

**WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2013**  
**the Jubilee Hall, Winsham.**

**2539 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Those present: -           Mr John Chance                           Chairman  
                                  Mr John Gapper                           Vice Chairman  
                                  Mrs Mary Haggard  
                                  Miss Trish Baxter  
                                  Mr John Sullivan  
                                  Mr Michael Dunkin  
                                  Mr Bryan Goodman  
                                  Mr Nathan Mode  
Parish clerk:               Mrs Elaine Willis  
District Councillor:       Mrs Sue Osborne  
County Councillor:

Public:                    Mr Carl Earl, Mrs Stella Abbey, Mrs Margaret Tett

Apologies:               None

The Chairman reported that Councillor Andrew Partridge had resigned from the Parish Council. The Council expressed their gratitude for all the practical work and local knowledge that Councillor Partridge had given over his many years of service.

Councillor John Gapper also confirmed that he would be resigning after tonight's meeting. The Chairman was joined by the rest of the Council in thanking Councillor Gapper for all his hard work during his period of office, particularly with Neighbourhood Watch and footpath management. Following a request from the Chairman, Councillor Gapper indicated that he would consider continuing with the latter duties after leaving the Council.

**2540 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mrs Margaret Tett attended the meeting to inform the Parish Council that the Coronation Band had dissolved and she had informed our solicitors accordingly. She also informed the Council that the Band is still paying a standing charge for electricity. The Chairman advised Mrs Tett that she should have the supply disconnected for cost and safety reasons.

Mrs Stella Abbey urged the Parish Council to continue to try and get the freehold transfer of the allotments to the Parish Council. The Chairman advised that the matter was in hand and would be discussed later in the meeting.

Mr Earl asked the Parish Council why there was a discrepancy in the Precept between the 2% proposed by the Council and the actual 11% increase. The Chairman explained that the 9% difference was a grant which had erroneously been paid to the Council in addition, instead as part of, the Precept. He circulated a document, (Appendix 1), explaining how the situation had arisen. Mr Earl thanked the chairman for a full response and asked whether the grant money could be held for the following financial year. The Chairman confirmed the intention to do so.

**2541 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor Osborne thanked the Chairman for his explanation and commented that this year there had been a very quick turnaround from setting the Precept to delivering council tax bills.

Following the problems, due to the weather of recent months, SSDC had held a successful flood summit, bringing together all of the agencies concerned to produce new guidelines and an information pack.

Councillor Osborne confirmed that the revised planning application for Eco pods had gone to appeal; the Chairman questioned whether or not this would affect the chances of approval.

Councillor Osborne also raised the question of the revised application for change of use of land at Purtington. The Chairman commented that the current proposals the applicant had for using the site were probably covered under the permitted 28 day use rule. Councillor Osborne responded that SSDC were unable to speculate on the future needs of the applicant.

## **2542 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**2543 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH MEETING** held on 6th March 2013 and the record of the additional meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The Chairman signed them as a true record.

## **2544 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN**

- a) Band hut and allotments – The Chairman reported that we had received a letter from our solicitors today but he had not yet had time to study it. The indications were that the application for transfer of the freehold has become more complicated than first imagined. He went on to say that he could not understand why the SSDC needed to impose any covenants other than to ensure that the Parish Council did not sell off the site for profit: the declared intention of the Council was to hold the site in perpetuity for the benefit of the community. There were also rumours that SSDC wanted to retain a ransom strip which would prevent direct access from the site into the sports field. Other concerns were whether or not the triangle of land to the north of the band hut was classified as an allotment, and what building work and uses would be permitted. To progress further, the Chairman suggested a site meeting with D Layzell of SSDC, and perhaps including Mrs Stella Abbey. Councillor Osborne offered to attend the meeting and help see the matter to a satisfactory conclusion. The Chairman reminded the Council that they were only committed to the acquisition if it was of net benefit to the Parish. *Action: subcommittee to look at the solicitor's letter, arrange a site meeting with SSDC, and report back to the Council.*
- b) Parish plan – The Chairman suggested liaising with Tatworth and Forton Parish who were also intending to complete a Parish Plan. *Action: JC to liaise with Tatworth PC.*
- c) Clerk vacancy – The closing date is revised to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- d) Tendering & Compliance Sub-committee – The Chairman recommended that the Council should form such a subcommittee to oversee and keep updated tendering procedures and statutory documents, including Standing Orders, Financial regulations, and Code of Conduct. The Council was in agreement and Councillors Goodman and Dunkin agreed to serve on the sub-committee. *Actions: Chairman to forward relevant information to the subcommittee.*

## **2545 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Application 13/00677/FUL, Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of 1 No. Dwelling at 24 Church Street – recommend approval
- b) Application 13/00909/FUL, Briar Orchard, Ammerham, alterations and erection of two storey extension with porch. – recommend approval

## **2546 AMENITIES**

Councillor Michael Dunkin reported that he had received all of the paper work from Councillor Partridge and that he was devising a new inspection form for the Lower Recreation Ground. The clerk asked whether the Council wanted all the reports to be held in one place – all in agreement. *Action; clerk to deliver formal reports to MD. MD to discuss the form with JC.*

Council Dunkin reported that 2 of the swing seats were cracked but did not need replacing at the present time. Councillor Haggard reported that a branch was loose on the Lower Recreation Ground oak tree. *Action: MD to liaise with Andrew Partridge and G Peacock (PC tree warden). If needed MH will contact a tree surgeon in the village.*

## **2547 RIGHTS OF WAY**

Councillor John Gapper reported that it had been proposed to deliver 40 tonnes of planings to M Pike's farm so that volunteers could transport it to Broadenham Lane; he felt that this proposal was not ideal and would contact Mr Peacock and Les Broughton about a more suitable plan.

There is a stile missing a step on the Liberty Trail towards Ammerham – this has been reported.

Councillor Gapper has been trying to report an obstruction across the central arch of the bridge at Forde Abbey, a Thorncombe parishioner has now taken over this responsibility.

The clerk reported that the invoice for maintenance of The Liberty Trail had been sent to SCC, this needs to be done annually.

Councillor Gapper reported that there had been a request to reopen a footpath from Chalkway to Purtington – this has been forwarded.

### **2548 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) Cheques signed for Clerk’s salary & expenses, advertising, SALC.
- b) The clerk reported that the end of year return to HMRC had been sent, the PC did not owe any tax or NI.
- c) The clerk reported that the internal audit would commence next week.

### **2549 CEMETERY**

The Clerk reported that they had 2 applications for memorials which had been accepted.

### **2550 UPPER RECREATION GROUND**

Councillor Haggard reported that the Sports Club had appointed a new chairman – Mr James Parsons. In order to set up a new bank account the bank had insisted that the account be in the name of Winsham Playing fields as it was a registered charity.

They had been in contact with the planners about erecting gates at the entrance, and they needed to supply more information on how much they wanted to extend the car park and if there would be pedestrian access to the site. Councillor Haggard pointed out that there were 7 cars illegally parked in the car park today, something that the planned gates were intended to stop.

### **2551 JUBILEE HALL**

Councillor John Sullivan reported that they are still progressing with quotes for the proposed projects of replacing the windows and installing a projector.

### **2552 HIGHWAYS**

Councillor Michael Dunkin reported that he had reported all known potholes. Councillor Mode commented that he had been unable to use the SCC website to report potholes and Councillor Baxter said she had experienced similar problems. Councillor Mode reported that the road in Purtington was still waiting for repair following a collapse.

### **2553 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Came & Company
- b) SSDC Non domestic Rate bill
- c) Road closure Victoria Avenue & Ernest Ashman Place, Chard

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

### **2554 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Councillor Haggard asked the council if the Street Fair in 2014 could include the use of the Lower Recreation Ground – all in agreement. She also asked if a railing could be removed if large items needed to be put in the recreation ground. The Chairman responded that it would be acceptable provided everything was put back as before and the safety of the play area was not compromised.

### **2555 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May for 7-30 pm meet in the Jubilee Hall.

The next Parish Council Annual General Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 @ 7pm in the Jubilee Hall

The next Annual Parish Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 @ 7:30pm in the Jubilee Hall

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