

Winsham Parish Council

Draft Minutes of The Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Jubilee Hall on Wednesday 4th December 2013 at 7:30pm

Present: Cllrs S Abbey, T Baxter, J Chance, N Eastick, B Goodman, M Haggard, R Miller, N Mode and J Sullivan

In attendance: Mrs Teresa Pinder, Clerk to The Council, 0 residents

Apologies: None

PUBLIC FORUM

(a) Questions from Residents

None

(b) District Councillor's Report

Cllr Sue Osborne gave her report.

- The local plan went out for consultation on 28th November and closes on the 27th January 2014.
- NNDR is devising a policy scheme for rate rebate.
- Council rate reduction went well this year, although data is only held for two quarters - the maximum to claim is 85%.
- The 5 year housing planning supply target in South Somerset has not yet been achieved, the present figure is about 4 years 6 months.
- Windwhistle show jumping ground planning application is being heard at Area West next week.
- Cllr Osborne explained that following the demise of Slade the builders, the appropriate agencies had been alerted in order to help redundant employees where possible.
- The School Fete in Winsham went extremely well and the Xmas Tree Lighting event brought the community together.

(c) County Councillor's Report

Cllr Vijeh gave her report, and in addition to her written report which is attached to the minutes Cllr Vijeh mentioned a few updates.

- Winsham School is the first to receive a Health and Wellbeing Grant of £1000 which will be used for school equipment and should be received shortly.
- With regard to the Precept, research showed that the public want to know how the money is being spent by their local Council rather than whether or not their Council Tax is going up.
- Free motorway driving lessons for 17 year olds that have just passed their driving tests are available.

The Chairman put a few questions to Cllr Vjeh, regarding

- Lack of road gully cleaning in the Parish; this is now less frequent than previously, which is a false economy due to the cost of clearing blockages and increased risk of flooding and road accidents during icy weather. The Chairman has previously taken this up with the appropriate officials, and due to a lack of response, has briefed our MP David Laws, who has also pursued the matter.
- The Chairman felt that the 10 bags of salt allocated to each Parish Council for emergency use, and to be collected from Yeovil, was not cost-effective. It would be far better to have additional roadside salt bins in each parish which could be kept topped up by the usual bulk supply system; WPC has arranged to do this.

2608 Apologies for Absence

No apologies received.

2609 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest received:

Item 6 The Band Hut and Allotment Site – Cllr M Haggard as an allotment holder

2610 The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

2611 Sue Loaring Legacy

The Council agreed that Cllrs Haggard and Abbey would talk informally to other residents to see what their views were on the possibility of buying some new gates for the recreation ground in memory of Sue Loaring and collect any other suggestions on how best to use the money. A decision will be made at the next Council meeting.

2612 Planning Matters

a) Applications -

Application No: 13/04360/FUL

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Keith Talbot

Proposal: Alterations to existing annexe to include installation of gable windows, log burner and terrace. (GR 339090/109067)

Location: Purtington Barn, Down Lane, Purtington, Chard, Somerset

The Council recommended approval.

b) Planning determinations received from SSDC - None

c) Plans and determinations received after the posting of the agenda –

Application No 13/00501/FUL

Location: Land at Higher Purtington, Windwhistle, Cricket St Thomas, Chard, TA18 8QY

Proposal: Change of use of land to an equestrian showground and riding facility. The erection of a stable block to accommodate 20 No. Stables and 1 No. Storage building with associated parking and landscaping (Part Retrospective).

The above application will be considered by the Council's Area Committee on 11th

December 2013 at approximately 7.00 pm at Horton Village Hall, Broadway Hill, Horton, Ilminster, TA19 8QU

2613 The Band Hut and Allotment Site

The Chairman informed the Council that a meeting has been arranged on the 17th December 2013 in Yeovil by the Deputy Director of Legal Services at SSDC, to try and solve the current impasse. Cllrs Chance and Mode and the Clerk will attend, together with District Cllr Osborne as an observer.

The Council has received a letter from SSDC stating that they have changed their lead solicitor. The Parish Council's legal costs have now risen from an original estimate of £800 to £1500 due to the additional complications introduced into the negotiations by SSDC.

It was also noted that the Band Hut had been broken into again and didn't appear to be repairable.

2614 Parish Plan

Cllr Mode reported that there had been no change since the last meeting but that it will be moved forward for the meeting in February.

2615 Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Council Policies

The Council agreed to review the Financial Regulations when the new model was received which should be in the New Year.

2616 Parish Office

The Clerk updated the Council on the present situation and it was agreed that the Clerk will purchase a telephone with answer machine that has remote access for the Parish Office.

2617 Finance

Resolved: Council unanimously approved payment of cheques 322070 to 322073 per the Approval of Payments list.

An invoice had been received after the Agenda was issued from B E Powell & Sons for the vegetation cutting of the footpath leading from the cemetery to Ammerham which was approved for payment.

2618 Interim Audit

Following a discussion regarding the Interim Audit it was agreed that the Clerk will write to the previous Clerk to the Council, Justin Robinson, to inform him that the Council had undertaken an interim audit since his departure, and require him to take immediate action on a point highlighted by the Auditor.

A vote of thanks for the extra work was extended to Mary Pye, the Internal Auditor.

Proposed: Cllr J Chance Seconded: Cllr N Mode

2619 Salt Bins

Resolved: It was agreed in principle to spend approximately £700 on purchasing new Salt Bins. Cllrs N Eastick and B Goodman will look into where the best locations will be to have the new salt bins which must be placed in agreement with the residents. A schedule will be drawn up detailing where current and new salt bins will be located.

2620 Clerk's Contract of Employment

Resolved: The Council agreed the Clerk's Contract of Employment.

It was also agreed to look at recompensing the Clerk for the extra hours she has undertaken following the resignation of the previous Clerk and the establishment of the Parish Office.

2621 Precept

The council has not yet received details from SSDC; it is anticipated that they will be received nearer to Christmas. The Chairman indicated that it may be necessary to call an extra ordinary meeting in January to discuss the matter.

2622 Items for Report

(a) Amenities, Rights of Way and Highways reports

Rights of Way

The new gate onto Geoff Peacock's land doesn't close or is often left open. It was agreed the Clerk would ask Wayne Dowell to have a look at it with a view to purchasing a strong spring to be fitted which should ensure the gate closes.

Amenities

Nothing to report.

Gullies – The Council will continue to correspond with the relevant department.

(b) Reports from member representatives on outside bodies.

None

(c) Clerk's report and correspondence

The Clerk reported that she had attended Budget Setting and Broader Financial Management Course.

Correspondence

Two letters received from Somerset Highways regarding temporary road closures.

2623 Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Abbey requested that a note be made for the October 2014 meeting for an item to be put on the agenda with regard to a Parish Council representative being present at the British Legion ceremony at the Winsham War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

The Council gave a vote of thanks to Julian Cleal for clearing up the debris after an articulated lorry got stuck in Colham Lane.

Cllr Abbey reported that she had received an approach from a local landowner regarding possible housing development in the village. It was agreed to write to the landowner explaining that a Parish Plan was currently in preparation which covered inhabitant's aspirations regarding development, and that the Council would be pleased to meet him to discuss his plans, within the context of the Parish Plan, preferably before any planning application is submitted.

The Chairman reminded the Council of the success and benefits of the two-hour first aid course which was provided free for residents in the Jubilee Hall last year, and he suggested holding another one early next year. It was suggested that the school should be asked if they would like to be involved, and Cllr Miller offered to talk to the Head teacher about their possible involvement.

Proposed: Cllr J Chance, Seconded: Cllr N Mode.

Date of the next Meeting: Wednesday 5th February 2014