Winsley Parish Council

DRAFT Minutes of the Winsley Parish Council Meeting held on 7th October 2025

8.00pm, Winsley Village Hall

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

Apologies: Ian Berry

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

Members of the Public: Four

72. **Declaration of Interests**
None.

73. **Minutes of Meeting**
Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2025 as a true record.

74. **Public Participation**
Two residents raised concerns about the 40mph speed limit at the bottom of Winsley Hill. They had raised these before as part of the Winsley Hill Traffic Action Group, and had received support from the Parish Council. They felt a 30mph speed limit was appropriate here, given the bends in the road reducing visibility, the lack of roadside footpaths, hidden driveways and pedestrians accessing the canal. They asked the Parish Council to include a reduction in the speed limit here to 30mph as part of any request to Wiltshire Council to reduce the speed limit on the B3108.

They also reported an increase in HGVs using the road and the problem of oversize vehicles hitting the railway bridge, or turning round to avoid hitting the bridge.

A resident spoke about planning application PL/2025/07716, a resubmission of a planning application for change of use of a residential garage to a workshop. The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council had requested an extension to the consultation deadline so that this planning application could be considered at the November Parish Council meeting.

A second resident spoke to highlight issues with oversize vehicles hitting the railway bridge, suggesting that the current height restrictions were not sufficient. He suggested that additional signage was also needed. He had contacted Wiltshire Council, Network Rail & the local MP about this matter.

Unitary Cllr Nigel White confirmed that he was liaising with Wiltshire Council and Network Rail about the problem with oversize vehicles hitting the railway bridge.

75. **Planning Applications**
PL/2025/07425 The Old Tannery, Turleigh, BA15 2HG: T1 Conifer, reduce to 30ft. It was noted that the application lacked detail about the problem that the tree was causing.

Resolved: No objection.

76. **Matters Arising**
A member of the West Wiltshire Ramblers had raised a number of points about footpaths in the area. Separately, a request had been received for additional warning signs on footpaths near horse gallops. The Clerk would forward these to Cllr Bostock for consideration. — Cllr Bostock

Information had been submitted to Wiltshire Council as part of a Community Governance Review. Further information had been sought about the opportunity for a parish council to request changes to their governance (e.g. area boundary or the number of councillors).

There was a review of the Area Board system and information would be circulated to councillors. Clerk

A Wiltshire Council briefing note about Bus Stop Infrastructure had been received. Potential funding for repairs to the bus stop opposite The Seven Stars would be looked into. Clerk

77. **Police Report**

No report had been received from the PCSO. A local policing report for the Trowbridge area had been circulated; there were no reported incidents in Winsley.

78. **Unitary Councillor Report**

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

- Drop-in sessions for people to find out more and to give their views on Wiltshire Council's spending priorities. The nearest drop-in session was on Monday 13 October, from 1-7pm, at County Hall, Trowbridge.
- Investment in another 'Bobcat' machine to deal with road surface issues, which was helping to reduce the incidents of potholes.
- Progress with the new Trowbridge Leisure Centre build.
- The importance of careful driving in School zones.
- Improvements in local air quality.

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

Most of the site was now clear and no recent activity had been reported. Wiltshire Council contractors Streetscene were due to clear the remaining items from the site.

80. **Organisations Meeting, 16 October 2025**

Arrangements were in place for the third annual organisations meeting at 7pm on Thursday 16 October at Winsley Primary School. Invitations had been sent to local groups, organisations and businesses.

81. **Highways Advisory Group**

81.1 40mph speed limit request to the Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG)

Councillors considered whether to submit a request to LHFIG for a reduction in the B3108 speed limit from 50mph to 40mph. A similar request had been submitted to LHFIG several years ago without success. There had been changes since that time, including in the administration of Wiltshire Council. Unitary Cllr White had asked Wiltshire Council to provide evidence of any negative impacts from the temporary 40mph speed limit that was in place during the A36 road closure. He emphasised the importance of evidencing residents' support for a reduction in the speed limit. The next LHFIG meeting was likely to be January 2026.

Resolved: to submit a request to LHFIG to reduce the speed limit on the B3108 from 50mph to 40mph. Highways Adv Group

81.2 Local Highways & Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) Meeting

Cllr Townsend provided an update from the LHFIG meeting. Wiltshire Council had cleared the drains around the junction at the bottom of Ashley Lane onto the A363 at Cumberwell. They had also requested that landowners resolve any drainage issues on their land and were awaiting confirmation that such action had been undertaken. This should reduce the problem of surface water on the A363 which was then liable to freeze to black ice. A proposed reduction in the speed limit at this point on the A363, from 50mph to 40mph, was also discussed. Winsley, South Wraxall and

Bradford on Avon councils would consider the possibility of funding a speed assessment here once new speed assessment guidelines were in place.

81.3 Councillor to join the Highways Advisory Group
Resolved: to appoint Cllr Bralsford as an additional councillor on the Highways Advisory Group.

81.4 20mph speed limits and '20's plenty for us' resolution
The 20's plenty consultation had been launched and was running until 19 October. Results would be considered at the November Parish Council meeting.

81.5 Pedestrian crossing on the B3108
The statutory consultation on the pedestrian crossing on the B3108 would run from 10 October to 10 November. Details would be posted at the site and on the Wiltshire Council website. This would be publicised by the Parish Council. Clerk

81.6 Other highways matters
Cllr Roofe had attended an online meeting about a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan for Bradford on Avon. Although all local parish councils had been invited the Plan focused only on routes within Bradford on Avon.

Unitary Cllr White continued to investigate options for improving the D1 bus service to Winsley.

82. **Climate and Nature Advisory Group**

82.1 Wild Waters Festival Summary
A Wild Waters Festival summary document had been circulated to councillors.

82.2 Wild Waters Budget Request
Cllr Mann requested a budget of £500 to support Wild Waters events in 2026. The Parish Council agreed a budget of £500 for the 2025 Wild Waters Festival. Although not all of this had been used, a similar budget was requested for 2026/27 to ensure that any additional expenses could be covered. It was noted that Cllr Mann had worked hard to secure free or low-cost services to support the Festival last year.

Resolved: to approve a budget of £500 in 2026/27 for Wild Waters events.

82.3 Other updates
Cllr Mann was discussing a possible 'Watermark' village project with Wessex Water and details would be brought to the November meeting.

The Climate and Nature Advisory Group would meet on 22 October 2025. The Group were looking at planting bulbs in the village.

A member of the Climate & Nature Advisory Group would attend a Future Energy Landscapes meeting on 12 November. The Future Energy Landscapes project aims to develop local community energy projects and involves the Centre for Sustainable Energy in Bristol, Bath & West Community Energy and Wiltshire Council.

The Great Western Community Forest were offering funding of £80 for their 'Oaks at 80' project to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Possible places to plant an Oak tree would be looked into.

83. **Communications**

83.1 Internal Communications Guidelines
Councillors considered some draft internal communication guidelines. Good internal communications were essential for the effective running of the Parish Council.

Resolved: to approve the internal communications guidelines.

83.2 Communications Policy
Councillors considered the Communication Policy; no changes were proposed.

83.3 Communications Advisory Group

Councillors were asked to consider joining the Communications Advisory Group to help with external communication between the Parish Council and residents. The importance of regular external communication was noted and all councillors were encouraged to forward on items that might be of wider interest. All cllrs

84. **Civic Chain of Office**

Councillors considered a proposal to look into purchasing a civic chain for the Chair, with indicative costs provided. It was noted that the Chair attended regular and occasional events as the representative of the Parish Council; a civic chain would provide a clear indication of the capacity in which the Chair was attending events. Although the benefits of this were recognised in principle, some concerns were raised, including the likely cost, storage and insurance. Alternatives such as hiring civic chains or finding less expensive options were suggested.

Resolved: not to pursue investigation of purchasing a civic chain of office.

85. **Finance**

85.1 Conclusion of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return

The external auditor's report had been received. One matter of concern had been raised over the minuting of the annual Risk Register review and this had been addressed for future returns. The conclusion notice for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was available on the website.

85.2 **Resolved:** to approve the following payment:

- £839.20 Administration
- £185.48 HMRC for PAYE & NI (quarterly)
- £24.00 Village Hall for hall hire
- £252.00 PKF Littlejohn for external audit
- £13.97 Zoe Elstone for plants

85.3 **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)
- £31.20 idverde for bin emptying (Standing Order)
- £6.00 Unity bank charges
- £24.00 Village Hall for hall hire
- £14,311.65 Precept (2 of 2) (receipt)
- £304.95 Unity Bank quarterly interest (receipt)

86. **Advisory Group Reports**

86.1 Maintenance Advisory Group

The Parish Council's grass cutting contractor had reported problems caused by stones from a dry stone wall being left around the Village Garden. The wall was privately owned and a councillor would liaise with the property owners about this. Cllr Townsend

The Parish Steward had cleared debris along the road edge by the Bradford Road/Limpley Stoke junction near Dorothy House. Wiltshire Council had cleared drains in this area, and had confirmed that repairs to a broken drainage pipe would be looked into.

Cllr Puma was thanked for removing a broken post stump in the park.

87. **Dates of Next Meetings -** all meetings in St Nicholas Church Hall
Tuesday 4 November 2025
Tuesday 2 December 2025
Tuesday 13 January 2026

Meeting ended 9.10pm
