

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on April 1st 2009
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham.

1809 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
 Mrs Stella Abbey
 Mr Peter Harper
 Mr Robin Munday (district councillor)
 Mr Tony Shire (county councillor)
 PCSO John Martin

Parish Clerk: Mrs Elaine Willis
Public Mr James Goddard
Apologies: Mr Peter Saunders
 PCSO Andy Searle

1810 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr James Goddard attended the meeting with regard to the weight limit at Knapp Bridge being increased.

1811 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor Tony Shire offered to forward information relating to the changes to Concession Bus fares. County is now issuing all Concession Bus Passes; this will cut the cost of the service. (County were issuing passes for only 2 District Councils)

The new Highways manager is Andrew Milne.

Councillor Robin Munday reported that the inspection from Street Scene rated Winsham as 71% good and 29% fair, the report includes the general state of repair including litter.

Counties Highway Maintenance Team are giving a presentation on Maintenance, including; programming and constraints.

The Annual Audit report for 2008 rated South Somerset as “showing good improvement”.

Councillor Robin Munday commented that “the Concession Bus Fares were a victim of their own success”. People will no longer be able to pre-book seats, this will affect Slinkies and Community Buses. County may take over the service in 2010 as some District Councils benefited and in effect made a profit whilst some areas ran at a loss due to the distribution of finances.

The Members Training Programme is currently being put together and will include items that Parish Councils will be interested in.

1812 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mary Haggard declared an interest in item 10b.

1813 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 4th March 2009

The Chairman signed the minutes, as a true record.

1814 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAK

- a) War Memorial insurance claim – The clerk reported that she had made contact with the insurance company and been informed that the lorry driver is claiming not to have been involved in any damages to the War Memorial. The clerk subsequently asked Mr Norman Good to write an eyewitness statement to the insurance company which he kindly did and this has been forwarded.
- b) Mr Peter Harper reported that during the snow Purtington had been cut off for 4 days. He asked Councillor Tony Shire if the Council issued salt bins as theirs had gone missing. Councillor Tony Shire responded that it is up to the Parish to purchase salt bins and then Highways will fill them up

1815 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Application 09/00087/ful, Parking area 26 Western Way, granted by SSDC
- b) Application 09/00086/ful, alterations and extension to house and garage, East Whately Farm, granted by SSDC
- c) Application 09/01105/ful, new vehicle access, 2 church street – the Parish Council thought that visibility to the left would be poor but recognised that visibility at the current access was also poor - recommend approval
- d) Application 09/01211/DPO, modify section 52 1/9/78 to allow part of Windwhistle farm to be disposed of separately, Windwhistle Cottage, Purtington – to be discussed further

1816 AMENITIES

a) Councillor Andrew Partridge reported there is a slight increase in the rot on the platform of the multi play – *Action: clerk to chase quote*

Councillor Roger Beer asked if the chain link fence was the property of the Parish or the neighbouring house. Nobody was certain and this will need to be investigated further as it is in need of some repairs.

b & c) Councillor Roger Beer asked whether the fencing and equipment committees could be joined as it is very difficult to deal with one without the other.

The clerk reported on the meeting that Sarah Love arranged with James Divall and Adrian Moore from SSDC, Natalie Shakespear and Elaine Willis representing the Parish Council – Adrian Moore commented on the temporary fencing, that it allows time for a consultation process. He recommended that the slide should be removed now as it is now a high risk. He also recommended that the metal sign be brightened up and the rumble strips repainted and the Parish Council put a quarterly advert in the parish magazine asking vehicles to slow down through the village.

Councillor Stella Abbey responded that the metal sign would probably be stolen if it was painted and so they should leave it inconspicuous.

Clerk Elaine Willis suggested that instead of the Parish Council putting in a poster it might be more effective if some children designed a poster. She suggested a competition involving Thorncombe and Winsham schools to design a poster

Action: clerk to contact highways about repainting the rumble strips and discuss with Thorncombes clerk the idea of a competition for the poster.

James Divall offered to bring the Play Day forward to the 23rd of May, this would be a free day, Sarah Love will apply for funding and will also contain a consultation tent for the community to suggest improvements for the Lower Recreation Ground.

There will also be a public meeting on the 20th April 6-7pm with a short talk on the value of play and to launch the Play Day.

Councillor John Gapper asked whether there was any reason why the temporary fence could not be permanent. Councillor Roger Beer responded that this will be part of the public consultation and that funding is more likely for natural barriers.

Councillor Andrew Partridge asked whether he could trim the bottom of the fence to make grass cutting easier. All agreed.

1817 RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor John Gapper reported that new signs were still being put up and asked people to report any problems. Councillor Stella Abbey requested that the stile on the Cricket St Thomas path be upgraded as it was poor and needed replacing. *Action: Councillor John Gapper to report.*

1818 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques signed for Clerks salary & expenses, R Haggard (fence), SALC, K Slades (fence) SSDC (cemetery rates)
- b) The clerk requested that a Councillor look at the insurance quote and compare it the old one. *Action: Councillor John Gapper will compare the two and report back to the clerk.*

1819 CEMETRY

a) Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that the compost day went well, with a lot being shifted and that he would try and do them twice a year in September and March. He also reported that Robert Shearer is still looking into shredding the wood once cleared this will be made into another compost bay.

b) The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the burial fees had not been increased for a few years. Councillor Stella Abbey recommended speaking with John Sullivan who instigated the last review and Councillor Robin Munday suggested speaking with Tatworths Clerk Heather Bryant. *Action: Clerk to investigate further and report back.*

1820 UPPER RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Mary Haggard reported that there is going to be Street Soccer for the youth on Wednesday 15th, arranged by the Local Community Police Officer. The Fun Day will also be held in the Recreation Ground.

1821 JUBILEE HALL

Councillor Trish Baxter reported that they are currently in a good financial position. The Greek night has sold out and the computer training has been successful.

1822 HIGHWAYS

b) Knapp Bridge, The clerk reported on information received from Highways about the weight limit. The Bridge is owned by the Railway. The Railway had completed strengthening work and the weight limit could be increased to 7.5 tonnes. Changing the limits are expensive, costing between 5-10 k. They suggested 3 options.

- 1) Increase the weight limit for all – however this may increase heavy loads using that road
- 2) Keep the 3t tonne weight limit but obtain a pardon for the current local farmer Mr J Goddard – this can be difficult to enforce
- 3) Keep the 3 tonne weight limit and discuss with the local police about having an unofficial agreement that the farmer could use the bridge with a limit of 7.5 tonnes.

Councillor Roger Beer commented that agreements maybe difficult if land is sold, he recognised the difficulties an unofficial agreement would have on contractors to the farm in question.

Councillor Trish Baxter expressed the view that the 1st option was the only real option

Councillor Roger Beer commented that if the land changed hands it could lead to an increase in heavy traffic in the future.

The Parish Council agreed to ask Highways to increase the limit to 7.5 tonnes

Action: clerk to liaise with Highways

c) The Clerk reported that Highways have said that they will monitor the traffic through the village in April – exact dates to be confirmed.

Councillor John Gapper asked whether Highways would issue a mirror opposite the Court Street Junction. Councillor Tony Shire responded that highways do not issue mirrors as they can cause problems, for example: reflecting headlights at night.

Councillor Roger Beer reported that another lorry had failed to notice height restrictions for the railway bridge and had to reverse up through Church Street.

Action: Clerk to report to Highways.

Councillor Roger Beer asked whether a weight limit on the Bridge over the Axe would have more effect as the signs are more prominent

Councillor Roger Beer asked whether it is possible to have Give Way signs on the B road by Western Way. Councillor Tony Shire responded that “as a rule of thumb, don’t change things unless there are accidents”. Tony Shire commented that as there are areas which are accident hot spots this is where finances are concentrated at present.

Councillor Roger Beer commented that it would be useful if Highways could give us some constructive input into the problems at the junction instead of just pointing out the problems but not having any solutions.

Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that the drain at the entrance of Davies Close is still blocked

1823 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Digital Switch over
- b) Joint Area West
- c) South West Regional Conference
- d) South Somerset Voluntary & Community Action

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

1824 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

1825 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 6th April 2009 for 7-30 pm meet in the Jubilee Hall.

The AGM will be held at 7pm Wednesday 6th May

The APM will be held on 13th May at 7:30pm in the Jubilee Hall

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