

**WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on March 4th 2009**  
**At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham.**

**1792 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

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

**1793 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

PCSO John Martin reported that they have monitored speed on four separate times each for approximately half an hour. During two of the sessions no vehicles were recorded speeding, during one session 4 cars were recorded as speeding and on the last session eight cars were caught speeding. John explained that only traffic police can hide, normally the police have to be visible to traffic and so the point of these exercises are to deter speeding rather than catch offenders. Funding is available for Community Speed Watch, it needs a minimum of 3 volunteers who will be trained and loaned all the necessary equipment.

There have been two non dwelling burglaries.

They have received the votes back from the youth on events that they would like to happen in Winsham. They now have the funding and the following will go ahead: street soccer, den building, street dance, café and wall. They still require adult volunteers to help with these activities.

**1794 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor Tony Shire asked whether there had been any problems with highways during the snow.

Councillor Trish Baxter reported that although the main route through Winsham was gritted not all of the bus routes were gritted so this led to a decrease in service and on one occasion a parishioner was dropped off at Street and had to make their own way back to the village.

Tony Shire informed the council that they do use local farmers to help in times of heavy snow and would like any farmers that are able to be put on the reserve list to deal with very local issues in extreme cases.

An extensive flood report is due which will pull together all different agencies in an attempt to deal with flooding in the most efficient way.

Speed Visors will soon be available for Parishes to use, there will be no cost to the Parish, this will be flashing signs which give messages such as “slow down” to speeding motorist, it will also

monitor traffic. Parishes will be able to loan the equipment three times a year for periods of 1 ½ weeks. This is intended to be a deterrent to speeding traffic.,. The Parish Council asked to be put on the list for this and would welcome this initiative as speeding traffic has been an issue for a while.

Councillor Roger Beer informed Tony Shire that Colin Fletcher still had not carried out the traffic monitoring promised in November 2007 despite numerous requests from ourselves. Tony Shire offered to help the Parish take this matter forward – *Action: clerk to email Tony Shire with details.*

Councillor Roger Beer asked if we fenced off the pavement by the lower recreation ground whose responsibility would it be to maintain this and how wide does a footpath have to be, he explained that this issue has arisen from a risk report about the lower recreation ground from SSDC. Tony Shire offered to help look into this. *Action: clerk to email Tony Shire with the request.*

Councillor Roger Beer asked whether we would be considered for Safety Camera Partnership. Tony Shire responded that you can apply if it is a known problem and that they tend to concentrate on accident hotspots.

Councillor Roger Beer expressed the view that the village had become more a rat run to get to Dorset or Taunton and when other areas increase policing drivers find alternative routes such as through Winsham.

## **1795 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Clerk declared an interest in 10b

## **1796 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

held on 4th February 2009

The Chairman signed the minutes, as a true record.

## **1797 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 work has now been completed.
- b) War Memorial insurance claim – The clerk reported that apart from a brief letter saying they were in receipt of our claim it has not progressed further. *Action: clerk to contact the insurance company and monitor progress.*

## **1798 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Application 09/00607/Ful erection of 2 storey extension, Woodcott, Back Street – recommend approval (may affect light for neighbours)
- b) Application 09/00680/Ful erection of 2 storey extension, Cobblestones, Back Street – recommend approval (may affect light for neighbours)
- c) Application 08/04987/Ful, PCV-U windows, 7 Court Farm Close – granted by SSDC

## **1799 AMENITIES**

a) Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that it is difficult to always agree with the risk assessments and prioritise their importance. He is concerned that if he completes any work or maintenance then he will be personally responsible. Councillor Roger Beer told the council that they have asked the manufacturers of the equipment to quote for any repairs and that the role of the Amenities Officer is to monitor risks and also to look for other safety concerns such as broken glass but that they are not expected to carry out maintenance work themselves. *Action: clerk to*

*contact SSDC and make enquiries as to why the picnic bench is a risk and also to discuss the issues surrounding maintenance and contracts.*

b) The clerk arranged for Wickseed and Playdale to assess their equipment , the slides and swings and quote for fencing. Sarah Love, Colin Slade and Natalie Shakespear have contacted the clerk and expressed an interest in being involved with the project. Sarah Love has experience in play and Natalie Shakespear has done a risk assessment course when the fencing was raised as an issue. Councillor Andrew Partridge asked what the plans were for the slide. Councillor Roger Beer responded that we are currently not sure whether to adapt it, remove it, replace it or just surface under it *Action: clerk to contact Sarah Love about Opportunity Chard and ways to progress further. Clerk to contact SSDC about adapting the slide and insurance of the equipment afterwards.*

c) The clerk arranged for Mike Fear from Highways to assess the junction of Western Way and the issue of fencing. Mike Fear recognised that it was an awkward junction and that a solid fence would decrease visibility if put on the outside fence, it would cause less effect if put on the other side of the path. He recognised that drivers may use the sight line through the lower recreation ground to look for oncoming traffic but as this is not to be recommended it shouldn't really be taken into account. He added that he did not think he was the most suitable person to assess the situation and that he would ask for guidance from another member of Highways department.

Councillor Hazel Duke and Councillor Andrew Partridge responded that because of the poor visibility it is thought to be common practice that people do use the sight line across the lower recreation ground when approaching the junction and again requested that visibility at the junction be taken into account with any design. Roger Beer reported that Colin Slade could make up a panel of wooden fencing to try at various points and asked whether Councillor Andrew Partridge would be involved in assessing visibility. Councillor Andrew Partridge agreed. *Action: clerk to contact SSDC about the fencing issue and discuss the visibility problem with them.*

Councillor Hazel Duke reported that small children (approximately 6 years and under) were seen alone walking along the War Memorial wall. Councillor Tony Shire recommended that the Council put a notice in the Parish Magazine making parents aware of the danger.

Councillor Hazel Duke and Councillor Andrew Partridge asked whether we had received any quotes before the tempary fencing was put up. Councillor Roger Beer responded that we had not but that it had to be done to give us time to resource fencing and options to enable the Council to make an informed choice that would fulfil the needs of the lower recreation ground but also take into account Parishioners views and the Highways issues.

d) Councillor Andrew Partridge agreed to continue as amenities officer.

## **1800 RIGHTS OF WAY**

Councillor John Gapper reported that new signs were being put up.

## **1801 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) Cheques signed for Clerks salary & expenses
- b) The clerk left the room whilst her salary was discussed. The Parish Council agreed to put the clerks salary to the next increment.
- c) Cheque signed for Slades for the completion of work on the bus shelter roof
- d) PWLB £1251 by direct debit.

## **1802 CEMETRY**

Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that some of the compost has already gone and that on the 14<sup>th</sup> March he will be there for people to come and collect compost free of charge.

The clerk reported that she had spoken with Robert Shearer about the schools compost bay and

that he has put up signs saying the area for chipping is closed but people still use it. He really needs volunteers to help chip it and then it can be turned into another compost bay.

### **1803 UPPER RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Mary Haggard – AGM is coming up but otherwise no news

Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that he had to stop the football game several times at the weekend because of dog fouling. This is a recurring problem. *Action: clerk to contact dog warden.*

### **1804 JUBILEE HALL**

Councillor Trish Baxter reported that they are holding a Greek night to raise funds.

### **1805 HIGHWAYS**

Covered previously in section 1794

Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that the drains had not been cleared yet.

### **1806 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) South Somerset Voluntary & Community Action
- b) The Playing Field
- c) Guide for Dispensation
- d) SSDC Standards Committee
- e) Opportunity Chard
- f) Standard
- g) SALC

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

### **1807 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

### **1791 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 1st April 2009 for 7-30 pm meet in the Jubilee Hall.

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