

# Winsham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of The Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Jubilee Hall on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs. Chance (Chairman), Baxter, Dunkin, Goodman, Miller, Mode and Sullivan

In attendance: Mr Justin Robinson (Clerk), District Councillor Sue Osborne, County Councillor Linda Vjeh

## PUBLIC FORUM

(a) There were no residents in attendance.

(b) District Councillor's Report

It was reported that the district local plan is currently undergoing public examination and that an extra day will be required in order to test the soundness of the plan. The district council's scrutiny committee has been nominated for a national award for its work on council tax. The amended plans for the showground at Higher Purtington are likely to go to the area committee in July or August. The district council has also received a £300k grant from central government to help local advice services to work in partnership.

(c) County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Vjeh presented a detailed written report. There has been significant progress in raising performance in the county's schools. The council is placing further emphasis on the importance of safeguarding within children's social care. Steps are also being undertaken to address drug rehabilitation issues in the county, involving a wide range of partner organisations. There continues to be a county-wide need for more foster carers, along with male PROMISE mentors. It was reported that there will now be two scrutiny committees: People and Policy and Place. A list of the new cabinet members, together with their areas of responsibility was given to the clerk. Each county councillor has been allocated £5000 to promote health and wellbeing and Councillor Vjeh intends to distribute this evenly among the five schools in her division. The county council has also introduced a "Save to Spend Scheme" and bids can be submitted for community run projects that will save the county council money (purchasing strimmers, storage for emergency supplies, etc.).

## **2588 Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

## **2589 Declarations of Interest**

There were none

## **2590 The Minutes of the Meetings Held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013**

The minutes of the Parish Council AGM and the ordinary meeting of the council held on 1<sup>st</sup> May were unanimously approved.

## **2591 Co-option of New Councillors and Declaration of a Vacancy**

Mrs. Rita Miller was proposed and seconded for co-option to the council and this was unanimously approved. Cllr. Miller signed the declaration of acceptance of office. It was reported that Mrs. Mary Haggard had resigned from the council and that a vacancy had been advertised. The clerk reported that he had contacted The Monitoring Officer at SSDC, regarding the process for reviewing the number of elected members serving on a council. A reduction in councillor numbers could be considered as part of a Community Governance Review. After discussion of the process, it was agreed not to pursue the matter further and retain the current number of nine councillors.

## **2592 Planning Matters**

(a) Application 13/00874/FUL The erection of a carport/garage with overhead storage, The Lodge, Whitegates, Forton, TA20 4HF **The Planning Committee had recommended approval.**

(b) Application 13/01526/FUL The erection of a detached garage and car port with first floor studio to be used as a holiday let, Oakleigh Cottage, Ammersham, Winsham, TA20 4LE **The Planning Committee had recommended approval.**

(c) Planning determinations received from SSDC were read out at the meeting.

(d) Two new plans had been received after the posting of the agenda and it was agreed that these would be circulated among members.

## **2593 The Band Hut and Allotment Site**

Council received a verbal update from The Chairman. Matters had not been progressed owing to staff and member changes. However, a site meeting could now be arranged with Diane Layzell of the district council, with a view to discussing the proposed covenants and ensuring that the best deal can be achieved for the local community. After much discussion regarding the current transfer process and the future use of the site, it was **resolved that a site meeting would be arranged with the district council.**

## **2594 Parish Plan**

Members received a report from the clerk regarding the options available, the basic process and the need to discuss potential external support and funding with SSDC Area West. The desire not to go down the route of a formal neighbourhood plan was reiterated; instead members favoured writing a community plan, with a separate village design statement to address planning issues. It was agreed that the clerk would prepare a written report on the process for presentation at a future meeting.

## **2595 Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Council Policies**

It was agreed that there was a need to review the council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. As a first step, the clerk was asked to circulate the most recent model documents to the chairman and vice-chairman.

## **2596 Damage to the War Memorial Bollards**

The clerk reported that he had been in contact with Bicton College regarding the damage caused to one of the bollards by a college minibus. It was agreed that no repairs were required at this time and that the college would be asked to make a donation of £100 to the war memorial reserve fund. The college had been very apologetic regarding the incident.

## **2597 Axe Invasives Project**

Council considered recent correspondence from Natural England regarding their invasive weed control programme. It was agreed that no further action was required.

### **2598 Somerset County Council Flood Mitigation Fund**

Council considered recent correspondence from Somerset County Council regarding a new funding scheme to assist communities with flood alleviation works. It was agreed that the gully and drainage works already identified by the parish council should be submitted under the scheme.

### **2599 Community Payback Teams**

Council considered recent correspondence from Avon and Somerset Probation Service regarding the availability of community service teams. It was agreed that the clerk and Cllr. Dunkin would arrange to meet with representatives of the probation service.

### **2560 Finance**

- (a) Council approved payment of the clerks' salaries and a cheque for A. Partridge (grass cutting: £774).
- (b) Council received an update on insurance quotes/renewal from Cllr. Mode. It was reported that the council's current policy, brokered by Came & Company, was still the best available.
- (c) Council decided not to renew their subscription to The Somerset Playing Fields Association.
- (d) Council unanimously agreed to make a donation of £10 to Peter Lacey's (SALC) memorial fund.
- (e) Council agreed that as a written request for a grant of £200 had now been received from the sports club, the grant could be released (cheque to be signed at the next meeting).

### **2561 Items for Report**

- (a) Amenities: It was reported that the weekly schedule of play area inspections was up to date. A split on one of the swing seats would require future monitoring.
- (b) Reports from member representatives on outside bodies: Cllr. Sullivan reported that The Jubilee Hall Committee was considering options for replacing some of the windows. It was requested that the parish council give future consideration to submitting the planning application on the hall committee's behalf.

**Date of the next Meeting: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 7:30pm**