

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2007
At the The Jubilee Hall, Winsham.

Draft Issue 1

1419 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present: -	Mr Colin Slade	Chairman
	Mrs Hazel Duke	
	Mr Peter Pye	
	Mr Peter Harper	
	Mr Roger Beer	
	Miss Trish Baxter	
District Councillor	Mrs Stella Abbey.	
County Councillor	Mr Tony Shire	
Parish Clerk:	Mr. Frank Vaughan.	
Public	Mr Robert Shearer & Maureen Marsh	
Apologies:	Mr Bert Froud and Mrs Nicola Slade	
Invited Guests:	Police Inspector Neil Pitman & Council Officer Mr Andrew Gillespie.	

1420 RESIGNATION FROM COUNCILLOR MR J SULLIVAN

It is with great regret that the council accept the resignation of Mr John Sullivan. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Sullivan thanking him for many years of service. It was then decided to proceed & elect a new Vice Chairman for the short period remaining for this council. Councillor Mr Roger Beer proposed Councillor Mr Peter Pye. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Trish Baxter. Councillor Pye was reluctant to accept the post because at this time he does not see himself standing for election in May, however he was prepared to take on the responsibility until 3rd May.

1421 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Robert Shearer attended the meeting as Chairman of Winsham School Governors. The school is being encouraged to take a more active role in the community. One way the Governor's see to achieve this is to start a garden waste recycling system. Mr Shearer asked the Parish Council for their view in principle. It was agreed by all present that this would be a good scheme to pursue.

Mrs Maureen Marsh asked about the progress being made with clearing the drain in Bakersfield. The Parish Council are still in correspondence with South Somerset Homes.

1422 POLICE INSPECTOR MR PITMAN

Inspector Neil Pitman attended the meeting at the request of Members. Neil covers a big patch from Chard West to Wincanton. He leads 8 Station Sergeants & 2 Neighbourhood Sergeants plus PC's & PCSO's. Our area, Windwhistle, is now aligned with Ilminster and not Chard. The new alignment is meant to bring together the partnership side of the business. County Council Wards now align with Police Patches. Windwhistle is termed a 'Green Ward' with a low crime level. We share a Neighbourhood Sergeant, Andy Lloyd & a PC, Louise Wright with Ilminster. Just to confuse matters it seems that the PCSO's Stephen Diaper & Garth Allington are still

controlled from Chard by Beat Manager PC William Geddes. Winsham is very unlikely ever to get its own nominated PCSO.

Neil accepts there is a need to increase police visibility while still maintaining a balance of staffing where crime is high. In April the Sector is employing 7 additional PCSO's, 3 of which are going to Ilminster. PCSO's will give the visibility over the coming years. Winsham's point of contact should be through PC Louise Wright. Chairman Colin Slade expressed concern about cross border working. Inspector Pitman said the crime should be reported in the County where it occurred. Our Chairman thanked the Inspector for attending the meeting.

1423 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW (Mr A Gillespie)

With the proposed "Local Government Re-organisation" the role of the District and County Councils is uncertain. There are two proposals being put forward for Somerset, one unitary organisation covering the whole of the present County Council area or two unitary councils, one for South Somerset & Mendip combined and the other covering the area of Sedgemoor, West Somerset & Taunton Deane. The bid process is well under way with the present County Council proposing the one unitary authority and South Somerset proposing a merger with Mendip District Council. The Secretary of State is due to respond to the bids by the end of March. This will be followed by a consultation period with stakeholders, which includes parish councils.

1424 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

District Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey reported: - The District Council has instructed Andrew Partridge to clear the footpaths by the cemetery, box hill & the new houses to twice their width. A rail is to be fitted to the style by the Band Hut.

County Councillor Mr Tony Shire asked that the Parish Council up their bid for funding from the 'Community Budget' to reflect current costs. The PC is now asking for £620-00 towards the access improvements to the Lower Recreation Ground against a revised total estimate of £1518-00 + VAT.

The County Council has written to James Goddard requesting vehicle axle weights re: Knapp Bridge. The Parish Council consider this matter ongoing. They feel strongly that 3 tons is an unsatisfactory weight limit, considering all the money just spent on the bridge. If Hazelwood Hill is closed, that route over the bridge is the next best way out of the village towards Chard. The bridge should be made strong enough to carry a No 99 Bus.

1425 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

1426 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th December 2006

The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

1427 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

- a) The issue with footpath CH 8/1 is still ongoing. The Clerk will write again to the County seeking answers to its questions. The PC will now seek the assistance of the Ramblers Association.
- b) Hastoe Housing has not deposited the £5000-00 for path improvements to CH 30/1. The PC take the view that the houses can not be signed off until this money is paid. When funds are transferred District Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey will ask the District Council to complete the improvements ASAP in accordance with the Section 106 Agreement.

1428 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Application 06/03803/FUL Woodlands Garage Granted by SSDC
- b) Application 06/04172/FUL Sun Room The Old Granary Ammerham, the PC recommend approval.
- c) Application 06/02024/FUL Barn Conversion Crewkerne Hill, dismissed on appeal
- d) Application 06/04436/FUL Dwellings on Land @ Plum Tree Cottage, refused by SSDC
- e) Application 06/02676/LBC Muntin Screen @ Old Manor Farm, granted by SSDC

1429 AMENITIES

Councillor Mr Peter Pye reported that the play area had no major safety problems. There has however been a high level of vandalism with some criminal damage. Two seats are now broken beyond repair. It was decided not to replace these seats. It was decided to book a place on the Playground Inspection Training Course at a cost of £85-00 even though, at this time, we have no named person willing to attend.

1430 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques were signed for Clerk's salary & rent for using the school.

1431 CEMETERY

- a) No Report

1432 RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE/ SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Stella Abbey reported: - Work on the football changing rooms is about to start. The Recreation Ground Committee has decided that they do not want a clothing recycle bin. This would only add to the problems of traffic on site plus the District Council provides this as a doorstep collection service.

1433 JUBILEE HALL

- a) No Report

1434 HIGHWAYS

- a) The white lines on the B3162 over Hazelwood Hill & on to Whatley Cross need repainting. This road has been reported as needing sweeping.
- b) The road sign at the main cross road has been vandalised. This has been reported to 'Highways' who say yes they will repair it when funds are available.
- c) There is a lump of tarmac near the culvert on Chalkway, moved by the force of water. It is not dangerous but needs reporting.

1435 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) New Register of Electors
- b) Local Elections 2007
- c) Compact & CVS News
- d) Aqueous Publishing (Parish Plans)
- e) BTCV Conservation Charity
- f) Community Justice Panel (Information Day 14th Feb)
- g) Textile Bin Upper Recreation Ground
- h) New Contact for Countryside Access Team
- i) SALC Election Pack & Other Papers
- j) South Somerset Together
- k) Area Working Panels (Ilchester Town Hall 21st February)
- l) Somerset Access (Annual Report)
- m) Playing Field News Letter
- n) County Council Community Fund
- o) Village Shops & Post Offices Ensuring Accessibility

This list of correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting & made available to all members who attended the meeting.

1436 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) In answer to a question asked. A memorial in the cemetery cost £55-00. The dimensions of a memorial for cremated remains are limited by the size of the plot which is 18'' x 18''. The height of the memorial must not exceed 2' 6''.
- b) The question of producing a map/guide funded by advertising was deferred to the next council in May.
- c) It was decided not to follow up on the idea of tidying the remaining field next to the affordable houses.

1437 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of The Parish Council will held on Wednesday 7th March for 7-30 pm in The Jubilee Hall.

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