

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 5th March 2008

At the The Jubilee Hall, Winsham.

1634 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	
	Mrs Maxine Douglass	
	Mr Peter Harper	
District Councillor	Mr Robin Munday	
County Councillor	Mr Tony Shire	
Parish Clerk:	Mr.Frank Vaughan & Mrs Elaine Willis	
Public	Mr Peter Saunders & Mr Robert Shearer	
Apologies:	None	

1635 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Peter Saunders, Church Warden, attended to talk through with Members the PCC's thoughts on improving mobile phone reception in the village. The church is looking to raise funds for refurbishment. One suggestion was to install a radio mast in the church tower. Peter contacted Philip Venor GTH 01935423474 who acts as a land agent in the provision of phone masts. Phone companies believe reception in Winsham, served from Windwhistle is ok, we know it is not. It was agreed the Clerk should contact the phone companies direct. In the meantime Councillor Stella Abbey will ask the Upper Recreation Ground Committee if they would agree in principle to have a phone mast on the Upper Rec. There would then be a possibility of two sites to offer to phone companies.

Mr Robert Shearer, Chairman of Winsham School Governors reported: - We had a meeting this morning with the executive board of the County Council. It was stated, by the County Solicitor, the Leader & the Portfolio Holder for Education that we are not in a consultation process for closure, as mis-reported by the BBC. Five schools in Somerset, including Winsham have pupil numbers below the criteria stated within the small schools policy, i.e. 40 pupils. The way forward for these schools is to seek a formal state of federation with at least one other school. This should happen between 10th March & 23rd May, with a report back to the executive board in July. A 'Hard Federation is a voluntary agreement between governing

bodies, its format is flexible. There is a possibility of federating with Ashill 11 miles away. Councillor Stella Abbey made the point that the school has a wide, social impact on the community; we should all be interested in keeping it open. We need to continue lobbying members of the executive board. There is a petition in the shop which you can sign.

1636 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

County Councillor Mr Tony Shire reported: - We have set our precept at 3.79%, the lowest increase in the South West. As a local authority we have achieved the highest rated score in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. WE have also been short listed as one of the most improved councils for 2007.

Trees at Windwhistle have undergone thermal imaging tests. Unfortunately 26 trees of the 369 will have to be removed for safety reasons.

District Councillor Mr Robin Monday reported: - .The South Somerset 'Local Development Framework/Plan' is available for consultation between 23rd March & 11th April. I will drop a copy off to Roger. The Police, (Inspector Andy Pritchard), will give a presentation on performance at the next Area West meeting on 19th March; it's an open committee meeting so you can ask questions.

1637 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

1638 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th February 2008

The Chairman signed the minutes, as a true record.

1639 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

- a) Co-option of new Councillor. The way is open to co-opt at any time. All legal advertising is complete.
- b) Winsham School, see Robert Shearer's report.
- c) Opportunity Chard, a co-ordinated approach. Some confusion existed over rules of engagement, subsequently cleared up by a call to Fiona Tame.
- d) Section 106 agreements (Report of Meeting on 14th February), positive result. It was agreed by all that, although legal, it was not acceptable for an application to be approved subject to a legal obligation and then for that obligation to be removed without the knowledge of the local people. Ref: Dave Norris 29th Feb 2008. A process will be put in place to see this does not occur again.
- e) Phone Masts; Clerk to write to Phone Companies & Philip Venor GTH.
- f) Code of Conduct Seminar (Report), excellent.

1640 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Application 08/0630 FUL Idunno Back St, Erection of Fence Adjoining Highway. Resubmission by applicant. PC recommends approval.
- b) Applications 08/00165&00489/LBC Whatley Farm, Staircase & Roof. Amendments by applicant. PC recommends approval.
- c) Application 08/00024/LBC War Memorial Withdrawn by Applicant

1641 AMENITIES & RIGHTS OF WAY

- a) Footpath CH8/1, after 4 years of lobbying you could say the path is open, although there is still some work to be done. It can come off the agenda.
- b) Councillor Peter Harper reported no new problems on the Lower Recreation Ground.

1642 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques were signed for Clerk's Salary, Hedge Trimming & Domain Hosting.

1643 CEMETERY

Councillor Andrew Partridge reported: -

The hedge along the Liberty Trail is now cut. Councillor Stella Abbey asked is a further small section of hedge owned by Jackie Duncan could also be cut. Stella agreed to contact Jackie Duncan.

1644 RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE/ SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey reported: - The tree on the Upper Recreation Ground will be felled soon.

1645 JUBILEE HALL

The ISP provider for broadband has been changed to BT. Two new laptops have been sourced.

1646 HIGHWAYS

- a) Trees through the cutting on the road to Whatley need cutting; again Highways have been informed of this by the Clerk. Ref 166917. Steven Scriven is dealing with the problem.
- b) Trees falling into roadway between Hazelwood Farm & Whatley reported Ref 169258.

1647 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) SALC Items of Interest
- b) Validation of Planning Applications SCC Consultation
- c) WVS Donation, no funds available.
- d) Voluntary Community Action News Letter
- e) South Somerset News
- f) Climate Change, read & returned by Stella Abbey
- g) Community Play Officer, handed to Peter Harper
- h) BBC Community Bus Radio Somerset, copy to Roger Beer
- i) Information Commission Tutorial, disc handed to Elaine Willis

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

1648 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) Difficulty in obtaining refuse & recycle bins. This matter will be taken up by Robin Munday.

b) The PC received an anonymous letter requesting that the 30 mph sign on the southerly approach to the village be moved further down the hill, after the bridge & before Wynyards Lane; also a gateway be installed just below Court Street. The PC are reluctant to act on anonymous letters. They will however keep the ideas in mind for action later when the traffic survey has been completed. If traffic volume is below a critical figure then a gateway, as a method of slowing traffic, will not work, vehicles will just speed through the gateway if nothing is coming the other way.

c) The roof tiles on the bus shelter need urgent repair; also a risk assessment of the bus shelter is needed. The risk assessment, when completed should be passed to our insurers. An item will be placed on next month's agenda.

1649 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of The Parish Council will held on Wednesday 2nd April 2008 for 7-30 pm meet in the Jubilee Hall.

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