

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2008

At the The Jubilee Hall, Winsham.

Draft Issue 1

1603 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present: - Mr Roger Beer Chairman
Mrs Hazel Duke Vice Chairman
Miss Trish Baxter
Mrs Stella Abbey
Mrs Mary Haggard
Mr Andrew Partridge
County Councillor Mr Tony Shire
Parish Clerk: Mr. Frank Vaughan.
Public None
Apologies: Mr Robin Munday, Mr Bert Froud, Mrs Maxine Douglass, Mr Peter Harper

1604 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor Mr Tony Shire reported: - We are going through the budget process in great detail.

Starting with Area West we are about to commence a review of our schools policy, senior and primary. In some schools it costs £2500 per annum per child at the low end and £9000 per annum per child at the high end. We have a small schools policy so the review will not necessarily be the end for schools with low role calls.

1605 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests declared.

1606 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th December 2007

Not all Members have received copies of the minutes so the item was deferred to the next meeting

1607 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

The church yard at St Stephen's Winsham is a closed church yard. Under Orders contained in Section 1 of the Burial Act 1853 and section 215 of The Local Government Act 1972, the Parochial Church Council passed the responsibility for maintenance of the closed church yard on to the local authority, the Parish Council. The Parish Council has shouldered this responsibility for many years, grass cutting and tree surgery. The cost of this has been charged to the precept.

On inspection the wall, on the boundary of Pooles Lane and of Church Street, needs urgent repairs, pointing & rebuild in some places. This is not a cosmetic exercise but an issue of health and safety.

With this in mind the Parish Council allocated an additional £1000 in the 2008-2009 precept, which helped push the precept up by 30%.

The repairs will cost in the region of £4000 well above the funds available. As a minimum the Parish Council will carry out temporary repairs to make the wall safe but are asking Opportunity Chard for a grant of £2000. The Parish Council has received a promise of financial assistance from District Councillor Mr Robin Monday & County Councillor Mr Tony Shire.

A committee was formed to oversee the repairs to the Church Yard :- Roger Beer, Trish Baxter, Andrew Partridge & Mary Haggard.

1608 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) The Planning Committee met on 19th December to consider three retrospective applications at Idunno Back St. ref Minutes 1599-1602.
- b) The Clerk was asked to enquire about The Coach House annexed to Oak Gates. For legal reasons the District Council has removed the Section 106 agreement. The Coach House can be sold separate to the main house.

11609 AMENITIES & RIGHTS OF WAY

- a) Footpath CH8/1, work is progressing with a new style & gate.
- b) Footpath CH30/1, SSDC is keeping the surface under review.

1610 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques were signed for Clerk's Salary.

1611 CEMETERY

Councillor Andrew Partridge reported: -

No major issues to report.

The hedge near the Jubilee Trail will be cut and charged to the PC in April.

1612 RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE/ SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey reported:- Dog fouling is always a problem. It was decided, for a trial period only, to lock the side gate leading to Davies Close with the objective of deterring the owners of the dogs that foul from using the field.

The New Years Eve party went well.

1613 JUBILEE HALL

Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey reported: - The New Years Eve party was poorly attended.

1614 HIGHWAYS

There is a pot hole near the Band Room. The Clerk has reported this to Highways.

1615 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Code of Conduct Training available Shrubbery Hotel Ilminster, Thursday 7th February 7pm or Brympton Way Tuesday 26th February for 7pm.
- b) Somerset Area Working Panel (Grant Applications), no action required.
- c) Electoral Role, available in Parish Office.
- d) Campaign for Rural England, no action.

Most of this correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting & the rest was made available to all members who attended the meeting.

1616 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Clerk Vacancy, two application packs have been sent out. It was decided to hold interviews on Tuesday 5th February. The interviewers will be, Roger Beer, Stella Abbey, Hazel Duke & Mary Haggard.
- b) Ownership of The Cross near The George? A letter has been sent to the Agent pointing out that The Cross is part of the highway.

1617 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of The Parish Council will held on Wednesday 6th February 2008 for 7-30 pm meet in the Jubilee Hall.

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