

# WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006  
At the School, Winsham.

## Draft Issue 2

### **1403 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

Those present: -	Mr Colin Slade	Chairman
	Mr John Sullivan	Vice Chairman
	Mrs Hazel Duke	
	Mr Roger Beer	
	Mrs Nicola Slade	
	Miss Trish Baxter	
District Councillor	Mrs Stella Abbey.	
County Councillor	Mr Tony Shire	
Parish Clerk:	Mr. Frank Vaughan.	
Public	Mr C. Earl & Mr J. Goddard.	
Apologies:	Mr Peter Pye, Bert Froud & Mr Peter Harper.	
Absent:	None	

### **1404 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*Mr Carle Earl* has received an informative reply from Sarah Littler regarding the state of footpaths CH4/21 & CH 8/1 in the parish of Cricket St Thomas. Our Chairman congratulated Mr Earl in making progress on this long outstanding issue. See later in Any Other Business, minute 1417d.

*Mr James Goddard* attended the meeting to discuss the weight restriction still imposed on Knapp Bridge. The bridge has just been extensively rebuilt by Rail Track. Its original weight limit was 11 tons. In recent years this was reduced to 3 tons because of its poor condition. Mr Goddard is shocked to hear that after a rebuild, at considerable cost, the weight limit has not been raised to at least its original 11 tons. Mr Goddard farms both sides of the bridge. The weight limit has a severe impact on how he runs his business. The Clerk will write to Councillor Tony Shire on this matter.

### **1405 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

*District Councillor Mrs Stella Abbey reported:* - Les Broughton will be carrying out maintenance on the stile opposite the band hut. As everyone knows we are all suffering from the recent spate of vandalism. May I suggest the Clerk contacts the Somerton Inspector, Neil Pitman and invites the police to attend the next PC meeting? (The Clerk has made a report to the police, broken benches, graffiti, bottles under car tyres, windows broken & more, crime reference Q96952912200607).

*County Councillor Mr Tony Shire* asked if the PC could suggest a good use for his discretionary grant for 2007-2008. Our Chairman, with road safety in mind, suggested the improvement to access on & off the recreation ground. Councillor Shire has agreed to make £500 available for this project provided the work is finished in the 2007-2008 time scale.

Councillor Shire then gave a brief presentation on local government reorganisation, "A Unitary Authority for Somerset", the County Councils view. The District Council

take a differing view on local government reorganisation, suggesting two Unitary Authorities & not one as preferred by the County Council. The Clerk will contact Andrew Gillespie SSDC's Head of Area Development & ask his view on local government reorganisation.

#### **1406 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

No interests were declared.

#### **1407 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006**

The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

#### **1408 MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE AND ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN**

- a) Mrs Jeanette Shaw thinks that it is a lovely idea to place a plaque on a style in memory of Dennis, she suggests the style adjacent to the cemetery & the school field would be an ideal location.

#### **1409 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Application 06/04436/FUL Two Dwellings Adjacent Plum Tree Cottage. The Parish Council recommends refusal of this application preferring the front of the houses to be in line with the roadway of Fore St, in order to maintain the 'Street Scene'.
- b) Application 06/02024/FUL Higher Broadenham Barn Advice of Appeal. This was noted by Members.
- c) Application 06/01695/LBC 3 Thatch Cottages Granted by SSDC

#### **1410 AMENITIES**

Two training courses are on offer, Playground Management & Playground Inspection both run by SSDC and each at a cost of £85-00 per attendee. Stella Abbey suggested that the costs were shared between the PC & the Recreation Ground Committee and asked for an agreement in principle to this. The Chairman asked that any decision be deferred to the next PC meeting where Councillor Pye would be in attendance.

#### **1411 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) Cheques were signed for Clerk's salary & the new dog bin.
- b) The Clerk presented a revised precept for 2007-2008. This showed an increase of 5%, because of the need to make provision for election expenses. It was decided that there was sufficient money reserves to cover election expenses. It was therefore agreed to set the precept at the same level as last year.

#### **1412 CEMETERY**

- a) The extra grass cut did not take place.

## **1413 RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE/ SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB**

*Stella Abbey reported:* - The Recreation Ground Committee discussed the drainage/run-off problem at its meeting last week. Jean Spurdle and others were very helpful with information about the situation prior to the building of the last houses in Bakersfield. The committee did not feel that we were in anyway responsible for increased run-off from the field, as we have not made any changes that could have affected the amount of water. Presumably changes in the rain patterns are the cause. One solution suggested is to raise the “lip” which diverts water into the nearest drain. Cars would still be able to pass over it to park. The Chairman has asked Roger Meacham, SSDC flooding officer, to have a look. He has some old maps that may be helpful. Contrary to the rumor, there never was a ditch or soak away at the bottom of the field by the recycling bins.

## **1414 JUBILEE HALL**

*Councillor Mr John Sullivan reported:* - The hall is nearing completion. We have received £6000 in grants for seating & curtains and a digital projector. The provision of broadband is almost certain, we have been chosen as one of 4 pilot villages in Somerset to receive broadband, getting free kit & 1 year’s subscription, thanks to the County Council. The hall will open officially on 13<sup>th</sup> January. May I propose that the Clerk uses the hall’s facilities once a week, allowing members of the public to call in, too, for example, view planning applications or put forward any agenda items they would like discussed at the next council meeting. This was agreed.

## **1415 HIGHWAYS**

- a) There has been water damage at Chalkway, where a lump of tarmac has lifted & flooding at Ammerham, all reported.
- b) Gully emptying is scheduled on the main road for after Christmas. Gullies off the main road, which are blocked, will have to be reported on an individual basis.
- c) Road Closure @ Chard Junction is an annual event for crossing maintenance. This year the diversion avoids Winsham.
- d) Winter Services (Salting in Somerset). The B3162 will be salted.
- e) Road Naming (Balsom Close). This is now complete.
- f) Further to minute 1399 & 1413 the Clerk has been asked to write to Highways requesting the drain in Bakersfield be re-routed along the footpath in front of the bungalows.
- g) The Clerk is to write to Dorset Highways regarding the state of the road to Horn Ash.

## **1416 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) SALC Items of Interest to Councillors
- b) Parish Emergency Plans
- c) SCC Working with Communities
- d) DCC Waste Development Framework
- e) Community Update
- f) Local Government Reorganisation (Unitary Councils)

This list of correspondence was circulated prior to the meeting & made available to all members who attended the meeting.

**1417 MEMBERS QUESTION TIME & ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Affordable Housing (Notice of Meeting with Hastoe 12<sup>th</sup> Dec), meeting confirmed.
- b) Affordable Housing (Copy of Sec 106 Agreement Available) & to be copied to all Members.
- c) Recycle Waste Bins Balsom Close. It takes at least 3 weeks for the District Council to supply new properties with recycle bins. The Clerk is to write to SSDC & give them early warning of the completion of properties in Balsom Close.
- d) Footpath CH8/1 Cricket Estate. David Shears, South Somerset District Council Rights of Way officer with Legal Services, has been involved in protracted discussions with the current landowner for several months. The landowner has challenged that there is a public footpath as shown as CH 8/1 on the Definitive Map and has based his assertions on an Extinguishment Order of 1959. However, closer scrutiny of this order and examination of Quarter Session records from 1834 and the history of how the path came to be included on the Definitive Map do not support this assertion. Currently, the landowner is consulting maps held by the parish and David Shears will take these into consideration. However, from the point of view of the Highway Authority there is nothing within their files, or that has come to light in the recent historical investigation, that conclusively conflicts with the Definitive Map. David Shears has been asked to convey to the landowner that the route shown on the Definitive Map is a legal public right of way and that any obstructions (one gate requires clearing and a crossing point needs to be provided in one new fence) should be dealt with quickly.
- e) The Parish Council in addition to the above is having a communication problem with David Shears; he will not answer the Clerk's emails. It was decided to write to him once more requesting a progress report on footpath CH 8/1. If a reply is not forthcoming to escalate to Philip Dolan SSDC's COE. for an answer.
- f) Footpath CH 30/1 near the Western Way access point is impassable because of mud. In the Section 106 agreement between Hastoe & SSDC Hastoe deposited £5000 with SSDC for improvements to this footpath. The Clerk is to write to SSDC asking that these improvements be carried out immediately.

**1418 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was decided not to hold a Parish Council Meeting in January. Therefore the next meeting of The Parish Council will held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February for 7-30 pm in The Jubilee Hall.

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