

Practical aspects of being a Parish Councillor

A typical month in the life of a Winsham Parish Councillor! A fictional account based on the experience of someone who served on the parish council for thirteen years, which included spells as Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Day after the Parish Council Meeting...

(Thought)

Quite an interesting meeting yesterday evening. A fair number of people turned up to the Public Forum, but it didn't go on for too long. Interesting point about speed humps. Needs a bit more thought. The District Council and the County Councillor gave their reports. Kept them short thank goodness!

The Parish Clerk made the point that we will have to start thinking about the precept next month. Glad I don't have to do the arithmetic.



Ten days later...

(Thought/ Action)

Mrs told me about her concerns about the old oak tree outside her house that she thinks is dangerous, and blocking all the light. I'll have a word about it with the Tree Officer, and if I don't get any joy I will ask the Parish Clerk to put it on the Agenda for the next meeting. Find out what can be done



Next day...

(Thought/ Action)

Got piles of stuff from Parish Clerk on e-mail this morning. Had a read through. Most of it wasn't of particular interest. Some of the stuff will be going on the web site for general interest.

The draft minutes of the last meeting were Ok. I should point out at the next meeting the punctuation mistake I spotted.

Must have a good look at the Monthly budget figures she sent. I noticed we were overspent last month-I wonder why-and how will we offset it. Fred... moaned at me because the street light outside his house still isn't working. I promised I would send the Parish Clerk another e-mail, and have a word with her next week at the meeting if it still wasn't fixed.



Five days later...

(Thought)

The Agenda for next Wednesday's PC meeting came in on the e-mail today.

The idea of a wildlife reserve on that bit of land seems great, but what will it cost in maintenance... I know that it has been given to the parish but...

The new planning application is going to raise a few hackles, although it seems reasonable enough, on the face of it. I must make sure I have a good look at the plans before the meeting.

The Upper Rec. is also on the agenda-that looks interesting.

And a preliminary talk about the precept. I shall certainly oppose an increase unless there is a very, very good reason. When I put up for election a lot of people told me that they wanted no increase in the precept.

The Jubilee Hall is asking why they haven't yet got somebody from the Parish Council on their Hall Committee yet. I wouldn't mind volunteering for that. I am told that they only meet five times a year and the meetings are short and well organised.

What on earth is a 'Topple Test'? I thought we were not allowed to have meetings in the pub.

Next Tuesday before the meeting I must go through the papers again.



BIG THOUGHT

I am pleased that I put up for the Parish Council- I wish I had done it earlier. It isn't at all boring and doesn't take up too much time. If I get allocated to the Jubilee Hall Committee, that will be interesting too, although I will have to warn them not to expect too much from me as I am

a busy person looking after the interests of Winsham as a whole.



End (617)