Winsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Winsley Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd March 2026

8.00pm, St Nicholas Church Hall

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

Apologies: Jim Bralsford

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: Four

Dorothy House presentation

Before the meeting started, the Head of Facilities & Estates and the Director of Marketing & Engagement at Dorothy House Hospice Care gave a short presentation about developments and events, noting that Dorothy House was celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

146. **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Puma declared a non-pecuniary interest in two planning applications: PL/2026/01003 & PL/2026/01056.

Cllr Sparrowhawk declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item about the Winsley Cricket Club grant request.

147. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2026 as a true record.

148. **Public Participation**

A resident outlined a number of points:

- frustration that the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) that was currently out for formal consultation focused solely on Bradford on Avon and did not relate to Winsley or surrounding villages.

- frustration that despite repeatedly reporting pothole issues on Winsley roads to Wiltshire Council a number of potholes remained. These were of particular danger to cyclists. He noted the resurfacing of Cottles Lane, despite few apparent issues with this road surface, whilst other nearby roads, were in worse condition.

- that Wiltshire Council had agreed to dispose of a narrow strip of land on Bradford Road (alongside Dorothy House). He asked the Parish Council to explore the possibility of purchasing the land and installing a footpath.

149. **Planning Applications**

PL/2025/09700 Elbow Cottage, 51-52, Turleigh, BA15 2LZ: New single storey front and rear extensions, new front porch and replacement outbuilding. *[Revised application]*

In response to concerns raised, the applicant had made significant revisions to the application. These were felt to have addressed the Parish Council's objections to the previous plans.

Resolved: no objection.

PL/2026/00049 Land South of Conkwell Grange, Conkwell, BA2 7FD: Installation of polytunnel on small holding land.

No concerns were raised about the proposal to install a polytunnel on the site. However, concerns were raised that information & images provided in the application did not accurately represent current development on the site. The Parish Council's response to a previous application (17/04391/FUL) had included a request for a

condition to prevent incremental development. Councillors wanted a Planning Officer to review current development at the site.

Resolved: No objection to the proposed polytunnel but to note the concerns about possible development at the site as set out above.

PL/2026/00832 7 Fieldins, Winsley, Bradford On Avon, BA15 2JU: Replace existing conservatory with a single-storey extension and single-storey side extension. Internal layout changes & associated works.

Resolved: no objection.

PL/2026/00811 11 King Alfred Way, BA15 2NG: Single-storey rear extension.

Resolved: no objection.

PL/2026/00706 155 Winsley, BA15 2LH: Single-storey rear extension, alterations to existing openings, and revised vehicular access arrangements.

An issue had been raised with the proposed access across a privately owned lane. This was deemed to be a private legal matter rather than one for consideration by the Parish Council.

Resolved: no objection.

PL/2026/01003 Great Ashley, BA15 2PP: Relocated driveway entrance and replacement garage.

This application was to replace a garage and shed situated towards the back of the site with one larger garage, built towards the front of the property line. Boundary walls would be extended in height and a new access created. The property was in the Green Belt. Concerns were raised about the position of the garage and the walls creating a 'canyon' effect, as well as obstructing the view from the road. The 1.8m high walls were felt impact highway visibility. The taller boundary walls and positioning of the garage were considered to reduce the openness of the Green Belt.

Resolved: objection due to the height of the boundary wall and the position and scale of the garage.

PL/2026/01056 Hillview Farm Byre, 2C Bradford Road, BA15 2HL: Permission in Principle for the erection of one self-build dwelling.

Noted that this was Permission in Principle and that, should this be approved, more detailed plans would be provided. It was reported that there had been objections to previous applications on this site. The proposed position of the new build was in a Green Belt field and at a distance from the road.

Resolved: objection to the building of a new house in the Green Belt; the benefits were not seen to outweigh the harm that would be caused.

PL/2026/01134 95 Tyning Road, BA15 2JP: Single storey rear lean-to extension and change garage door to window on front elevation.

Resolved: No objection**.**

It was noted that 'no objection' had been submitted for planning application PL/2026/00699 Daneshill, Winsley, BA15 2LW: 5 x Plum trees – fell.

150. **Matters Arising**

Cllr Mann and the Clerk had met the Manager of Avonpark Retirement Village for an update on the redevelopment works. Some Winsley residents had raised concerns with Avonpark about the temporary compound on the field owned by the Retirement Village. A bat tower was being built in the field and the proposed slate roof was questioned, with a proposed alternative more in keeping with local roofing materials.

Two residents had indicated an interest in a possible Spring Clean event. Any councillors interested in being involved should contact the Clerk. Cllrs

The Clerk had followed up complaints about the streetlamp on Bradford Road by the Social Club that had not worked for some months. Wiltshire Council contractors

confirmed that a new lamp & replacement electrics were needed and works were scheduled for the end of March.

Cllr Ladner and the Clerk had attended the Bradford on Avon Area Board on 18 February. They were pleased to report that the Village Hall had received a grant of £3250 towards redecoration. The Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police had given a presentation about local policing and police reforms.

151. **Police Report**

There were no incidences of note to report. The Clerk would contact the local policing team about communications and to invite them to the Annual Parish Meeting. — Clerk

152. **Unitary Councillor Report**

A report from Unitary Councillor White had been circulated, this included updates on:

- the approval of the Wiltshire Council budget for 2026/27;
- the Government writing off approximately 90% of the historic SEND budget deficits that councils across the country had accumulated;
- gullying emptying and maintenance programmes;
- efforts to tackle potholes across Wiltshire;
- the way Area Boards work.

Unitary Cllr White had been contacted by residents with concerns about the works to redevelop Avonpark Retirement Village.

153. **Highways Advisory Group**

153.1 Speed and road safety on Ashley Lane

A number of residents had raised concerns about drivers' speeds and road safety in the lanes, particularly Ashley Lane. Some specific incidents were reported. Issues with sat nav systems directing drivers through the lanes, rather than along the main roads, were noted. It was agreed to contact Wiltshire Highways about any possible measures that could be taken to improve road safety here. — Cllrs Bralsford /Townsend

153.2 Other highways matters

The Parish Council was waiting for updates from Wiltshire Highways on reducing the B3108 speed limit & implementing a 20mph speed limit on residential roads in Winsley.

Cllr Bostock had reported potholes via MyWilts, noting the particular problems these caused to cyclists.

The Bradford on Avon Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) consultation, running until 23 March, was advertised on the Parish Council's website.

154. **Climate and Nature Advisory Group**

154.1 Watermark Community Project

The Watermark Community project would focus on encouraging residents to save water and to only put the correct things into drains. The project would be launched by Wessex Water at the Annual Parish Meeting on 23 April. The Parish Council would then encourage community engagement with these topics. Two Watermark Community workshops would take place on 13 and 18 June as part of the Wild Waters Festival. The project would be publicised to local groups & organisations at the annual organisations meeting in October.

154.2 Wild Waters Festival, 30 May to 30 June 2026

The first meeting to organise events for this year's Wild Waters Festival had gone well and a second meeting would be held next week. Details of the first Festival event were on the Wild Waters website. Chippenham, North Wraxall and Melksham were also looking at running events alongside the Festival.

154.3 Farm Clusters project

Cllrs Mann, Roofe, Townsend & the owner of Quoins Farm had attended a farm cluster meeting at Fernhill Farm in the Mendips. The visit had focused on regenerative farming and agroforesty. It had been a positive meeting with various ideas to explore and contacts were being made with local farmers about setting up a local farm cluster. — Cllrs Mann, Roofe, Townsend

154.4 Landscaping of the Playpark

Cllrs Mann & Sparrowhawk & the Clerk had met with a representative from Jupiter Play about possible landscaping of the park and surfaces. The current surface matting was quite old and was not a safety requirement. It was suggested that the matting could be removed. The base material would also need to be removed and disposed of; whether some of this could be used in creating play mounds would be considered.

The representative from Jupiter Play would provide a potential plan at which point next steps would be considered.

154.5 Other Climate Advisory Matters

The next Winsley Nature Chain event was a talk by a bee expert on 'Gardening for Pollinators' on 17 March.

Freshford & Limpley Stoke communities were working to establish a community market garden.

A Community Energy drop-in event would be held from 10.30am-1.30pm on Saturday 14 March at Hartley Farm Barn.

155. **Land at Murhill**

Cllrs Bostock and Roofe had met with a resident to find out more about four parcels of land in Murhill that might become available for the Parish Council to acquire. The possible liabilities in owning land that included trees and stone walls were noted. The Parish Council would wait for further information from the resident.

156. **Bin Emptying Contract**

The Parish Council's bin emptying contractor, Idverde, had given notice that it was no longer economically viable for them to empty the bins and the contract would end on 31 March 2026. Wiltshire Council was aware of this situation that was affecting a number of parish councils and they were exploring possible alternatives.

Four waste companies had been contacted. A quote had been provided by one company. A second company had asked the Parish Council to obtain a waste disposal licence; Wiltshire Council had confirmed that this was not possible for a parish council. Responses from two waste disposal companies were awaited.

Bradford on Avon Town Council had offered to provide a litter bin emptying service using their Town Wardens, on a year's trial. The Wardens emptied bins in Bradford on Avon and would be able to empty bins in Winsley on a weekly basis. Collected waste would be disposed of by Hills Waste. It was felt that this would be a good opportunity to work more closely with Bradford on Avon Town Council and that they could, if needed, offer other maintenance services.

Charges outlined in the two quotes received were considered. Idverde's charges had not changed since the contract began and were therefore very low; any new contract would see a significant rise in charges. The charges quoted by Bradford on Avon Town Council were less than those from the private company.

Given that a new contract was needed from 1 April and that three responses had been received, councillors agreed that they had enough information to make a decision on a contract.

Resolved: to enter a contract with Bradford on Avon Town Council for weekly bin-emptying on a one-year trial basis.

157. **Grant Request**

Cllr Holgate had met with two members of the Winsley Cricket Club about the Club's plans to mark the centenary of the Cricket Club this year. They proposed a number of exciting projects and a grant request would be brought to the next Parish Council meeting.

The Village Hall had set up a Working Group to organise events for its centenary and representatives from both groups would look at any potential overlap with events.

158. **Finance**

158.1 Standing Order for Grass Maintenance Contract for 2026/27
Resolved: to set up a monthly Standing Order of £573.00 for grass cutting maintenance, to be paid from April to December.

158.2 Direct Debit for HMRC payments
Resolved: To set up a quarterly variable Direct Debit to pay PAYE and NI contributions to HMRC on an ongoing basis.

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

- £859.40 Administration

158.4 **Resolved:** to approve the bank reconciliation, noting the following payments since the last meeting:

- £6.00 Unity Bank charges
- £31.20 idverde for bin emptying
- £147.60 Passion First Aid course for a Nature Reserve volunteer
- £130.68 Wild Waters festival printing (from the River Guardians grant)

159. **Advisory Group Reports**

A consultation on the possible closure of Bradford on Avon Fire Station was underway until 15 May and details were available on the community website. Meetings were being held locally to provide further information.

160. **Communications**

Cllr Mann was submitting a Wild Waters Festival update to the Weaver. The Clerk would provide the Weaver with an item on the Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk

Advisory Groups were reminded that each group needed to provide three bullet points and a photo about their activities in the past year, by the end of March. Adv Groups

161. **Dates of Next Meetings** (all at 8pm, in St Nicholas Church Hall)

Tuesday 31 March (a week earlier than usual)

Annual Parish Meeting: 7pm, Thursday 23 April in Winsley Primary School.

Meeting ended 9.20pm
