Winsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Winsley Parish Council held on 5th May 2026

8.00pm, Winsley Village Hall

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

Apologies: Ian Sparrowhawk

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

Members of the Public: Two

1. **Election of a Chair**
   Resolved: to elect Cllr Ladner as Chair.

2. **Election of a Vice-Chair**
   Resolved: to elect Cllr Mann as Vice Chair.

3. **Declaration of Interests**
   Cllr Bralsford declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Cricket Club item.

4. **Minutes of Meeting**

   Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2026 as a true record.

5. **Public Participation**
   None.

6. **Grant Request**
   A representative from Winsley Cricket Club presented their request for a grant to support their centenary celebrations in 2026 and information had been circulated to councillors. Two community focused projects were proposed: Voices of Winsley Cricket Club Digital Heritage Project and a 50+ Walking Cricket Centenary Tournament & Legacy Programme.

   The Club had committed £3000 of their own funds to the centenary projects. They would know shortly the outcome of a request for additional funds submitted to Swindon & Wiltshire Community Foundation.

   Outline costs were based on best estimates rather than actual quotes. They would seek to borrow, rather than buy, equipment wherever possible to limit costs.

   The Voices of Winsley project would involve younger people interviewing older people. The Walking Cricket Tournament hoped to get a number of teams involved with the aim of bringing together 150-180 people. The Club is planning to start advertising these events shortly.

   It was also explained that, in a separate project, Winsley Cricket Club was working with Southwick residents to re-establish the Southwick Cricket Club with funding from Wiltshire Council.

   In discussion it was noted that:

   - Winsley Cricket Club was an active, inclusive local club with health and other benefits for the community.
   - The proposed centenary projects had potential wide ranging & long term positive impacts for Winsley and the wider community.

- That the Club were looking to establish links with Kettles On and the Village Hall as part of their centenary celebrations.
- The Club hoped to recruit up to 18 youth ambassadors as part of the project and would fund any out-of-pocket expenses such as travel.
- The Club would put out short videos via their social media channels; the Club would be happy to share the output of the proposed longer documentary but had not yet planned how this would be done.
- That the Parish Council had budgeted £5000 for grants in 2026/27 and the largest previous grant awarded had been for £1500.
- It was proposed that £1000 was given to each of the two projects for which funds had been requested.

Resolved: to award a grant of £2000 to Winsley Cricket Club for two projects relating to their centenary celebrations.

7. **Planning Applications**

PL/2026/02708 Access track to Water Recycling Centre, alongside WINS8: Removal of 60m of hedgerow to enable wall repairs.

The application stated that the hedge would be replaced to Wessex Water's standard procedure. It was noted that Wessex Water's own procedure's stated that hedges should not be cut during the nesting season (1 March - 1 September). If undertaking the work in the winter months they would need to be mindful of the state of this access lane.

Resolved: No objection, but Wessex Water should follow their own advice that the hedgerow should not be disturbed until after 1 September.

PL/2026/02502 The Forge, 123 Winsley, BA15 2LQ: Single storey extension (replacing conservatory).

Resolved: No objection.

8. **Matters Arising**

Cllrs Ladner & Mann had attended the ceremonial cutting of the turf at Avonpark Retirement Village, to mark the building phase of the redevelopment project.

Information about Wiltshire Council's Gigabit project would be advertised to residents. Cllr Berry volunteered to act as champion for this project. — Clerk/ Cllr Berry

9. **Police Report**

There was no Police report. Monthly statistics about local crime levels were available from: wiltshire.police.uk

10. **Unitary Councillor Report**

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

- Wiltshire Council had received over 6000 responses to their Future Waste Service Survey;
- Setbacks to the approval of Wiltshire Council's Local Plan would appear to leave the County more vulnerable to speculative housing development;
- The launch of a new Community Lottery to support local good causes. He confirmed that this was not intended to replace Area Board funding;

Unitary Cllr White also reported that:

- Approval of Wiltshire Council's new Speed Limit Assessment policy was still awaited. It was not clear that it would alter the situation with consideration of 50mph speed limits, such as that on the B3108, but it should help with 20mph speed limit requests.
- He had discussed additional measures to prevent over height vehicles striking the railway bridge at the bottom of Winsley Hill. Wiltshire Highways were considering possible improvements to signage, possibly with some funding from Network Rail. He was discussing signage on the A36 with National Highways. The repainting of

the yellow box markings under the railway bridge by Wiltshire Council was still awaited.

11. **Annual Parish Meeting Report**

A good number of residents had attended the Annual Parish Meeting and positive feedback had been received.

The Head of Infrastructure from Wessex Water had launched the Watermark Community project, highlighting the importance of using rainwater where it falls and limiting what entered the drainage system. Representatives from Dorothy House, the Village Hall and the Cricket Club had highlighted their anniversary celebrations taking place this year. Avonpark Retirement Village representatives had attended to answer any questions about the redevelopment.

Cllr Mann was thanked for compiling the annual report and the Clerk was thanked for organising the meeting.

12. **Climate and Nature Advisory Group**

Cllr Mann reported that:

12.1 Wild Waters Festival wildwatersfestival.com

The Festival would start on 31 May, and 30 events had already been posted on the Wild Waters Festival website. Wessex Water were opening their headquarters and Wiltshire Music Centre would host two events. In Winsley, an eco-poet was holding a workshop and a poetry reading on 6 June. An eco-artist was undertaking a workshop with children at Winsley Primary School. An organisers' meeting would be held next week.

12.2 Watermark Community project

This was a community information sharing project, looking at how individuals can help support the water system and the health of rivers. The Head of Infrastructure from Wessex Water had launched the project at the Annual Parsh Meeting. Two community workshops were being held as part of the Wild Waters Festival, and the project would feature at the Winsley organisations meeting in October.

12.3 Farm Clusters project

A meeting had been held last week with attendees from Southwick, Whaddon, Haugh, and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust who are running a farming project at Great Chalfield. The objective of a Farm Cluster is to support the farming community, sharing ideas, equipment and advice on grants available & farming policies. The group agreed to form a Farm Cluster and will approach other local farmers about joining. Cllr Mann agreed to Chair the group for the first year. The Director of Nature Recovery at Wiltshire Wildlife Trust has experience of Farm Cluster formation and was willing to advise.

Cllrs Mann, Roofe and Townsend were thanked for helping start this project.

13. **Highways Advisory Group**

13.1 Request for cycle path alongside Winsley Hill

A resident had asked for a request to be made to the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group for a cycle path alongside Winsley Hill. Councillors noted that this would be an expensive project of benefit to a modest number of people. This idea had been looked at previously by the Parish Council but had not been deemed a practical undertaking due to the limited space. It was suggested that improvements in signposting could help some cyclists in identifying alternative routes away from Winsley Hill.

13.2 B3108 Road Safety

Unitary Cllr White was still pursuing the Parish Council's request for a reduction in the speed limit and was meeting with the Cabinet Member for Transport. Disparity between local authorities in their interpretation of national speed limit guidance was noted, with examples of where B&NES had lowered 50 mph speed limits to 40mph.

The pedestrian crossing on the B3108 by the Harley Farm/Dane Rise junction had been approved by Wiltshire Council and work was due to start on 22 June 2026.

14. **Maintenance and Local Environment**

- Advice on the maintenance and repair of the traditional finger post directional signs was being sought.
- Jupiter Play, who had visited the park, had now confirmed that they could not provide a landscaping proposal, but they had provided details of another local company who might be interested and this would be followed up. Clerk
- A quote had been sought for the removal of some of the surfacing in the play park to help explore options here.
- Wiltshire Council would be undertaking bus shelter cleaning over the coming months.
- There had been no evidence of anyone trying to occupy No Man's Land in Conkwell; councillors would continue to monitor this and would alert the local Policing Team if necessary.

15. **Standing Orders and Code of Conduct**

To consider any updates and approve:

- Standing Orders
- Financial Standing Orders
- Code of Conduct

No updates were proposed.

Resolved: to approve Standing Orders, Financial Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

16. **Policies and Documents**

To consider any updates and approve:

- Risk Register
- Asset Register

The dug outs in the football field and the goal posts at Northfield needed adding to the Asset Register.

Resolved: to approve the Registers, with updates to the Asset Register.

Other policies would be brought to the next meeting for review, including the Data Protection Policy where new legislation had been introduced. Clerk

17. **Advisory Groups and Webmaster Role**

No changes to the membership of Advisory Groups were proposed.

Resolved: to approve the membership of Advisory Groups.

John Barnes had agreed to continue as webmaster for the Winsley Community website. Councillors recorded thanks for his sterling work with keeping the site up to date with local information.

18. **Insurance**

Noted that the annual insurance renewal had been received, and that the Parish Council was on the second year of a three-year long-term agreement.

19. **Finance**

19.1 High Interest Bank Accounts

The Parish Council was considering putting Community Infrastructure Levy funds into a high interest bank account until the funds were required. Three products had been reviewed, from Unity Trust, the Churches, Charities & Local Authorities Investments and Hampshire Trust Bank. Hampshire Trust Bank offered the highest interest with a fixed term accounts and had been recommended by other Clerks.

Resolved: to approve the investment of CIL monies with the Hampshire Trust Bank in a two-year fixed interest account.

Resolved: to approve the following payment:

- £866.60 Administration
- £875.15 WALC subscription
- £745.32 Community First for insurance renewal
- £43.52 Selina Jobson reimbursement for APM refreshments
- £156.00 Church Hall for hall hire

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

- £7.00 Unity Bank charges
- £31.20 idverde for bin emptying
- £14.80 Richard Mann for Wild Waters meeting refreshments
- £573.00 James Local for grass cutting
- £212.02 HMRC for PAYE & NICs

20. **Advisory Group Reports**

Finance Advisory Group
The Clerk was putting together the information for the Annual Governance & Accountability Return and would present this at the next meeting.

21. **Communications**

- A report on the APM would be provided for inclusion in the next Winsley Weaver.
- Cllr Holgate was going to work with the Winsley Cricket Club on their centenary Voices project.
- Cllr Mann was promoting the Wild Waters Festival and the Watermark Community project.
- Cllr Berry asked for details about web storage on the Parish Council website.

22. **Dates of Next Meetings**

Tuesday 2 June Parish Council Meeting, 8pm Winsley Village Hall
Tuesday 7 July Parish Council Meeting, 8pm Winsley Village Hall

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Meeting ended 9.10pm
