

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2004
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham, at 8.00pm.

DRAFT Issue 1

908 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present:-	Mr.Colin.Slade	Chairman
	Mr.Peter Pye	
	Mr Peter Harper	
	Mr Roger Beer	
	Mrs Nicola Slade	
Parish Clerk:	Mr.Frank Vaughan.	
District Councillor	Mrs.Stella Abbey.	
Apologies:	Mr John Sullivan, Mr Simon Fewkes, Mr.Keith Marsh, Mrs Hazel Duke.	
Police:	Sergeant Rob Smith No 3150	
Public Present:	None	
Absent:	None	

909 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

910 POLICE REPORT AND QUESTIONS

Members were pleased to welcome Sergeant Rob Smith from Avon & Somerset Police to our meeting. Sergeant Smith briefly outlined what had happened with policing in Winsham in the past and what was likely to happen in the future. I paraphrase as follows: -. "Over the past couple of years the Somerton Sector, which includes Chard & Winsham has been managed by three different Inspectors. Members will recall that I last attended a Parish Council Meeting here with Inspector Mike Veale in March 2002, our present Inspector is Peter Saban. Over the intervening period we have had different approaches to policing in the villages and different approaches to community contact. You did have a Beat Manager for a time but with other calls on resources, for example the directive to reduce street robberies by the end of September 2003, the ability to maintain a Beat Manager has been frustrated. Our call centre at Portishead has been going through a difficult period whilst new staff are being trained and the people of Chard and surrounding villages have been inconvenienced by the temporary closure of Chard Police Station. Rural communities may feel that they are not being policed, this cry is not a new one, you can rest assured that you are policed whether you see us or not. A Bobby on the beat is a bit like snow at Christmas, something you always want, but at present with 23 parishes in our sector we can not always be visible. Specific problems can be and are targeted. The day when an officer walks the beat in a village is never likely to be seen again".

Councillor Mr Peter Pye made the point about the importance of community contact with the police, without a Beat Manager what is the way forward? Again I paraphrase Sergeant Smith. "I will be introducing the policy of the 'Golden ½ Hour' of visible patrolling, being in the right place to be seen at the right time, for example being outside schools as the children are going home in the evening or being outside the Post Office

on pension day. I will come back to this meeting in three or four month's time to see if the perception of visible policing has improved. You will have seen the 'Community Contact Vehicle'. This presents an opportunity for members of the public to sit down and talk over their problems with a member of the police service, on a regular basis about once a month. The next visit to Winsham of the police 'Community Contact Vehicle' will be Thursday 12th February between 12-30 and 13-30 outside the Jubilee Hall".

The Chairman suggested that the 'Community Contact Vehicle' should be available in the evenings, for the benefit of people who work. Sergeant Smith indicated that this could be arranged.

Councillor Mr Peter Harper asked for some clarification on when to dial 999 or when to contact the call centre. " If it is an emergency and you need the police now, a matter of life and death or a robbery in progress call 999. If you are in doubt about what to do then call 999. To report an incident after the event then contact the call centre or the local station.

Councillor Peter Pye pointed out the difficulty the Parish Council are having in locating the driver or owner of a lorry which damaged the War Memorial. Sergeant Smith sympathised with the Parish Council & offered to help. The Clerk A.P.30 will email Sergeant Smith with details.

Members thanked Sergeant Smith for his honest presentation; they very much appreciated his attendance at the meeting

911 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

District Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey reported that Local Plan consultations are ongoing with meetings on 15th & 22nd January, key sites in Crewkerne are controversial. The Local Plan will not be signed & sealed until the end of this year. Members commented on the large amount of money being spent on the Local Plan, was the outcome worth all this much Officer time?

Mrs Stella Abbey also reported: - that the Sports and Social Club has now got its licence. Building repairs to the roof of the club are now complete; fire prevention issues are being addressed. The Sports and Social Club and the Recreation Ground Committee still have serious problems to deal with.

912 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

913 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd December 2003

The Chairman signed the minutes as true records.

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

- a) See Police Report above.

915 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Planning Applications, Barn Conversions @ Whatley Farm Granted by SSDC* (with conditions).
- b) Planning Application 03/02355/OUT Telephone Exchange Site, Granted by SSDC*(with conditions).
- c) Trees in Conservation Area 03/03140/TCA, Granted by SSDC

916 AMENITIES

- a) Councillor Mr Peter Pye: - wonders if it is still worth while for the Parish Council to continue maintaining the Lower Recreation Ground and the amenities. With all the current regulations and the emergence of a 'claim culture', watching your back seems to be the order of the day. For example the recent 'Play Area Inspection Report' submitted to the P.C. by SSDC quotes '3 out of 4 chains are badly worn on the 4 Flat Swings, replace ASAP'. Where is the science behind this report or is this an opinion of an SSDC Officer who is being careful. If we follow all the recommendations on this report to the letter it would cost the P.C. a considerable amount of money, yet it is the P.C. at the end of the day who is ultimately responsible for safety.
Councillor Pye is questioning the science behind the recommendations made by SSDC. It was decided to arrange for Members to be present at the next play area inspection carried out by SSDC. (Les Braunton will contact Councillor Pye).

917 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques were authorised for the Clerk's Salary, SSH (Bus shelter lease), John Sullivan (Parish Guide expenses plus Domain Name), Chard Digital Print and K.D.J.Slade & Sons (Cemetery path).

918 CEMETERY

The Chairman has received favourable comments on how tidy & well presented the cemetery looks.

919 HIGHWAYS

Councillor Keith Marsh recently had a site meeting with Geoff Dight from County Highways. There were encouraging noises with respect to protection for the War Memorial and an acknowledgement for the poor standard of repair carried out by contractors but a disappointment that no maintenance is now being done to minor roads, priority being given to 'A' roads.

Councillor Peter Harper is following up the mud issue on the road to Purtington. The Clerk A.P.31 was asked to write to Tony Shire pointing out that the road from Purtington to Windwhistle is sinking & that the water flowing onto that road from Mr Taylor's pond has not been resolved. There is a pothole near Appletree Cottage on Back St.

920 CORRESPONDENCE.

- a) Rural Youth Newsletter & Review, was made available to members.
- b) Parish Plans, District Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey has borrowed the Countryside Agency booklet on 'Parish Plans'.

921 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

- a) Car parking by contractors at Whatley Cross is causing a visibility problem. The Clerk will drop a note to Sergeant Smith.

922 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Rural Housing updates. The Clerk will invite a representative from Hastoe to a future meeting to discuss 'Lettings Policy'.

923 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 4th February 2004 at 8.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall.

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

ACTION POINT No	ACTIONED TO	PROGRESS	ACTION TAKEN
30	The Clerk	Done	
31	The Clerk	Done	