

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of The Parish Council held on 1st May 2013 at
The Jubilee Hall, Winsham, at 7:30 p.m.**

Those present: - Mr John Chance (Chairman)
Mr Nathan Mode
Miss Trish Baxter
Mrs Mary Haggard
Mr Michael Dunkin
Mr John Sullivan
Mr Bryan Goodman
Parish Clerk: Mrs Elaine Willis, Mr Justin Robinson
District Councillor: Mrs Sue Osborne, Mrs Linda Vijeh (observing as a county election
candidate)
Residents: Two residents were present

2562 Public Question Time

A question was asked regarding progress with The Band Hut. It was agreed that this item would be brought forward on the agenda.

2563 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

2564 Minutes of The Ordinary Meeting held on 3rd April 2013

The minutes were unanimously approved.

2565 Band Hut and Allotment Land

In response to the earlier question, the chairman outlined the current situation. It was explained that discussions are moving slowly with the district council regarding the potential transfer of the land to the parish council and there are currently concerns regarding the covenants that the district council wish to impose. The chairman stressed the importance of securing the right terms for the parish, in order to ensure that problems are not created for future generations. A meeting with the district council will be required to discuss the proposed covenants and ascertain the exact boundaries of the site. District Councillor Osborne suggested arranging a meeting with Diane Layzell of South Somerset District Council well in advance.

2566 District and County Council Matters

District Councillor Osborne reported that County Highway teams have been in the area clearing gullies and marking potholes. Area West would be able to offer assistance if the parish council wish to produce a parish plan. The district council's local plan is now due to be examined by a government inspector. Until the local plan is adopted, the new National Planning Policy Framework will apply, which can leave communities more open to development. It was also reported that there is still some money left in Area West's community grant fund and that grants of up to £1000 could be awarded by officers, under delegated powers.

2577 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

(a) Parish Plan

It was agreed that this item would be on the next agenda, as there was a need to gather further information and then scope the project.

(b) Clerk Vacancy

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr Justin Robinson as Clerk to The Council, effective from the 1st May. It was reported that Mrs Elaine Willis, would be staying on until the end of May, to assist with the transition.

(c) Compliance Committee Report

There was nothing to report as the committee is yet to meet. However, it was agreed that there was a need to review the council's Financial Regulations.

2578 Planning Matters

(a) Application 13/01275/FUL: Installation of 3 microwave dishes on the existing mast, Police Radio Tower, Windwhistle – **The Planning Committee has recommended approval.**

(b) Determination 13/00909/FUL: Alterations and erection of 2 storey extension with porch, Briar Orchard, Ammersham – **Granted by SSDC.**

(c) Application 12/04648/FUL: Erection of 40 metre wind turbine and temporary access track, Highlands Dairy Farm, Hewish – **Application withdrawn.**

2579 Amenities Report

Mr Michael Dunkin reported that urgent remedial work had been required in the lower recreation ground, following reports of a dangerous tree. The Oak Tree was inspected and a quotation was obtained prior to the work being immediately commissioned, in the interest of public safety.

The playground has been inspected every week and there are no problems to report. Members discussed the current risk assessment and inspection process undertaken by SSDC. It was questioned whether it was necessary for the council to commission SSDC to undertake this work. Mrs Elaine Willis confirmed that it was necessary to pay for a regular inspection/risk assessment but stated that there were other providers of these services, in addition to the district council.

2580 Rights of Way Report

Mr John Gapper had submitted a written report.

Les Braunton (SCC) has spoken to Geoff Peacock and it has been agreed that 40 tonnes of planings can be deposited on his land. He will also assist with moving the planings to where they are needed. It is likely that local volunteers will be needed to prepare the ground and spread the planings, later in the summer.

A handrail will be installed alongside the narrow timber bridge behind Malthouse, Court St. The stile near Heron House has been repaired.

There is no news regarding the problems reported on and around the bridleway serving Lue Farm.

2581 Finance

(a) The cheques for The Clerk's (Mrs Elaine Willis) salary and expenses were unanimously approved.

(b) It was reported that the precept of £15053 has been received.

(c) A cheque for S. Hanley (£390 for tree surgery work in the lower recreation ground) was unanimously approved.

(d) Precept

It was agreed that the future precept requirement should be regularly reviewed. Members questioned whether it was better for the council to pay off existing debt or to hold money in reserve. The chairman stated that there was currently great uncertainty regarding the current SSDC localising council tax benefit grant and whether this support would still be available at the current level in future years.

(e) Audit and Accounts 2012-13

Mrs Elaine Willis explained the figures contained in the annual return and the variances. The internal auditor's report was discussed and it was agreed that a clearer audit trail is required for grant applications.

It was unanimously agreed that the chairman sign the accounting statement for 2012/13. The annual governance statement was then read, completed and unanimously approved.

(f) Upper Recreation Ground Grass Cutting

Following a report from Mr Michael Dunkin, it was agreed that a specification for all the parish council's grounds maintenance work should be drawn up. It was further agreed that the chairman and Mr Dunkin would discuss this with the council's current contractor. It was stated that there is still a year to run on the existing contract.

2582 Cemetery Report

There was nothing to report.

2583 Upper Recreation Ground Report

Mrs Mary Haggard reported one of the cricket nets was listing and in need of attention.

2584 Jubilee Hall Report

Mr John Sullivan reported that the hall committee would be holding its AGM on June 10th. The hall is securing an impressive number of bookings and is very competitively priced. The committee plans to replace the windows in the near future, although it has thus far proven difficult to find contractors to quote for the work.

2585 Highways Report

Mr Nathan Mode reported that Mike Fear (SCC) has supplied a map of the gullies in the parish. He has asked to be advised of any potential areas at risk of flooding; these will then be logged by SCC and prioritised over a 4 year period.

Mr Michael Dunkin reported that SCC had cleared gullies in Western Way and the surrounding area but there are still a high percentage of gullies that are blocked elsewhere in the village. None of these are currently creating any significant flood issues, although Liberty Lane is of concern.

2586 Correspondence

A survey from DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government), regarding The Localism Act 2012 was discussed and was not considered relevant to the current work of the parish council.

2587 Any Other Business

The plans for next month have been circulated to Mr Nathan Mode.

The Date of the next Ordinary Meeting is 5th June at 7:30pm

