

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

DRAFT Issue 1

998 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present: -	Mr. Colin Slade	Chairman
	Mr John Sullivan	Vice Chairman
	Mr Simon Fewkes	
	Mr. Peter Pye	
	Mrs Hazel Duke	
	Mrs Nicola Slade	
	Mr Roger Beer	
Parish Clerk:	Mr. Frank Vaughan.	
District Councillor	Mrs. Stella Abbey.	
County Councillor	Mr David Gordon	
Apologies:	Mr. Keith Marsh, & Mr Peter Harper.	
Public Attending	None	

999 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

1000 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

District Councillor *Mrs Stella Abbey reported: -*

- a) As part of the Winsham Web Museum Partnership with SSDC Marion Barnes SSDC Museums Officer asks that the PC appoint a 'Local Heritage Initiatives Officer'. Councillor John Sullivan was proposed & accepted the appointment.
- b) A meeting of SSDC General Grants Panel on 2nd July it was decided to recommend withdrawal of RMG as previously proposed, quote "making local councils more accountable". Councillor Abbey opposed the recommendation on the grounds that the recommendation was against SSDC stated policy 'to provide more opportunities for young people to take part in local leisure and cultural activity'.
This recommendation will be put to the District Executive meeting on 5th August. The Chairman asked **The Clerk** to write to the 33 Parish & Town Councils who oppose the removal of RMG urging them to attend the District Executive meeting.
- c) There will be a meeting at Tatworth on Monday 12th for 7-30 p.m. where there will be a presentation on the Lengthsman Scheme. Unfortunately there is no immediate prospect of funding (the pilot scheme did receive funding from SSDC). The Chairman is still concerned that the Parish will be paying twice for the same service. Councillor Abbey pointed out that this is not just an extension of the street cleaning service, the Parish is in charge and can ask the Lengthsman to do any reasonable job within the time allotted. The only way to move forward will be if a group of parishes get together to jointly fund & share the service. **The Chairman & Councillor Peter Pye** offered to attend the meeting at Tatworth. The Chairman stressed the point that the Parish is not getting value for money from SSDC's street cleaning service. Councillor Roger Beer made the point that

he personally removed more than one ton of soil & rubbish, which was cleared by volunteers before the street fair.

County Councillor *Mr David Gordon reported: -*

- a) You will have heard about the wheeley bin debate, the County Council spends £15 per ton putting rubbish into holes. It also has to pay £3,000,000 in landfill tax; all pressures which point towards recycling. The only practical way to recycle is to go for separation by the householder. Wheeley bins are not always the best but 60% of councils use them. 'They are the best we can get & we have to use them'.
- b) Overall crime figures in Somerset are down 9%, steep downward trends for household break-ins, burglary, car break-ins & car theft but a significant increase in violent crime. Councillor John Sullivan commented that it is now far more lucrative to mug people for cash & credit cards than steal their video or television. Councillor Peter Pye commented that you have to be careful when interpreting Home Office statistics because they move the goal posts.
- c) I have a budget of a small rights of way maintenance grant. Groups of interested people can get together & apply for this grant. **The Clerk** to contact Nigal Farrow @ County Hall for further information.

1001 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- a) There were no interests declared for the agenda of this meeting.

1002 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2nd June 2004

The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

1003 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

- a) **Speed issues**, The Chairman reminded Councillor Gordon that the Parish still hasn't seen the benefits of the 20-mph speed restriction for traffic passing schools. Councillor Gordon replied 'I am pushing your interests; the process has been simplified & is proceeding. The scheme has now been designed to meet just minimum legal requirements and is being rolled out faster'. With respect to speed boxes, technology is changing, previously you needed a power supply to the box, and this may no longer be the case. The Clerk said that he was still waiting a response from to Bev Norman, Senior Traffic Engineer.
- b) Community Speed Watch is proving to be drain on police resources. It is now proposed to combine Community Speed Watch with Camera Enforcement by introducing Community Sites. Interested parties should contact Terry Beale Accident Investigations Officer Somerset Highways, 01823 356998 or txbeale@somerset.gov.uk.
- c) The Chairman & Councillor Peter Pye will make a start on risk assessment. The Clerk handed a list of possible areas needing risk assessment to Councillor Peter Pye.
- d) The general feeling was that the phone box at Purtington was now unsustainable, given the commercial constraints placed on BT. **The Clerk** will reply to the letter from BT in this vein. If the box only raises £9 in revenue per annum then local

people have made other arrangements for making calls. **The Clerk** is to apply for the one remaining phone box in Winsham to be listed.

1004 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- (a) Planning Application 04/01543/OUT (Erection of Dwelling Fore St)
SSDC has written to the agent to inform him that they are unable to deal with this application as an outline as there are so many constraints on the site. The legislation allows SSDC to not determine outline applications where more information is essential. They have therefore requested that full plans including the design are submitted and also suggested that there is a site meeting prior to drawing up detailed plans.
- (b) Planning Application 04/01585/OUT (New Dwelling @ Clay Pot Farm)
SSDC Planning Department agrees with the PC that the application should be refused as being a new dwelling in open countryside without sufficient justification. An agricultural tie would not be appropriate in these circumstances and in any event an enterprise needs to exhibit an existing functional need. Future vague intentions are not sufficient.
- (c) Planning Application 04/00634/FUL (Demolition of Telephone Exchange & Erection of Cottage Fore St) Granted by SSDC.
- (d) Planning Application 04/00090/FUL (Stockyard Barn @ Lynch Field) Granted by SSDC.

1005 AMENITIES

- (a) The wood on the climbing frame dries out and there are sometimes loose bolts, the situation is being monitored.
- (b) The seats on the picnic benches need replacing. The Chairman will see to this.

1006 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (a) Cheques for the Clerk's Salary, Grass Cutting & Playing Fields Association were signed.

1007 UPPER RECREATION GROUND REPORT

Councillor Nicola Slade gave a report: -

The football team is doing well, winning the Bill Bailey Cup. There is an active women's team. Finances are in a bad way, we made a loss of £1400 last year and there is now only £38.17p in the pot. Without RMG we can not continue.

1008 CEMETERY REPORT

There has been a request for a different style of headstone. The stone lies flat but is within the specified base dimensions. This was considered to be acceptable and will not cause any ongoing maintenance problems.

1009 HIGHWAYS

- a) The PC received a questionnaire from County Hall on Highway Related Services. Regrettably the PC are unable to respond to this questionnaire. The Clerk will reply accordingly.

1010 CORRESPONDENCE.

- (a) Winsham Web Museum Partnership Agreement (Ref 967c) was accepted by Members
- (b) Moving Parish Projects Forward (Meeting 14th July @ Ilminster) was again noted.
- (c) Down to Earth (18th September Bishops Palace Wells) was noted.
- (d) Wyvern (About Us) was noted.
- (e) Draft Somerset Compact (Consultation to 31st August) was noted.
- (f) Annual Meeting of Parishes (Somerset County Council) item for next agenda.
- (g) Consumer Advice will be placed on the notice board.
- (h) Community Update was noted.
- (i) SSDC Tourism Strategy was noted.
- (j) Community News was noted.
- (k) Somerset Structure Plan was noted.
- (l) Letter from Chief Superintendent Andy Marsh was read out & is in line with Councillor Gordon's previous statement on police issues.
- (m) Prevent Junk Mail, was noted.

1011 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Outreach Workers for Youth Service (Feedback from Parish Meeting).
It was decided that **The Clerk** could contact SSDC.
- (b) Trees on Fore St, it was decided to place this issue on the agenda for the next meeting.
- (c) A letter from Mr Boyland was handed to the Chairman. The Chairman decided not to read out the letter because of its sensitive nature but gave a brief outline of the content. The PC sympathises with Mr Boyland but can only advise that it is a police matter. **The Clerk** will reply accordingly.

1012 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday **1st September** 2004 at 8.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall.

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