

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 4th July 2012
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham.

2414 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present: -	Mr John Chance	Chairman
	Mr John Gapper	Vice Chairman
	Miss Trish Baxter	
	Mrs Mary Haggard	
	Mr John Sullivan	
	Mr Michael Dunkin	
	Mr Andrew Partridge	
	Mr Nathan Mode	
Parish clerk:	Mrs Elaine Willis	
District Councillor:	Mrs Sue Osborne	
County Councillor:		
Public:		
Apologies:	Mrs Kim Turner	

2415 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs M Fowler attended the meeting regarding: the cemetery gate, dog fouling and dog barking

2416 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor Sue Osborne reported that SSDC had written to all Parishes about the changes to the Code of Conduct. Councillor John Chance then gave the council a summary of the Localism Bill, summarising matters which may affect the Parish Council. It aims to devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities more control over housing and planning decisions. Winsham comes under the title of “rural settlements”, where local communities are best placed to decide and determine local need and what will make their settlement more sustainable.

Councillor Michael Dunkin expressed concerns that pressure groups could push through plans against local wishes. Councillor John Chance responded that this was a risk that the Parish Council needs to be aware of and be in a position to respond to.

Councillor Sue Osborne reported that she would be attending a meeting about Neighbourhood Planning in the near future.

In the new Standards code it would be a criminal offence to fail to declare any interests.

Councillor John Chance asked the council to read the new Code of Conduct and Standards information and bring forward their comments at the next meeting.

Councillor Sue Osborne continued, there is currently a business survey about possible road improvements to the A30 and A303.

There is no further news on the Purtington Show ground application.

Street Scene can advise Parishes about employing their own lengthsman.

2417 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

2418 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH MEETING held on 6th June 2012. Councillor John Gapper asked that the words “was expected” be placed after Red Cross (2406, b). After the amendment the Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

2419 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN

- a) Councillor John Chance reported that he had been in contact with Diane Layzell for an update regarding the proposed transfer of the freehold of the band hut and allotments and had been informed that it was being considered at a meeting tomorrow. Councillor Sue Osborne

reported that she would be attending the meeting.

- b) Mrs A Chambers did not attend the meeting. (It was subsequently reported that she had been given the wrong date and that she is still interested in being co-opted onto the Council.
- c) Councillor John Chance reported that he had looked at the insurance specification which is a standard package including a few items which we do not need cover for. Councillor Nathan Mode commented that most insurance packages are standardised documents but that it is still possible to negotiate the package. *Action: Councillor JC make further enquiries.*

2420 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor Sue Osborne reported that the planning application for Haytor had been passed with conditions.

2421 AMENITIES

- a) Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that there had been an increase of dogs fouling in the lower rec. This had also been the case for the cemetery. Someone has padlocked 2 of the swings together. If the key is not found he will remove it soon.

2422 RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor John Gapper reported that the gate had not been put in place behind Plum Tree cottage as it was of insufficient height. The ranger is now in contact with the land owner.

The clerk asked if there was any obligation for footpaths to be accessible to dogs, recently places under styles have been blocked off and gates wired together. The stiles are still open for people but it is difficult to lift a medium sized dog over the stiles. *Action: Councillor JG to investigate.*

Councillor Sue Osborne reported that DEFRA was conducting a new consultation about changing the way applications for amending the classification of rights of way are dealt with. Councillor John Chance asked how we would know if an application to change a path into a bridle way in our Parish had been put forward. Councillor John Gapper reported that we had in the past had correspondence about the path to Broadenham farm and Rose Lane in Purtington.

Councillor Sue Osborne commented that bridleways need to be able to take 2 horses side by side. To allow access to motorised vehicle the path needs to be classified as a BOAT (byway open to all traffic).

2423 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques signed for Clerks salary & expenses, Time capsule expenses. Red Cross
- b) The clerk asked the Parish Council if they would consider allowing internet banking. Currently the only internet banking they do is to transfer money between accounts. The clerk suggested using a form for the 2 signatories to sign instead of a cheque. Council in agreement. *Action: clerk to devise a form and trial it.*
- c) The clerk informed the council that the external audit was now completed. There were no recommendations or comments.

2424 CEMETERY

The clerk reported that there had been one burial this month.

2425 UPPER RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Mary Haggard reported that a window had been vandalised last weekend.

2426 JUBILEE HALL

Councillor John Sullivan reported that they had held their AGM. When the hall was refurbished there were concerns that it would mean higher charges. A comparison has shown that, taking inflation into account, hire costs have remained static.

2427 HIGHWAYS

Councillor Michael Dunkin reported that there are temporary barriers on the road to Chard. Councillor John Chance commented that the road had subsided last year, it had been repaired but has subsided again.

Councillor Michael Dunkin continued: The signs at Forton need attention. Councillor John Gapper commented that he had emailed Colin Fletcher about this twice but had not had a reply. *Action: Councillor MD to discuss matters with highways.*

2428 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Anti social behaviour Clean neighbourhood acts SSDC
- b. SSDC – Street naming and numbering
- c. New code of conduct (SALC – email)
- d. Hodder graves (Stony Knapp)
- e. David Laws visit

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

2429 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Councillor John Sullivan asked about trying to improve mobile coverage. The clerk responded that when she first came to the post Councillor Stella Abbey had been trying to liaise with phone companies. At the time the Council decided not to pursue matters once the church decided not to continue looking into the possibility of putting a mast in the tower. There had been a discussion about putting a mast in the upper recreation ground or band hut area but this had been dismissed at the time. Councillor Mary Haggard commented that Peter Saunders had been involved in investigating a phone mast for the church but was unaware of any decision not to put a mast in the upper recreation ground. *Action: Councillor John Sullivan to investigate.*
- b) Councillor Nathan Mode reported on the revised premises application from Warners Hotel. The application is to allow music to be played in the courtyard, no later than 4pm and no more than twice a week, between April and October. No objections were raised.
- c) Councillor John Sullivan reported that a committee had been set up for the web museum and website, they had held their first meeting.
- d) Councillor Andrew Partridge commented that the school compost bins were clear but the fence was yet to be firmly put back in place and some rubble remained outside of the bins. Councillor John Chance read out a letter from the school saying they would clear the site; they had mistakenly been under the impression that it was a community responsibility and not a school one. The current head teacher also stated that she had not received any correspondence about the compost bins from the Parish Council in the past, as was implied by the letter to the school.
- e) The clerk asked the council if they wanted to elect a subcommittee to review the new Code of Conduct and Standing order amendments. Recommendations could be brought to the next meeting. Councillor John Chance asked that instead all councillors look at these and bring any comments to the next meeting. Councillor John Chance also commented that the Parish Council should have an induction package for all new councillors so they were aware of their roles and responsibilities. *Action clerk to forward current standing orders to all councillors.*

2430 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 5th September for 7-30 pm meet in the Jubilee Hall.

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