

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2012
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham.

2318 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present: -	Mr John Chance	Chairman
	Mr John Gapper	Vice Chairman
	Miss Trish Baxter	
	Mrs Janet Hendon	
	Mrs Mary Haggard	
	Mr Andrew Partridge	
	Mr John Sullivan	
	Mr Peter Saunders	
Parish clerk:	Mrs Elaine Willis	
District Councillor:	Mrs Sue Osborne	
County Councillor:	Mrs Kim Turner	
Public:	Mrs Stella Abbey	
Apologies:	Mr Peter Harper	

2319 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Stella Abbey attended the meeting to express concerns about the vandalised phone box. It has been in this state for 3 months. The clerk responded that she had reported it. Councillor John Chance suggested contacting BT and asking about the options and suggested that Councillors think about different uses for the phone box instead of it being removed. *Action: clerk to contact BT, councillors to consider alternatives to it being removed.*

2320 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor Sue Osborne reported that Nigel Collins would like more time to look at the proposed changes to the bus service but it does not look like an extension will happen. The budgets will go to full Council in February and they will then decide about the Council Tax. Councillor John Chance commented that Taunton Deane had increased theirs to 3.75% just under the referendum rate.

Councillor Kim Turner reported that County were currently suggesting a 0% increase in Council Tax as the government give 2.5% to councils who achieve this.

There was a meeting today about the buses; Councillor Kim Turner felt it should go to full Council instead of being the decision of one person. Harvey Siggs replied that it was his decision to make and it did not need to go to full Council. There will be a decision at the end of the month. Many areas are signing petitions, if 5000 signatures are received by the next meeting it will have to go to full Council. Councillor Trish Baxter commented that Winsham were already collecting signatures. Councillor Kim Turner did mention to Harvey Siggs about the park and ride its costs and use.

Councillor John Chance asked whether there were plans to pedestrianise Taunton town centre. Council Kim Turner did not know the answer but responded that it may be a Taunton Deane initiative along with their regeneration plans.

2321 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

2322 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH MEETING held on 7th December 2011. The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

2323 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN

- a) Councillor John Gapper reported that the War Memorial had now been cleaned and treated to deter lichen. The Council was in agreement that no further action to enhance the lettering was needed at this time. Councillor Janet Hendon reported that the Memorial had been hit again

but this time no one knew the perpetrator. *Action: clerk to contact Colin Fletcher again about the post and the new accident.*

- b) Councillor John Chance opened a discussion about the publishing of draft minutes. Our current Standing Orders do not lend themselves to publishing them. A safeguarding and vetting system was needed. Councillor John Gapper replied that the original draft for standing order 28 about press releases had been very strict, the clerk and he had amended them but after rereading them it had made it a bit ambiguous. Councillor John Gapper commented that he would not mind if the minutes were not published until they were officially signed. Councillor Andrew Partridge agreed. Councillor John Sullivan expressed the opinion that in order to make the Council relevant and inspiring to others to participate we should publish them. He continued to comment that he did look at the minutes before he put them on the website. The clerk commented that it would be her preference for all the councillors to see them via email and if there were not any replies about amendments within a certain time scale then they could be published, this would take the responsibility away from one person checking them as it was then left to their interpretation. Council in agreement. *Action: clerk to circulate minutes, Councillor John Sullivan to publish them after an agreed time scale, minimum 24hours. Standing Orders to be amended to reflect this.*
- c) Councillor John Chance asked whether the Council were happy that the clerk made a report to the Parish Magazine without anyone reviewing it. Councillor John Sullivan commented that the meetings for the Council were put on the first Wednesday of each month so an article could be submitted. Full council agreement that the clerk could submit an article without a review by the Council first.
- d) Councillor John Chance reported that after arranging a meeting with the District Council and the band committee the band committee had written to the District Council saying that they would like to give up their lease on the understanding that the Parish Council would take it over in its current state. The District has now written to the Parish with various options:
- 1/ lease the band hut
 - 2/ free hold of band hut
 - 3/ freehold of band hut and allotments.

At the meeting the costs were not mentioned for leasing the hut and a figure of £800 was given for legal costs for the freehold. Councillor Sue Osborne had been given figures of £800 for a long term lease and £1500 for freehold. Councillor Andrew Partridge commented that the Parish Council had always been told not to take over allotments as they were a lot of work. The clerk responded that Diane Leazell had assured those present at the meeting that they only carry out inspections once a year, hold a waiting list and issue bills. Councillor John Chance continued, the current income is £145, we would also be able to start our waiting list again and stipulate conditions such as for villagers only, this is something the District cannot do as they have to open it up to anyone who applies.

The Council was in agreement to investigate the freehold of the band hut site and the allotments. Councillor Mary Haggard commented that she had asked a local labourer informally what he thought of the structure – it was mainly the door, windows and the rest was cosmetic. The clerk reported that it had been broken into at the weekend and a steel door maybe needed. Councillor John Sullivan commented that there would also be land registration costs. *Action: Councillor John Chance to draft a letter to District, clerk to investigate insurance of allotments and band hut, Councillor John Sullivan to ask a local professional Surveyor if there were any implications relating to the asbestos roof in carrying out repair.*

2324 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Application: 11/03791/ful, replace extant permission 08/03013/ful, single storey extension, Chalkway mill, Limekiln Lane – granted by SSDC
- b) Application – 11/04922/FUL. Erection of 50kw Photovoltaic Panel Array – London Lodge, Windwhistle – recommend approval
- c) Application – 11/04152/S73 – vary condition No.27 of approval 10/02986/FUL, to allow minor design alterations, London Lodge Farm, Windwhistle – Granted SSDC
- d) Application – 11/04133/FUL – new vehicular access – Purtington House, limekiln Lane – granted SSDC

- e) Application 11/02070FUL, erection of dwelling house land rear of 8 Fore Street – Appeal
- f) Application 11/04472/ful – conversion of garage into holiday let – Claypit, Whatley – granted SSDC

2325 PARISH SURVEY

Councillor John Sullivan reported that traffic calming was mentioned by 40% of those who replied to the survey. Various options had been discussed in the past but cost had been prohibiting, highways had not been forthcoming in this matter because it was not busy enough. The main problem areas seem to be Fore Street with the tractors, Church Street and Davies Close with speeding. The Council agreed that at this time they would not take matters further.

2326 AMENITIES

- a) Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that there were no current problems. Councillor Janet Hendon suggested that we should review the maintenance sheet. *Action: Councillor John Chance and Andrew Partridge to review.*
- b) The clerk reported that the wording for the plaque for the time capsule was not yet decided. Councillor Janet Hendon suggested opening it up to the public. Councillor Peter Saunders suggested laying the time capsule on the Sunday when there will be an open air service. Councillor John Sullivan commented that Sunday was the day of the children's street party so it could all combine. *Action: Councillor John Sullivan to put an article in the Parish Magazine and the e-letter about the wording for the plaque.*
- c) The clerk reported that the quarterly report showed only a few minor maintenance issues.

2327 RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor John Gapper reported the footpath from Oakleigh to Hazelwood farm had been reported again as the path is semi blocked. The impediments to horses on the bridleway CH30/6 had been reported. The problem of boggy ground in Broadenham Lane had also been reported to the landowner and they were going to address it. There was still no news about turning the stile into a gate on the Peacocks land. The landowner had verbally agreed as long as the gate was backed with wire and as tall as the current stile.

Councillor Trish Baxter asked if there was any development about turning Broadenham lane into a bridleway. Councillor Sue Osborne commented that the South Somerset Bridleway association had put in over 190 applications the cost of processing these was in excess of £3500, if they go through it would be at public expense and each one can cost thousands of pounds, one in her Parish would cost about £50,000. Applications cannot be turned down because of cost or highway safety. *Action: Councillor Sue Osborne to forward a list and guidance to Councillor John Gapper.*

2328 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques signed for Clerks salary & expenses, Luke Grafton. ICO paid by DD

2329 CEMETERY

Councillor Peter Saunders reported that the problems with the lack of consent for the removal of the Peacock memorial had been satisfactorily resolved. They are still awaiting the completion of the paperwork for the Loveluck grave.

2330 UPPER RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Mary Haggard reported that there was nothing to report.

2331 JUBILEE HALL

Councillor John Sullivan reported that they were due to renew their electrical certificate. The latest fundraising evening raised about £500. The plans for the Jubilee gate are progressing. The matter of the side lighting will be discussed at the next meeting.

2332 HIGHWAYS

Councillor Trish Baxter asked whether we could ask to go on the list to consider turning some street lights off at midnight until just before dawn. *Action: Councillor Trish Baxter to enquire.*

2333 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Winter service SCC
- b) Somerset joint Strategic needs assessment
- c) Proposed Closure of 90 Bus (parishioner)

- d) Avon and Somerset Police
- e) Clerks council direct
- f) Discover Somerset
- g) Road closure – Furnham road Chard

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

2334 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Councillor John Chance asked about the need for a press officer. It was decided to put this item on the next agenda.
- b) Councillor John Chance reported that a meeting was held between the police, Councillors John Chance, John Gapper, Mary Haggard and the clerk. The meeting was very positive and resulted in the feeling that we were being looked after. The police encouraged everyone to report any problems.

2335 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

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