Winsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Winsley Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2025

8.00pm, Winsley Village Hall

Parish Councillors Present: Linda Ladner (Chair), Ian Berry, Graham Bostock, Jim Bralsford, Mike Holgate, Kerry Kemp, Ian Sparrowhawk, Tony Puma, Caroline Roofe, Ed Townsend

Apologies: Richard Mann

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk), Unitary Cllr Nigel White

Members of the Public: Four

38. **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Townsend and Cllr Puma declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning application PL/2025/05347.

39. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2025 as a true record, subject to one minor amendment.

40. **Public Participation**

A resident spoke about the Dane Rise / Hartley Farm junction and pedestrian crossing proposals for the B3108. He supported option 2 which did not include a dedicated right turn. He felt that the proposal for a pedestrian crossing must include a reduction in the speed limit on the B3108.

A resident reported a recent accident on the B3108, that he felt demonstrated that the speed limit was too high. He had previously written a report for the Parish Council challenging Wiltshire Council's approach when using Government guidance in a speed limit review, as he believed there were grounds on which Wiltshire Council could lower the speed limit. He felt that it was not appropriate to have a pedestrian crossing within a 50mph speed limit and did not know of any such examples in the county.

The applicant of PL/2025/05347 spoke to outline his application for a managed and secure dog walking field. He explained the need and demand for such a facility. He stated that he was committed to the local environment and did not want to see this land in the Green Belt subject to development. The application included the planting of 25 trees and an additional hedgerow.

41. **Highways Advisory Group**

41.1 Options for a pedestrian crossing and road layout changes at Dane Rise junction with B3108

Councillors considered two options for improving the safety of the B3108 by the Dane Rise / Hartley Farm junction. Option one included a dedicated right hand lane to turn into Dane Rise and an additional uncontrolled crossing point to the West of Dane Rise, as well as a signal controlled pedestrian crossing to the East of Dane Rise. Option two included just the signal controlled pedestrian crossing. Wiltshire Highways had noted that given the limited space, the proposed right hand turn lane would be 'sub-standard'. This option would also require the purchase of land to accommodate the proposed junction layout.

Options had been shared with the community and residents' comments had been circulated to councillors. Nearly all comments were in favour of Option 2.

Councillors supported Option 2 but felt that it was essential that the speed limit was reduced as part of the proposals. The Parish Council had a longstanding campaign to reduce the speed limit on the B3108. Cllr White reported that he had met recently with the Highways Engineer who had said that the pedestrian crossing was designed to improve road safety and did not see a need for a reduction in the speed limit as well.

It was suggested that the matter should be raised with the Cabinet Member for Highways.

Resolved: to support Option 2 but to state that this must be done alongside a commitment to lower the speed limit.

41.2 Other highways matters

Following a resident's concern about drivers speeding at either end of Bradford Road, the possibility of setting up a Community Speed Watch (CSW) had been looked into. A traffic survey was required to set up a CSW, which the Parish Council would have to fund. As no other concerns had been raised about this problem it was agreed that the Parish Council would monitor this problem before taking any further action.

Wiltshire Council Officers had visited Winsley Primary School to review their updated Travel Plan. The plan included request for a lowering of the speed limit to 20mph, new school warning signs and yellow lines. Wiltshire Council would undertake traffic monitoring in the autumn before making any decisions.

The next Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group was at 4pm on 7th July.

42. **Planning Applications**

42.1 Councillors considered the following planning applications:

PL/2025/05347 Land at Winsley Road, BA15 2HL: Change of use to dog walking field and associated works.

[Councillors Puma and Townsend left the room for this item]

The application included details of an appeal decision in favour of a similar proposal in Green Belt in Lichfield. Councillors did not raise concerns about the impact of the application on the openness of the Green Belt. The following points were noted:

- There would only be one booking allowed per hour, with a maximum of eight dogs.
- There were likely to be more vehicles accessing the land than if the land was used for agricultural purposes.
- The application included a noise management plan, but it was suggested that there was too much emphasis on neighbours reporting a noise nuisance. It was felt that the noise management plan should be made more robust and that there should be pro-active monitoring of noise by the site operator.
- It was proposed that the field would be open from 7am to 5pm in the winter months (October to March) and from 6am to 9pm in the summer. Although it was understood that this might help avoid midday heat in the summer, it was suggested that the hours were excessive and should be reviewed.
- Proposed alterations to the entrance to improve visibility were welcomed but improvements should be carefully considered to ensure good visibility on both sides of the entrance.
- Concerns were raised about vehicles crossing the Active Travel Scheme to enter/exit the site. It was suggested that there could be a severe adverse impact on those using the Active Travel Scheme.

- Right hand access in and out of the site across the Winsley Road might be difficult.

The land crossed the boundary with Bradford on Avon and Bradford on Avon Town Council was also a statutory consultee.

Resolved: to comment on the application, in line with the comments made above.

PL/2025/04806 The Old Tannery, Turleigh, BA15 2HG: Removal of unauthorised render and subsequent replacement with roughcast render of a traditional appearance.

Comments received from a resident objecting to the application had been circulated and were summarised at the meeting. The resident intended to submit comments to the Planning Officer.

Resolved: to comment that the Conservation Officer was considered best placed to decide whether the proposed works and finish were suitable for this Listed Building.

PL/2025/04956 Winsley Manor Stables, Winsley, BA15 2LT: New greenhouse.

The proposed greenhouse was not visible from other properties or the highway.

Resolved: No comment.

42.2 The outline planning application PL/2023/04524 Bradford Rugby Football Club, Ashley Lane, BA15 2HR, had been approved with conditions at the Western Area Planning Meeting. Cllrs Berry and Bostock had attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of the Parish Council. A full application would now be brought forward.

43. **Matters Arising**

A letter, proposing a local community project to improve the appearance of the empty shop unit on Tyning Road, had been emailed to the leaseholder, City Estates. A response was awaited.

The next Bradford on Avon Area Board was at 7pm, 2 July in Holt Village Hall.

A resident had asked if the Parish Council's 'football' field near Avonpark could be used for informal football practice, one evening a week during July and August. The road closure at the bottom of Winsley Hill would mean a long diversion to their usual practice site. The group had consulted Bradford on Avon Youth Football Club, who use and maintain the pitch, and the group had confirmed that they had insurance. It was agreed that this temporary arrangement could go ahead.

There was a new Manager and Community Engagement Manager at Avonpark Retirement Village.

44. **Police Report**

No report had been received, local policing information was available at: https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/area/your-area/

There had been a car accident on the B3108 the previous day, when a vehicle had left the road and come to a stop in a field. Anecdotal reports suggested that this accident was not caused by speeding.

45. **Unitary Councillor Report**

A report from Unitary Councillor White had been circulated, this included details of:

- Wiltshire Council's current financial position;
- Shared Lives week;
- Updates to Wiltshire Council's policy on advertising local charity events;
- Wiltshire Council's home library service.

46. **Climate and Nature Advisory Group**

46.1 Wild Waters Festival (www.wildwatersfestival.com)

The Wild Waters Festival, undertaken with the aims of celebrating community and nature, had been a great success. Events had been well supported, many at

capacity. In Winsley there had been a showing of the documentary 'River', a water testing event with Winsley CofE Primary School, a showing of the film 'Rave on for the Avon', a Church Service to celebrate water and a talk about bats.

Thanks were recorded to Cllr Mann for his work in initiating the idea of a festival and overseeing the events.

Events had led to a number of useful contacts being made and Cllr Mann had a number of meetings arranged with representatives from Wessex Water, Conham Hill bathers and We Are Avon.

The Head of Infrastructure at Wessex Water was interested in a potential project in Winsley to look at saving water and slowing the flow of water into the local drainage system. Cllr Mann would report back at a future meeting. Cllr Mann

46.2 Wiltshire Council's Environment Summit

A report from Cllr White had been circulated about Wiltshire Council's Environment Summit. The event had been a success with talks and stands from an extensive number of groups. The event included ideas on how to engage local communities in activities to benefit the environment. Details about the event were available at: https://www.wiltshireclimatealliance.org.uk/summit-programme

47. **Maintenance Advisory Group**

The playground inspection report had been received and circulated to the Maintenance Advisory Group. All items were either very low or low risk. The state of the surfaces under equipment would be considered, and the possibility of removing some surfaces would be looked into. Other minor items, such as rust, would also be looked at. Maint'ce Adv Group

Cllr Ladner and the Clerk were meeting the Streetscene Engineer and a representative of idverde to discuss the management of the verges and issues with the accidental strimming of trees on 4 July.

Notices were being installed on bins which were most likely to become full to encourage people not to leave dog waste around the bin.

48. **Governance Advisory Group**

A draft Vacancy and Co-option Policy had been circulated to councillors. It was based on a template from the Society of Local Council Clerks and other parish council co-option policies had also been reviewed. It was intended to be a useful guidance document for councillors and applicants.

Resolved: to approve the Vacancy and Co-option Policy.

49. **No Man's Land, Conkwell**

Cllr Berry had met with two Conkwell residents about ongoing concerns relating to the occupation of the land in No Man's Land by an individual.

A member of the local policing team and the Highways Enforcement Officer had offered to meet to discuss possible action that could be taken and this would be followed up.

Completing the necessary forms for a court order was considered to be straightforward, although the process itself might be more difficult and expensive.

It was agreed to seek advice on the costs and chance of success of a court order. Clerk

50. **John Presland Nature Reserve Open Evening**

The Chair had opened a new path, seat and wall constructed by volunteers at the John Presland Nature Reserve, Murhill. The event included a tour of the site by volunteers and was well attended. The Chair had taken the opportunity to thank the volunteers who manage the Reserve on behalf of the Parish Council.

51. **Finance**

51.1 Independent Renumeration Panel on Councillor Allowances

A report from Wiltshire Council's Independent Renumeration Panel had been circulated to councillors. The report had considered the level of basic allowance that could be payable to town and parish councillors. They had agreed a maximum amount, depending on the size of the electorate, which would be £330 for Winsley. It was noted that:

- Most parish councils in Wiltshire did not pay a basic allowance to councillors.
- The allowance was designed to cover incidental expenses incurred as a result of being a councillor.
- In line with legislation, only elected parish councillors could be paid an allowance, co-opted councillors were not eligible to receive this.
- Councillors could claim expenses such as travel or printing costs.
- There was a separate level of allowance available for costs incurred by the Chair.

Councillors agreed that they would not claim a basic allowance.

51.2 Budget Update

Councillors noted an update on spending against the budget, noting that there was £58,168 held in accounts.

51.3 **Resolved:** to approve the following payments and transfer:

- £839.20 Administration
- £192.00 Playground Inspection Company
- £20.00 Village Hall for the July meeting
- £18.99 Ian Sparrowhawk reimbursement for poster frames
- £3000.00 Transfer from the Instant to the Current account

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

- £604.00 James Lock for Grass maintenance (Standing Order)
- £6.00 Unity bank charges
- £326.27 Unity bank interest

51.5 Noted that the AGAR had been submitted to PKF Littlejohn and that the relevant documents were being displayed until 6 August for the Exercise of Public Rights.

52. **Advisory Group Reports**

52.1 Human Resources

The Clerk's appraisal would take place on 14 July with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

53. **Communications**

An article about the Wild Waters event would be in the next edition of The Weaver.

54. **Dates of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 2 September, Winsley Village Hall

Meeting ended 9.10pm
