

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 5th January 2005
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham, at 8.00pm.

DRAFT Issue 1

1074 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present: -	Mr. Colin Slade	Chairman
	Mr John Sullivan	Vice Chairman
	Mrs Nicola Slade	
	Mr. Peter Pye	
	Mr Peter Harper	
	Mrs Hazel Duke	
	Mr Roger Beer	
Parish Clerk:	Mr. Frank Vaughan.	
District Councillor	Mrs. Stella Abbey.	
Guests	Mrs Angie Singleton & Mr Andrew Gillespie from SSDC	
Apologies:	Mr Simon Fewkes & Mr David Gordon	
Public	Mr Jeff Peacock, Mr Albert Froud, 13 Residents from Western Way.	

1075 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A group of residents from Western Way came to the meeting to discuss and put forward their views on a proposal, by SSDC, to develop a piece of land off Western Way for 'Affordable Housing'. The Chairman explained to the group some of the background to the decision to proceed with 'Affordable Housing' in Winsham and that the site presently proposed was selected by SSDC as the best available site and the owner is prepared to sell, "there are no good sites in Winsham". The group were further advised by the Chairman that the time to raise concerns about the proposed development was at the planning stage, i.e. when a formal planning application is submitted, "at this present point there is nothing definite to object too", concerns should be raised on planning issues. The group was further advised to organise themselves in anticipation of a planning application being received and that the applicant would probably be 'Hastoe'.

Concerns raised by the group during question time can be summarised: -

- a) Western Way is narrow with no pavements.
- b) There is an existing car parking problem.
- c) The junction with the B3162 offers poor visibility.
- d) Will the proposed development be limited to 8 homes or will it just be the start of a larger development.
- e) Western Way is not the best site, how about extending Davies Close or building on more than one plot.
- f) This development did not appear on any of the searches carried out by solicitors on behalf of recent property purchasers.
- g) Views of open countryside will be lost.

Councillor Mrs Nicola Slade pointed out that there were no representatives, this evening, in favour of affordable housing on this site, but this did not mean lack of support for the project.

1076 PRESENTATION BY ANGIE SINGLETON & ANDREW GILLESPIE

Andrew Gillespie is the 'Area Development Manager (West) for SSDC. The organisation within South Somerset District Council has changed. Services are now provided in a corporate way across the whole of the District. One of Andrew's jobs is to scrutinise these services and see if the parishes within Area West receive services that are equitable & of good quality. This could be interpreted simply as, 'do all ratepayers get equal value for money for services received and are these services of good quality'. On this point our Chairman thought not, and sighted the example of road sweeping. Quoting David Salter "The District Council's only responsibility is to sweep kerb lined roads, also some of the roads in Winsham are too narrow for the sweeper". The Chairman asked if there was a budget breakback showing the cost of road sweeping in Winsham & if this money could be transferred to the Parish Council allowing them to contract out road sweeping directly. Mrs Singleton suggested that perhaps the 'Lengthsman Scheme' offered a solution, but the Chairman made the point that this would be at extra cost to the Parish for a service we should already receive. Another of Andrew's jobs is to point organisations in the right direction for funds that will improve quality of life, particularly activities to promote social behaviour, as opposed to preventing anti-social behaviour. Councillor Sullivan was interested in following up this offer for Jubilee Hall funding. Andrew went on to explain the advantages of forward planning, particularly the establishment of a village plan, "ambitious communities attract interest, the process & methodology of working through a plan can produce interesting results from unexpected sources. Villages with plans today will be the ones that succeed in the future. Although the Countryside Agency has withdrawn funding for Village Plans, if there is enthusiasm funding can be found.

The Chairman challenged Angie Singleton as to why the Recreational Maintenance Grant RMG was removed even against strong opposition. Angie replied that RMG was debated at length. It was a system brought in in the 70's and was seen now as no longer equitable, some Parish & Town Councils receiving considerably more than others with some organisations not claiming at all. The Chairman pointed out that, in practical terms, removal of RMG has left the Recreation Ground Committee in a difficult position financially, they have now to apply to the Parish, resulting in a substantial increase in precept. Andrew pointed to the availability of grants for capital investment, perhaps a new clubhouse, but more realistically something along the lines of new picnic tables to offset the loss of RMG.

The Chairman thanked Angie & Andrew for their time.

1077 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

District Councillor *Mrs Stella Abbey reported:* -

"I will be getting together a group of horse riders, Edward Lycett Green, Amanda Taylor & Elizabeth Butleigh, with a view to writing a wish list for improvements to Bridleways". Councillor Peter Pye was concerned that footpaths should not be turned into Bridleways. Perhaps it may offer a solution for Broadenham Lane?

1078 NOMINATIONS FOR CASUAL VACANCY

Mr Albert Froud of Meadowcroft Colham Land expressed an interest in becoming a Member. The Clerk was asked to display a final advertisement for the post & place co-option on the agenda for the February meeting.

1079 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no interests declared for the agenda of this meeting.

1080 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th December 2004

Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

1081 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

- a) Mr Peacock of YSJ Seeds has been trying, for 4 years, to achieve diversions to footpaths CH30/15 & CH30/16 without success! He is seeking the Parish Council's support in progressing these applications. The applications for diversion currently on the table were submitted in October 2003 and were as a result of the Inspectors intervention. The Parish Council agrees that these applications are reasonable and support them. The Clerk will write to Derek Waddington expressing this support.

1082 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Mike Williams Development Control Manager SSDC states that "Local Councils will no longer be automatically consulted on notifications but will still be consulted on planning & listed building applications".

1083 AMENITIES

- a) Weekly reports were handed to The Clerk
- b) Mr Jeff Peacock, in his role as Tree Officer stated that, in his opinion the branches on the large oak tree on the Lower Recreation Ground did not present an immediate safety issue. "When the tree flushes in the spring any dead branches should be removed".

1084 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques for the Clerk's salary & Printing were signed.

1085 CEMETERY

- a) The Chairman presented a large booklet on gate design to the meeting. It was decided to form a committee to look into the best design for new gates to the cemetery. The committee is Chairman Mr Colin Slade, Vice Chairman Mr John Sullivan & Councillor Mr Roger Beer.

1086 HIGHWAYS

Nothing new to report, but there is now an updated system for reporting faults called "Somerset Direst", same number 01935845800.

1087 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The 'SSDC Parish Council Survey (Sports Facilities)' was passed to Councillor Mrs Nicola Slade who offered to complete & return it.
- b) The 'Member's Day Safety Camera Partnership' information was made available to Members.
- c) 'Police Community Contact 10th January @ Noon', this information was made available to Members.
- d) 'Environment Agency Newsletter', all Members received a copy.
- e) South Somerset NHS Trust Briefing information was made available to Members.
- f) The 'SSDC Countryside Handbook' was handed to Councillor Mr Peter Pye
- g) The Tree Talk Newsletter was made available to Members

1088 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Councillor Nicola Slade reported that the dog bin is now in place.
- b) Councillor John Sullivan requested approval for a survey into use of Broadband. This was agreed.
- c) Councillor Peter Harper reported that the notice board in Purtington is now operational.
- d) Councillor Peter Pye asked for an item on the December agenda. "Reading the Lesson"

1089 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 2nd February 2005 at 8.00 p.m. in the Jubilee Hall.

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