

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on December 3rd 2008
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham.

1758 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present: -	Mr Roger Beer	Chairman
	Miss Trish Baxter	
	Mrs Stella Abbey	
	Mrs Mary Haggard	
	Mr Andrew Partridge	
	Mr John Gapper	
	Mr Peter Harper	
	Mr Robin Munday (district councillor)	
	Mr Tony Shire (county councillor)	
Parish Clerk:	Mrs Elaine Willis	
Public	None	
Apologies:	Mrs Hazel Duke	Vice Chairman

1759 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

1760 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor Robin Munday – reported the Joint Area Committee is still pressing forward and agreeing terms.

The District Council needs to decrease expenditure in some areas. There are some areas where they are obliged to spend considerable sums such as free bus passes where there is a large shortfall from government to meet this areas need. They are currently going through a process of ‘lean thinking’ and streamlining departments to improve internal efficiency.

The site for the Sports Zone in Yeovil has been explored but it has not been designed yet.

Councillor Stella Abbey asked whether the Development Line still stands. Councillor Robin Munday replied that it did with the exception of Housing Association requirements.

Councillor Roger Beer asked if councils were willing to take on roles from the District Council following the Devolution Survey. Councillor Robin Munday replied that larger town councils will probably take on extra responsibilities but will need funding from the District and County councils and this will be a debating point. He felt that a good example of where smaller parishes might like to step in is; grass cutting contracts and footpath maintenance, currently the District Council spends more money than allocated by County Council to this cause but this may be an area of future cuts backs.

Councillor Tony Shire reported that budgeting was also on the agenda for County and they need to make further savings. They have been working on budgets for the past 4 months and have made efficiency savings.

County’s part of the Area Committee panel could be happening as early as February or March. The Parish member will be able to input on policy matters but not individual cases.

The Area committee should give the public an increased opportunity to have their say.

Councillor John Gapper asked if there were cost implications to the Joint Area Committee.

Councillor Tony Shire replied that it is something that will have to be monitored.

The Taunton Park and Ride on the east side of town is due to start in 3 months and be completed by October 09.

Councillor Trish Baxter asked about pavements and right of way. Councillor Tony Shire explained that someone may own the subsoil but there are highway rights over them so that the owner has no more rights than anyone else.

1761 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

1762 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 5th November 2008

The Chairman signed the minutes, as a true record.

1763 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

- a) Bus Shelter – Councillor Roger Beer reported that the timber has arrived and we are now waiting for a carpenter to become available
- b) One member of the parish has expressed an interest and will hopefully attend the next meeting.
- c) Dispensation – The council agreed that currently there was not a need to apply for dispensation but recognise that the facility is there if needed in the future

1764 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Application 08/04498/FUL Erection of an agricultural building, Western Way – Recommend refusal
- b) Application 08/04260/FUL amended roof and elevation to form annexe, Purtington Barn, Down Lane, Purtington – Recommend Approval
- c) Application 08/03378/LBC Dairy Cttg, Back Street – Granted
- d) Application 08/04089/FUL, extension Leigh lodge – Refused
- e) Application 08/04330/FUL, Wynards, court str – amended plans

1765 AMENITIES

- a) Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that the Chicken is still in need of repair. Councillor Peter Harper maybe able to repair it over the winter but might need some help.
- b) The Parish Council decided that the surfacing under the slide was the next most important area to be tackled. The equipment will also need painting again and there still remains the issue of fencing following the risk assessment. Councillor Andrew Partridge commented that a solid fence may restrict the view from cars at the crossroads and therefore maybe a safety concern. There was also a discussion on effective signs and which activities should be restricted (currently ball games, cycling and dogs) – *Action Clerk to investigate fencing, legal issues concerning signs.*

1766 RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor John Gapper has walked and cleared styles and gates where he can and reported 3 things to County. He asked that if anyone notices anything please let him know.

Councillor Peter Harper commented that the new sign post at Rose Lane had disappeared again. *Action – Councillor John Gapper to report it.*

1767 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques signed for Clerks salary & expenses
- b) The precept was agreed and signed.

1768 CEMETRY

Councillor Stella Abbey asked the purpose of the plan to replace the cemetery gates. Councillor Roger Beer replied that it was to enhance the entrance of the cemetery.

1769 UPPER RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Mary Haggard – nil to report

1770 JUBILEE HALL

Councillor Trish Baxter reported that the computers were currently being stored off site.

1771 HIGHWAYS

Councillor Peter Harper expressed concern that the small steep B roads would not be gritted and that in past years salt had been left in the most problematic areas.

Councillor Mary Haggard expressed concern that parents dropping their children to school and preschool, park up on the pavement just before the junction making it impossible for anyone with a wheelchair, push chair or mobility aid to get by. Councillor Stella Abbey responded that this was probably an issue to be taken up by the school.

1772 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Playground inspection course
- b) SS Voluntary & Community Action
- c) Winter services
- d) Area west committee
- e) Tree preservation order
- f) Flood awareness workshops
- g) Playground inspection training
- h) Somerset Matters
- i) SS Bridleways
- j) SSDC Standards Committee

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

1773 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Devolution Survey – the Parish Council did not wish to take on any further responsibilities.
- b) Freedom of Information – *Action the clerk will ensure that the Parish Council fulfils its legal obligations according to the new guidance. Signed by the chairperson.*

1757 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 4th February 2009 for 7-30 pm meet in the Jubilee Hall.

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

