

WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on February 4th 2009
At the Jubilee Hall, Winsham.

1775 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Those present: -	Mr Roger Beer	Chairman
	Mrs Hazel Duke	Vice Chairman
	Miss Trish Baxter	
	Mrs Stella Abbey	
	Mrs Mary Haggard	
	Mr Andrew Partridge	
	Mr John Gapper	
	Mr Peter Saunders	
	Mr Robin Munday (district councillor)	
	Mr Tony Shire (county councillor)	
	PCSO Andy Searle	
	PCSO John Martin	
Parish Clerk:	Mrs Elaine Willis	
Public	None	
Apologies:	Mr Peter Harper	

1776 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PCSO Andy Searle and PCSO John Martin introduced themselves to the Council. They have been carrying out speed checks, looking at various times of the day, number and speed of traffic, they may require volunteers to help with a speed watch scheme, this has proved successful in other areas. They are advising people to mark all belongings, if something is stolen they will not be able to return it unless you can prove it is yours, ideas include scratch initials on items, keep serial numbers, photos, for well used tools splash paint on it, ultra violet pens. – areas of risk are tools from cars and garden equipment from sheds or out buildings. In the past 3 months there have been 2 thefts from motor vehicles, 3 non dwelling burglaries and 1 live stock theft. They urge the public to report any attempted or actual thefts as numbers make a difference when considering action from the police.

Councillor Roger Beer asked whether they could monitor hazardous parking - including parking on pavements. PCSO Andy Searle replied that they use a graduated approach: education, verbal or leaflets before they issue tickets. He also suggested that sometimes it is safer for cars to park on pavements than on the road and it can act to decrease the speed of traffic.

They also suggested applying for rumble strips from Highways.

1777 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Councillor Tony Shire reported that the council had been working hard to keep roads open during this recent bad weather; a couple of roads were closed by the police for safety reasons. Councillor Roger Beer commented that the main route through Winsham had been salted.

1778 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Andrew Partridge declared an interest in item 10b

1779 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on 3rd December 2008

The Chairman signed the minutes, as a true record.

1780 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

- a) Bus Shelter – Councillor Roger Beer reported that there were no new developments and we are still waiting for the contractors to complete the work
- b) Peter Saunders was co-opted onto the council.

1781 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Application 08/04260/ FUL – Purtington Barn, roof – granted by SSDC
- b) Application 08/04498/Ful, - Agricultural Building, Western Way – Withdrawn
- c) Application 08/01913/FUL Ammerham Mill, 3 storey extension – appeal – granted
- d) Application 08/02686/FUL – Cricket St Thomas, holiday lodges – application permitted
- e) Application 08/04330/FUL – Wynards Court Street – Garage, greenhouse, polytunnel – granted
- f) Application 08/04509/FUL – Kingston well farm, covered yard, Chaffcombe – application permitted
- g) Application 08/04985/AGN – Lue Farm – replacement agricultural building and road repairs – prior approval not required
- h) Application 08/04987/FUL – 7 Court Farm Close – replacement PCV_U windows – recommend approval
- i) Application 09/00087/FUL 26 Western Way, formation of parking area – recommend approval, the Parish council would like to see the immediate neighbours area also used for parking otherwise a small piece of hedge would be left and impair visibility –*Action clerk to contact Magna Homes*
- j) Application 09/00097/LBC & 09/00086/Ful – East Whately farm – alterations & extension to house & garage (revised) – recommend approval

1782 AMENITIES

a) Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that he continues to monitor the equipment, he would also like to stand down as Amenities officer as he is concerned about personal liability following recent risk assessments.

b) The recent risk assessment was discussed, it has stated that a few areas are becoming high risk.

c) The clerk gave feed back about the fencing issue from The Playground association, SALC and SSDC.

SALC have emailed the clerk to say that the Parish Councils responsibility is with the users of the playground and not the highway users and that if the fence has been flagged as a risk we must address it.

The Playground Association reported that the existing fence provides a good barrier against traffic coming into the playground so another fence could be intermittent therefore providing a deterrent to children climbing through the fence and onto the road. They also pointed out the condition of the surfacing under the big swings and that there is no surface under the slide.

SSDC recommended looking at fencing options: mesh onto the existing fence (unlikely to get any financial help) or landscaping (grants maybe available) They also pointed out that the junior swings were very old and in need of attention or probably replacing, that the slide did not have a safety surface but as there is a slide on the multi area removing it is an option and that the chicken needs replacing and re-siting.

Councillor Tony Shire informed the Parish Council that the boundary fence is the responsibility of the Parish and not Highways and liability is with the Parish. He also recommended speaking with Zoe Harris about grants.

Councillor Roger Beer proposed that in the short term mesh wire is used and attached with cable ties until a solution can be found. He suggested investigating hedging.

Councillor Andrew Partridge commented that the visibility from an already compromised junction would be impaired with any solid structure.

Councillor Roger Beer requested that sub-committees were set up to address the issues of equipment and fencing, he also suggested holding public meetings.

Fencing Sub-committee – Hazel Duke, Mary Haggard, Andrew Partridge, Roger Beer

Equipment Sub-committee – Mary Haggard, Roger Beer

Action – clerk to: organise advertising for members of the Parish to come onto the committee, arrange for Colin Fletcher to risk assess the junction with Western Way, liaise with the committees about interested parties and further correspondence

1783 RIGHTS OF WAY

Councillor John Gapper continues to report any problems. He has received a request to publish local walks, the only problem with this would be parking, it maybe something to consider at a later date.

1784 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Cheques signed for Clerks salary & expenses
- b) The tender for the grass cutting was agreed
- c) Cheque signed for Winsham.org.

1785 CEMETRY

Councillor Andrew Partridge may do another compost day, he will advertise it in the parish magazine. The wooded compost area on the school site is still being used despite the facility being shut and is spilling onto the path. *Action: clerk to contact Robert Shearer.*

1786 UPPER RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Mary Haggard – nil to report

1787 JUBILEE HALL

Councillor Trish Baxter reported that some of the pictures are being replaced and a fan will be installed to help with the heating.

1788 HIGHWAYS

Councillor Roger Beer reported that the drains on Fore Street were blocked. Councillor Trish Baxter reported that the drain at the top of Court Farm was blocked. Councillor Andrew Partridge reported that the drain at the junction of Davies Close was blocked. *Action: clerk to report to highways*

1789 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Somerset Matters
- b) Clerks & Councils Direct
- c) SALC
- d) SSDC Standards Committee minutes
- e) Information Leaflets SCC
- f) SCSN
- g) Area west
- h) Communities in Control
- i) Somerset play forum
- j) THATCH
- k) Volunteers

- l) Somerset Partnership – Mental Health Services, Mendip
- m) Explore Somerset
- n) Clerks Council Direct
- o) Somerset Art Works
- p) Area West Committee
- q) Tree Talk
- r) Standards Committee

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

1790 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a)War Memorial – the clerk reported that they have posted a claim to repair the war memorial steps – *Action clerk to monitor progress*

b)Number 99 Bus –Councillor Trish Baxter reported that the service had been poor since Christmas: using small buses at inappropriate times e.g. at the end of school when they had to leave one child outside of Huish school because there wasn't enough room, they have used very old buses that have been in poor condition, buses have been late or haven't turn up. Posters have been put up around the village asking people to report any problems. Councillor Robin Munday reported that he had been in contact with County who have inspected the route and at the time of inspection there were no problems. Councillor Tony Shire asked to be kept informed of any developments.

1791 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary meeting of The Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 for 7-30 pm meet in the Jubilee Hall.

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