential Course @ Dillington House), correspondence was made available to Members*
- e) *SALC Meeting 8th December, time expired.*
- f) *Somerset Schools Need Governors, The Clerk is to publicise the information available, via an article in the parish magazine. (Done)*
- g) *Community Update, correspondence was made available to Members*

905 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

- a) Councillor Marsh asked why the Police had not attended this meeting. The Clerk has written again to Inspector Saban with an invitation for Sergeant Smith to attend the January meeting.
- b) The Police Community Vehicle visits during the daytime, how about evening visits? The Clerk will ask.

906 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman asked if the Clerk had any information on the progress of the planning application 03/02527/COU Workshop COU to non-agricultural Activities @ Cricket St Thomas. I will ask John Sneddon.

907 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 7th January 2004 at 8.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall.

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

ACTION POINT No	ACTIONED TO	PROGRESS	ACTION TAKEN
28	The Clerk		
29	The Clerk		

