

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE JUBILEE HALL WINSHAM – ON 13TH MAY 2009

ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present:

Mr Roger Beer
Mrs M Haggard (Recreation Ground Committee)
Mr Peter Harper
Mr John Gapper (Neighbourhood Watch)
Mrs Stella Abbey
Mr Andrew Partridge (Cemeteries)
Mr Russell Haggard (Football Club)
Major James Goddard
Mrs N Shakespeare (PFA)
Miss Carezza Shakespeare
Miss Octavia Shakespeare
Mr John Sullivan (Jubilee Hall)
Mr Denis McCullam (Winsham Village Shop)
Mr Tony Shires (County Councillor)
Mr Robin Mundy (District Councillor)
Ms Kim Turner (Local Councillor)

Apologies:

Mrs Elaine Willis (Parish Clerk)
Mrs Ann Rose (United Charities)
Mr Robert Shearer (School Governors)
Mr Peter Saunders (Church Warden)
Mrs Margaret Tett (Winsham Village Shop)
Ms Patricia Baxter
Mrs Mary Pye

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2008

With the agreement of those present, Mr Roger Beer, the Chairman, signed the minutes as a true record after changing the amount of volunteers for the neighbourhood watch to 8

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES

None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Roger Beer reported - A year ago Elaine Willis took on the job of Parish Clerk and I must say she has made good work of it. The church wall has been repointed we hope this will last for a few years to come. A false ceiling has been put in to the bus shelter; this was done for safety purposes and to stop the vandalism (roof slates being pulled off)

The problems to the lower recreation ground are not new they go back quite a time; emergency work has been done to meet the current criteria.

Temporary fencing has been erected to reach a better legal standing for all.

There will be a Funday on 23rd May for a consultation and also a public meeting. Sarah Love is organising this, she and Elaine have been a great help to Roger on this matter.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The audited Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March 2009 was presented

UNITED CHARITIES

Mary Haggard reported on behalf of Mrs Anne Rose

Year Ending 31st March 2009

Receipts		Payments
Opening Balance	929 (1036)	Grants 0 (350)
Deposit A/C	3500 (3500)	Dep A/C 3500 (3500)
Income	816 (742)	Current A/C 1745 (929)
		Trans 5 (500)
TOTALS	£5245 (5278)	
CAPITAL	2009	2008
700 units COIF	£5419	£7490
800 units COIF	£6193	£8560
TOTAL	£11612	£16050

Trustees – Rev TF Price, Mr CJ Slade, Mrs A Rose

This year has seen a reduction in the value of investments as expected. The interest on the deposit a/c however had an average rate of 2.2% in the final quarter, which was quite good considering all things. Our income was £816 (2008 £742)

This financial year has been unusual in that there have been no applications for grants but recently there have been verbal enquiries. Official notification seems to bring no response. Perhaps personal encouragement to apply would work. Please talk about it. All applications are considered and only the trustees see them.

RECREATION GROUND

Mrs Mary Haggard reported: The recreation ground committee rents the upper rec from the Parish Council and the SSC rent the club house from the Recreation Ground Management Committee. The SSC in turn let it out for social functions and also to the Winsham Football Club.

It has been a very quiet year for the committee, so much so that we now only have to meet once a quarter. We are looking forward to the coming year as our future plans are to develop and increase usage of this very large open space. Our intention is to install a MUGA - this is a multi use games area - an enclosed space which is marked out for many different games and uses. We would also like to put in a youth shelter. Many thank to Andrew and Ernie Partridge for keeping the area neat and tidy. Finally I would like to thank Stella Abbey who stood down as chairman after many years of hard work, she took on some daunting challenges and won.

WINSHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

Mr Russ Haggard reported:

Winsham football club has had a mixed season. This year financially we are in the black, through a lot of hard work by our secretary Addie Douglass organizing skittles nights, quiz nights and selling tickets after every match. We have paid off the cost of our new changing rooms and have money in the bank.

We run three teams, the ladies team has had a very good season, finishing mid-table but are getting better each season. Also good news is that we had three ladies selected to play for the Somerset league team which is a great tribute to the Winsham football club. The reserve side should have had

a good season but for reasons out of their hands they also finished mid-table. The first team lost manager Richard White at the beginning of the season after five very successful years as manager. They have struggled, I have never known a team to have so many injuries, as well as some suspensions. This meant that the first team had to take players from the reserves and so weakening both teams. In the end although all the players gave all they had we were relegated and dropped from the premier to the first division. I would like to say that the new manger Phil Loaring did an excellent job and hope he stays on next year.

And lastly many thanks to the Parish Council for their help and support in the past it has been much appreciated.

JUBILEE HALL

A time of opportunity.

This report is concerned with our second full year of operation since major building and renovation works were completed. These necessitated the full closure of the hall for some six months at the end of 2006 and early 2007.

In the past we have compared running the Jubilee Hall with operating a small business. This comparison remains as valid as ever, but important differences need to be recognised. The hall enjoys registered charitable status, and the services of a management team that donates its time without charge, sometimes not even claiming out-of-pocket expenses. Despite this, the management of the hall's finances remains a constant challenge if losses are not to be incurred.

Rigorous control of expenditure goes hand-in-hand with the need to provide a low cost venue for parish organisations and residents to use as a meeting place. It is also necessary for the hall's management to seek out innovative ideas to ensure that it is as fully booked as possible. It is not just the financial imperative that drives this: an empty hall is a waste of a valuable but costly facility. The management team also needs to react quickly to changes in circumstances, and this has never been truer than at the present time, with the country and indeed the wider world in recession. This prospect was unforeseen just twelve months ago.

Recession is creating problems for many as unemployment and the threat of unemployment increases. It also is creating difficulties for the older, retired members of the community who see the returns on their savings and investments shrink.

However, the Jubilee Hall Management Committee sees in this situation the opportunity for our hall to become of even more value to the community it serves.

By providing a meeting resource for up to a hundred people with an exceptional standard of comfort and facilities, including a well resourced kitchen, modern PA system, Broadband and computer suite, we believe that this attractive and low cost resource for entertainment, receptions, meetings and education will become increasingly recognised and used. The Management Committee believes that it has a duty to ensure that it responds to this latent demand as fully as possible by keeping hire charges to local people as low as possible and continuing to promote the idea of a wider spectrum of use of our village hall, but with appropriate safeguards.

A year of change

In its attempts to improve and stabilise the revenue flow, the Committee has experienced a year of mixed fortunes. The Jubilee Hall Café which was aimed at providing an Internet Café facility could not be made to pay its way despite vigorous efforts. Its closure in the Autumn meant that the associated Public Access Broadband facility could not be maintained.

Fortunately this did not involve the Hall in any significant financial loss. The provision of the full Internet service package necessary to provide the appropriate safe guards for children will have cost the hall some £800 when it expires at the end of March, 2010. This has been largely offset by the Computer Training Courses that have been run during this year, and which are anticipated will continue during the next financial year.

Such is the importance of a Broadband connection for the hall, not just for training purposes but as a general facility for some users, it is likely that we will wish to continue with the facility in the

years to come, and without the need to provide the Public Access facility with its safeguards, the cost should, on an annual basis be much lower than the current level, and more appropriate to the level of use.

On a more positive note, the level of bookings have been increasing steadily to the point where they are comparable to the levels of use experienced before the Hall closed before refurbishment.

Furthermore the hall is being used more at week-ends, and one family hired the Hall on Christmas day, to accommodate a large family gathering, having lunch in the main hall. It is also increasingly being used for children's parties. Several couples hire the hall for ballroom dancing practice. The Hall also hosted two Take Art productions that played to a full hall.

In short the hall is increasingly playing its role as a general facility to be used by village organisations, groups or very small numbers of individuals alike, greatly aided by the availability of three meeting rooms.

WINSHAM SHOP

Mr Denis McCullum reported;

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to talk about Winsham Shop Ltd for the next few minutes to tell you about what we are up to, what we have achieved and the challenges we face in the future.

I had better introduce myself. I'm Denis McCullum and I'm Chairman of the board of directors of Winsham Shop Ltd. As a company we have been running now as an "Owned by the Community, Serving the Community" shop for 6.5 years and are on an even keel with stable turn over and small but consistent profits. The premise we work on is that primarily we provide a service to the village. There are obvious advantages to having a shop in a community like ours, you don't have to get in the car for provisions. So a shopper can save time by just walking up the road, you don't have to get in the car, you save on fuel, car running costs, less pollution, etc, etc. But the reason we exist is to provide a service to the village, first and foremost.

On a practical level we have 4 paid staff, and about 17 volunteers. Let me make this point clear, without the volunteers the shop would have a very difficult time to provide the long opening times we offer and of course would probably not be self sustaining.

We have recently changed our main supplier which has been a very successful move. We are able to offer a wider range of goods, mostly well known brand names at attractive prices plus we have recently started competing with the pound shops with a stand of items all at one pound! Including tobacco we spend about £2,300 per week with our main supplier and in total we spend about £4,000 a week on stock. We regularly review the stock to refresh lines and make sure that items that don't sell don't hang about on the shelves. However if you would like us to stock something, just ask in the shop and if it makes sense, we will have a go. All you have to do is ask.

The most important event coming up is My Shop is Your Shop. This is a national event sponsored this year by The Sun newspaper, which nearer the time, I think 30th May, will have coupons redeemable in the shop. Other sponsors are McVitie, Tetly, Tate & Lyle & Dairy Crest. Last year Cadbury donated £100 to be used as prizes in the raffle that week. Each day of the event will have a different theme. My Shop is Your Shop is running from 1st June for a week.

From a financial point of view, as it is the middle of the year I can't give you consolidated figures but I can assure you all that we are steadily increasing our turn over and more importantly making a profit. Clearly we don't have any desire to make too much profit as all that means is we give a percentage of our hard earned money to that lovely Mr Darling MP.

We have been trying for ages to find a good shopping bag at a sensible price to carry our Winsham Shop logo. Well we attended a trade fair recently and found a supplier who has promised to deliver them in the next month. We don't have a prototype to show you but maybe next year you will all own one. For the future we have to remain in business and if possible on the same site as it is at the heart of the village, socially and geographically.

Ok, I've talked enough. Are there any questions you would like to ask me?

If not, the one message I would like to leave you with is this. Please think about volunteering to work in the shop. The village really needs your skills behind the scenes or behind the counter. No experience required. Full training given.
Thanks for listening.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr John Gapper reported: Guy Crowden had ceased being the contact for Fore Street after many years service and has been replaced by Richard Woodland. Peter Harper has agreed to become the contact for Purtington. Police Ringmaster messages have been infrequent lately because of computer problems. Copies are often displayed in the shop window. The parish has returned to Ilminster community police beat after a spell under Chard. Our new Community Support Officer, Andy Searle, is involved in supporting recreational activities for young people in the village. He will be attending the Fun Day on May 23rd.

WINSHAM SCHOOL

On behalf of Robert Shearer (Chair of Governors) Mrs N Shakespear reported: The school is going through a period of major change. At the end of the summer term both our KS1 teacher (Mrs Biggs) and our Head teacher (Mrs Slattery) are retiring. We have already appointed a new KS1 teacher who will be starting work at the school in the summer term before taking up her duties fulltime in September. There is a national shortage of qualified head teachers and hence our existing part-time KS2 teacher will made up to fulltime and will be acting head teacher until she gains her formal Heads qualification. In the meantime we are arranging heads cover. Negotiations are still proceeding and I am therefore not in a position to be explicit about the details. A key issue will be the financing of the transitional support. Like all schools Winsham is facing considerable financial pressures this year (pressure which will continue)

WINSHAM PRE-SCHOOL

No report given

CHURCH WARDEN

On behalf of Peter Saunders, Mrs Mary Haggard reported: this has been a mixed year for those in this life of St Stephen church. If things had gone according to plan we would now be proud owners of a fully restored naïve roof. Unfortunately, due to a series of administration delays, we were unable to start work as planned last October. By the time the go-ahead came through it was too late to start within the window of opportunity provided by the winter months and the hibernation of the bats. Their protected species status means the building work can only take place in the winter months, when bats are hibernating elsewhere. Everything had to be delayed one year, and we are now looking to start work in early October. Due to our anticipation of starting work we had to pre0plan services in different venues, and we are grateful to the United Reform church for agreeing to our use of their church for our Carol Service.

On a positive note. The delay has given us more time for fund raising, and we are averaging one event per month, thanks to the hard work of our fund raising committee and their supporters. The church was full for our concert earlier this month and we are very grateful for all the support that we are getting from the village and the local community. The next events to look forward to are the table top sale in the Jubilee Hall on the 23rd May and the Duck race at Bere Farm on the 20th June. We are proud of the fact that the church, unlike many other villages, is open everyday of the year. Visitors are welcome, whether joining us for services or just to come in for some “quiet time”, and where better for weddings, services of blessing and baptism?

QUESTIONS

Stella Abbey asked if the graffiti could be removed from the bus shelter.
Roger will ask for estimates.

