# Winsley Parish Council

## DRAFT Minutes of the Winsley Parish Council Meeting held on 5 December 2023

8.00pm, Winsley Village Hall

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**Parish Councillors Present:** Richard Mann (Chair), John Barnes, Ian Berry, Graham Bostock, Bridgette Duncombe, Kerry Kemp, Johnny Kidney, Tony Puma, Ian Sparrowhawk, Ed Townsend

**Apologies:** Linda Ladner

**In attendance:** Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the Public:** Six

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104. **Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Townsend declared a non-pecuniary interest in Acorns Pre-School.

105. **Minutes of Meeting**
**Resolved:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2023 as a true record.

106. **Public Participation**
The Chair of Winsley Acorns Pre-School set out the case for the grant request submitted to the Parish Council for funding towards a new heating scheme. The current heating system was old and not fit-for-purpose.

A resident outlined concerns with the cladding proposed in application PL/2023/09592, 12 King Alfred Way, and suggested that the materials to be used should be more in keeping with those already used in the local housing estate.

The applicant and architect for application PL/2023/09592, 12 King Alfred Way, provided further explanation and clarification of the application. Proposed wooden cladding would be installed on the existing garage and the extension to front porch. There were environmental benefits to using wood and it would help insulate the building. The particular type of wood had not yet been decided. The weathering of the material was affected by the direction the wood faced and by any overhang protecting the wood.

In response to a question about plans indicating that guttering on part of the extension at the back of the house would overhang the neighbouring property, it was confirmed that this had been raised with the neighbour, who could decide whether or not to allow this through a Party Wall agreement. The architect stated that the planning application could be decided before this issue was resolved.

107. **Planning Applications**
Councillors considered the following applications:

- PL/2023/09592 12 King Alfred Way, BA15 2NG: Single storey extensions front and rear of property external insulation. Timber cladding to garage (resubmission of PL/2023/06444).

  It was noted that the resubmission addressed a number of issues that had been previously raised. Councillors considered the proposed wooden cladding of the garage and front porch. Whilst the environmental benefits were noted, there were concerns about the impact of the cladding within the local streetscene.

  **Resolved:** to comment that the proposed wooden cladding was on a prominent part of the property and there were concerns about the impact of this on the local streetscene. The applicants were requested to make efforts to liaise with the owners of the neighbouring property about the guttering that was currently proposed to overhang their property.

  PL/2023/09782 270 Turleigh, BA15 2HF: T1 Silver Birch, crown reduction by 1-1.5m or nearest suitable growth point, re-crowning tree for amenity value. T2 Hazel, Coppice to 3 foot. T3 Line of Hazel trees, reduce by 2m. T4 Line of Apple trees, reduce by 1.5m

for routine maintenance. T5 Yew tree, reduce crown by 1.5m, shaping for amenity value.

Sensible maintenance and management of trees.

**Resolved:** No objection

108. **Matters Arising**
None.

109. **Police Report**
A general report had been circulated. There was nothing of note to report from PCSO Wallace.

110. **Unitary Councillor Report**

Councillor Kidney reported that:

- The opening of the railway bridge and end of the associated diversion in Bradford on Avon had been delayed until 18 December 2023.
- Lower Limpley Stoke road closures would operate from 2 January until April 2024. Wales and West Utilities were holding a public information event on 5 December 2023.
- National Highways had been approached for further details of roadworks taking place on the A36 at Limpley Stoke & Bathampton between January and September 2024.
- The B3108 would be closed in the evenings between Limpley Stoke Road and the Murhill turning from 26 February to 6 March 2024.
- Wiltshire Council had launched 'Wiltshire Together: All Together', a website providing a one stop shop of information from key partners so that children, young people and families, and those working with them, could easily access information about things to do, places to go and who to talk to if they need support (wiltshiretogether.org.uk).
- Funding was available from Wiltshire Council towards community orchards.
- The next funding window for the Government's Community Ownership Fund, to help community groups buy or take over local community assets at risk of being lost, was open until 30 January 2024.

111. **Grant Request**
Councillors reviewed a grant request from Acorns Pre-School for £1500 for a new heating system. Information had been provided about the role of the Pre-School within the local community, its constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and its financial situation. Quotes for three different heating systems had been provided; a decision had not yet been made on which one would be most suitable. Quotes ranged from £2000 to £5000. It was hoped that works could be undertaken by the early New Year.

Councillors agreed that the grant request met the criteria of the Parish Council's Grant policy. Although grant funds had already been awarded this year, the Parish Council had the funds available to meet the request. It was noted that the Pre-School was in a difficult financial position at the moment, but that there were clear plans for improving the current financial situation.

**Resolved:** to award a grant of £1500 to Acorns Pre-School to be put towards a new heating system.

Councillors also agreed to consider other ways in which the Parish Council could help support the Pre-School, such as raising awareness of fundraising, identifying any potential grants and by providing a closer link between the Parish Council and the Pre-School.

112. **Community Shop**
Bestway had confirmed that there was still an interested party looking to take on the lease of the shop, although no further details could be provided.

Cllrs Ladner, Mann and the Clerk met with the owner of the Seven Stars about their plans to run a pop-up shop on Saturday mornings, starting on a trial basis in January 2024. The Parish Council had offered to provide support to the initiative if required, which was seen to benefit residents given the lack of a local convenience shop.

113. **Highways Report**
At the request of the Parish Council, Wiltshire Highways would be undertaking a traffic volume and speed survey in Dane Rise this week.

Options for advisory signage warning of the narrowness of the lane between the War Memorial and Village Hall had been provided by Wiltshire Highways. The options would be shared with local residents for their views. The Cricket Club and Bowls Club would be contacted to ask them to encourage visitors not to use these narrow lanes for access.

Cllr Kidney was meeting with Michelle Donelan MP, the Wiltshire Cabinet Member for Transport and the Leader of Wiltshire Council on Friday about safety concerns on the B3108 and the need for a reduction in the speed limit.

A resident had provided a detailed analysis of Wiltshire Highway's briefing note reviewing traffic movements and speed on the B3108 and proposing road safety improvements at the Dane Rise / Hartley Farm junction. This would be circulated to all councillors. Clerk

114. **Climate Advisory Group Report**

114.1 Coronation tree

Members of Winsley Primary School's 'Wild Winsley' Club would help plant the Whitebeam tree purchased by the Parish Council to mark the Coronation year. This would take place in the play park at lunchtime on 15 December 2023.

114.2 Climate Advisory Group meeting

The Climate Advisory Group had agreed unanimously that they did not want to see a return to the use of weedkiller on pavements and paths in Winsley.

The Group was liaising with garden and landscape experts to make the Village Garden a peaceful haven for people and nature. Ideas would be discussed with nearby affected groups (the Seven Stars, Village Hall and Bowls Club), before discussing the plans more widely.

115. **Maintenance and Local Environment Advisory Report**

- Cllr Sparrowhawk and several interested residents had met with two companies who had provided quotes for repairs and renovation of the War Memorial. A third company had not provided a quote. James Long Stonemasons had undertaken similar work on a number of other local memorials. They would clean and repair the memorial, retaining as much stone as possible, before deciding whether the lettering needed attention. The War Memorial Trust would be approached about possible grants.

  **Resolved:** to approve the quote from James Long Stonemasons to undertake works to the War Memorial.

  An issue with children and young people standing on the War Memorial was raised.

- Structural work on the dug outs had been completed; benches and interior work would be undertaken. Cllr Berry

- Representatives from West Wiltshire Ramblers had contacted Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Officer, requesting that repairs to path WIN16 leading up from Avoncliff be undertaken. This matter had been ongoing for several years. Wiltshire Council's Countryside Access Officer had contacted the Canal and Rivers Trust again. The Parish Council would consider following this up again if no action was forthcoming.

- The West Wiltshire Ramblers were thanked for their work clearing vegetation from path WINS14 alongside the canal towards Murhill. The Ramblers had raised concerns about the gradual movement of the path closer towards the canal due to creep from the embankment.

116. **Budget**

Councillors considered draft budget figures. It was agreed that these would be finalised at the January meeting, alongside consideration of the precept.

117. **Finance**

117.1 Payroll Company

Councillors considered a proposal to use a payroll company to calculate and submit to HMRC the Clerk's pay, tax, and NI contribution details.

**Resolved:** to contract DM Payroll to manage the Clerk's payroll processes, at a cost of £10/month, with an initial set up fee of £30.

117.2 **Resolved:** to approve the following payments:-

- £1005.78 Administration
- £475.20 James Lock for work to the dugouts

117.3 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments and receipts since the last meeting:

- £459.00 James Lock grass cutting (Standing Order)
- £31.20 idverde bin emptying (Standing Order)
- £164.99 Roots Plants for the Coronation tree (payment)
- £47.87 Lloyds Bank interest (receipt)

118. **Other Advisory Group Reports**

None.

119. **Thanks**

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair recorded thanks to the following individuals and organisations for their help and support with Parish Council activities over the past year:

- Iain Bryers, the Parish Steward, for his work across Winsley;
- Murhill Bank Nature Reserve volunteers, and to Glynn Williams and John Kerr for undertaking tree works;
- Winsley Primary School for supporting the Wild Winsley Club and for suggesting and hosting the Winsley Community Organisations meeting;
- West Wiltshire Ramblers for their work in maintaining footpaths in Winsley;
- Dorothy House for offering to trial a letter posting service, starting in January 2024;
- The Seven Stars for offering to trial a pop-up shop starting in January 2024;
- Cllr John Barnes for his role as webmaster for the Winsley Community website;
- Cllr Johnny Kidney for his role as Unitary Councillor;
- The Clerk for supporting the Parish Council.

120. **Dates of Next Meetings**

Tuesday 9 January 2024 St Nicholas Church Hall.

Tuesday 6 February 2024 St Nicholas Church Hall.

Meeting ended 9.40pm.