Winsley Parish Council

Minutes of the Winsley Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd June 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

Apologies: Ian Sparrowhawk, Ed Townsend

In attendance: Selina Jobson (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: One

23. **Declaration of Interests**
None.

24. **Minutes of Meeting**

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2026 as a true record.

25. **Public Participation**
None.

26. **Grant Request**
Details of a request from Dorothy House Hospice for a grant of £500 towards their Veteran's Day event in the grounds of Dorothy House on 20 June 2026 had been circulated to councillors, A representative from Dorothy House attended the meeting. The funds would be used to cover the costs of holding the event as well as advertising materials.

In discussion it was noted that:

- Dorothy House had been working towards Veteran Aware status and had received accreditation.
- a small Veteran's event had been held last year as a trial.
- if this year's event proved a success then it might be held annually or biannually.
- the Veteran's Day was open to all in the community and it was hoped that many Winsley residents would attend.

Councillors were supportive of the event and of providing funding to help with this year's launch event. If the event was to run in future years then, given the extensive reach of Dorothy House, it was suggested that it might be worth approaching other local parish councils for funding.

Resolved: to award a grant of £500 to Dorothy House Hospice for their Veteran's Day on 20 June 2026.

27. **Planning Applications**

PL/2026/02955 Conkwell Grange, Conkwell, BA2 7FD: Agricultural building.

Resolved: no objection.

PL/2026/02985 Highcroft, 165C Bradford Road, BA15 2HW: First floor front extension & porch, a single and two storey rear extension, and side garage, following demolition of existing porches, garage.

Concerns were noted about the gradual loss of three bedroom properties across Winsley as such properties were extended.

Resolved: no objection.

PL/2026/02937 19c Bradford Road, BA15 2HW: Demolition of existing garage, garden store and conservatory. Remove existing chimney stack. New single storey extension on a slightly smaller footprint than original garage etc.

Resolved: no objection.

PL/2026/03048 17 Bradford Road, BA15 2HW: Vary Condition 2 on PL/2023/05565 - Construction of stable block.

A variation was now sought to permit an additional stable and tack room as well as concrete hardstanding that had been built as part of the stable block.

Concerns with the application had recently been brought to the attention of the Parish Council. Councillors wanted more time to consider these and to review the building, which was in the Cotswold National Landscape and Green Belt. It was agreed that the Planning Officer would be asked for an extension to the deadline for comments on this basis. Clerk

28. **Matters Arising**

The Government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme project had been advertised to residents via Facebook and the website.

29. **Police Report**

No report had been received. The mobile Police Unit had visited Winsley the previous week.

30. **Unitary Councillor Report**

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

- A summary of the situation leading to Wiltshire Council to agree at Full Council to withdraw the current Local Plan.

31. **Climate and Nature Advisory Group**

31.1 Wild Waters Festival wildwatersfestival.com

The Festival had started on 30 May and was running until 30 June. More events had been added recently. Cllr Mann had been to a very well attended showing of the film 'Rave on for the Avon' in Chippenham, who had joined the Festival this year.

31.2 Watermark Community project

Spaces were still available on the two community workshops being held as part of the Wild Waters Festival.

31.3 River Charter

Councillors considered a proposal to adopt a River Charter for the River Avon. Cllr Mann explained that such Charters were being drawn up to recognise the intrinsic value of rivers and the community's duty to care for their health. A third of the Winsley parish boundary was formed by the River Avon. Concern for the River Avon was already demonstrated by the Wild Waters Festival, Watermark Community Project and the Farm Clusters project.

This River Charter was being promoted by 'We Are Avon' and 'Rave on for the Avon' and is due to be considered for adoption by Bristol, B&NES, Chippenham and South Gloucester councils. If agreed, Winsley Parish Council would be the first to adopt this Charter.

Whilst the main impact of adopting the Charter would be symbolic in highlighting the importance of the river, it was noted that in terms of practical impact it could be relevant in planning matters or could lead the Parish Council to take interest in projects that would impact the river.

Resolved: to adopt the River Avon Charter.

32. **Highways Advisory Group**

32.1 B3108 Road Safety

Following the approval by Wiltshire Council of the pedestrian crossing on the B3108 by the Harley Farm/Dane Rise junction, roadworks would begin on 22 June.

32.2 Traffic Regulation Order

Wiltshire Council were consulting on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order for no waiting restrictions on sections of Tyning Road & Broomground and no stopping restrictions outside Winsley Primary School entrance.

It was agreed that this would be publicised to residents who would be encouraged to respond to the consultation.

32.3 Other Highways

There had been two more recorded bridge strikes recently, these had not led to a road closure but had caused disruption on the rail network. Unitary Cllr White was continuing to liaise with National Highways, Network Rail & Wiltshire Council about improvements to signage & the possible installation of a vehicle height detection system.

33. **Maintenance and Local Environment**

33.1 Finger signposts

A local carpenter had reviewed the condition of two traditional finger sign posts, one that had fallen down on Bradford Road and one in Conkwell that was in a poor state of repair. He felt that neither could be repaired and had provided an estimate of costs for replacing both of these.

Wiltshire Council would only replace traditional finger signposts with white plastic posts; any other type of post would need to be funded by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the posts, particularly the one in Conkwell, added to the village streetscene and it was agreed that further quotes for replacing these two posts would be sought before making a final decision. Clerk

33.2 Playpark resurfacing

A quote had been received for the removal of the surfacing around two small pieces of equipment in the play park. The state of the surfaces under pieces of play equipment was raised every year as a minor matter on the playground inspection report. Over time all surfaces would need to be removed or replaced. Removing the surfaces and returning them to grass where possible might incur high costs because of disposal of the underlying base material. It might be possible to use some of these materials as part of a landscaping project that was being looked into. A company had been contacted about possible landscaping.

The annual playpark inspection was due in June and comments from this would be taken into account.

Councillors agreed that possibilities and costs of resurfacing should be looked into further, including examples from other parks. The potential landscaping company would be followed up and Bradford on Avon and Frome Town Councils would be contacted. Clerk / Cllr Mann

33.3 Playpark bins

Idverde had informed Wiltshire Council that they were not able to continue emptying the bins in the playpark because they were not on Wiltshire Council land. In response, Wiltshire Council had proposed moving two bins to sites either side of the park entrances and that Winsley Parish Council take on responsibility for the one remaining bin.

Councillors noted that the current system had worked well for very many years, and is felt to be a better arrangement than the proposed arrangement of moving two bins out of the park. As the playpark land is owned by Winsley Parish Council, written permission to access the bins could be provided to idverde if needed. It was agreed that Wiltshire Council and idverde would be asked to reconsider the proposal and to find a way of continuing with the current arrangement. Clerk

33.4 Other Maintenance items

- Cllrs Puma & Roofe would work with a resident on the replacement and planting of flower tubs outside the Health Centre that were in a poor state of repair.
- West Wilts Ramblers had reported some overgrown paths and Cllr Bostock had been checking on paths and undertaking some minor cutting. Two trees had come down on WINS16.

- Parish Stewards would resume their parish visits in June after spending six months on pothole repairs; any areas for attention should be reported to the Clerk.
- In light of comments from residents the Parish Council had asked Wiltshire Council to cut back the visibility splays alongside turnings onto the B3108 and these works had been undertaken.

34. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26**

34.1 The internal auditor had completed and signed the Annual Internal Audit Report; no issues had been raised.

34.2 Councillors approved all statements relating to the preparations of the Accounting Statements in Section 1 of the AGAR.

34.3 Councillors approved the figures provided in the Accounting Statements in Section 2 of the AGAR.

34.4 The dates for the period of the exercise of public rights would be from 10 June to 21 July 2026.

35. **Finance**

35.1 Resolved: to approve the following payment:

- £866.60 Administration
- £100.00 SLCC subscription (split with Wingfield Parish Council)
- £24.00 Village Hall for hall hire

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

- £48.00 WALC for Planning training
- £3.95 Richard Mann for Wild Waters meeting refreshments

36. **Policies and Documents**

The following policies were considered:

- Health & Safety
- Complaints
- Vexatious Complaints
- Grievance & Disciplinary
- Dignity At Work

It was noted that there were new templates for the Grievance & Disciplinary policies; no other changes were proposed.

Resolved: to approve the Health & Safety, Complaints, Vexatious Complaints and Dignity at Work policies and to bring updated versions of the Grievance & Disciplinary policies to the next Parish Council meeting. Clerk

37. **Advisory Group Reports**

- The Clerk's appraisal would take place on 14 July.
- There had not been any recent update on progress with a new leaseholder for the shop on Tyning Road. Unitary Cllr White would be contacted about this.

38. **Communications**

- Cllr Holgate reported on the Cricket Club's Walking Cricket and that representatives from the Club had attended Kettle's On to recruit more members.
- Cllr Holgate had volunteered to be a member of the Avonpark Community Liaison group.

39. **Dates of Next Meetings**

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

Possible dates for the following meeting, which needed to be rescheduled from 1 September, would be circulated to councillors.

Meeting ended 9.10pm
