



## Winnersh Parish Council

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WINNERSH PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.45 p.m. ON TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009 IN THE JOHN GROBLER ROOM

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Southgate (Chairman), M Armstrong, P Bray, E Cooke, J Grimson, D Hunt, D Jupp, J Peffers, J Wakefield and J Wilkins

**In attendance:** Clive Hudson (WPC Clerk)

#### 1 APOLOGIES

1.1 Apologies for absence – Cllrs J Plant, E Siggery, J Townsend.

1.2 Apologies for lateness – Cllr P Bray

#### 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 The minutes of the Council meeting of 13 January 2009 were agreed, and the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to sign the minutes as a true record.

#### 3 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Cllr Cooke referred to his suggestion to use a professional website manager to upgrade the WPC website. Cllr Southgate confirmed that he was in the process of upgrading the website himself and that a first version would be available for viewing within a few weeks.

3.2 Cllr Grimson reported on the progress of the grant for the redevelopment of Forest School. More news will be available in May. The plan is to be able to use the redeveloped school for Community use throughout the year.

## **4 PUBLIC SESSION**

- 4.1** PC Warman had intended to be at the meeting, but had telephoned the Clerk an hour before the meeting explaining he had difficulties attending because of the floods, but would try to attend a future meeting. This apology was accepted by Council.

## **5 COMPLAINTS AND FAULT TRACKING**

- 5.1** None.

## **6 CORRESPONDENCE**

### **6.1 Correspondence received prior to the issue of the agenda**

Item 12; Details were given of the Wokingham Borough Community Safety Conference on 18 February 2009.

Item 22; Details were given of the ‘Scamnesty’ campaign. The Clerk confirmed that posters had been put on the WPC notice boards.

Item N4; Cllr Southgate thanked Cllr Cooke for revising his Register of Interest details and reminded councillors to keep their details up to date.

### **6.2 Late items of Correspondence not listed**

The Council **RESOLVED** to authorise the binding of the minutes lodged at the Berkshire Record office.

Cllr Southgate referred councillors to look at [www.woodley.gov](http://www.woodley.gov) website for details of the Woodley Community Partnership’s Draft Design Statement. Cllr Armstrong reported that the Draft Design Statement had been pushed through because of concerns over planning applications for Sandford Lane and that it would be useful for WPC to study the document.

## **7 BOROUGH COUNCIL MATTERS**

- 7.1** Cllr Armstrong reported that the WBC budget meeting is due to meet next week. There is a £1 million hole in the budget which will affect children’s and older people’s services most.
- 7.2** The £2 million pound call centre project has been receiving some adverse comments from the public.
- 7.3** WBC has been downgraded from a 3-star to a 2-star authority.
- 7.4** WBC has bid for £8 million to be spent on schools over a 10-year period. Forest School is to be ‘upgraded’ rather than rebuilt. Cllr Armstrong suggested that WPC makes representations of support for Forest School.

## 8 PARISH COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

- 8.1 Councillors asked for clarification of the £1 million budget shortfall. Cllr Armstrong replied that business rates are down, there are fewer developments and no capital receipts. WBC is capped at a 5% increase in rates. Expenditure has increased, therefore the budget does not balance.

Cllr Bray joined the meeting.

- 8.2 Councillors asked for clarification of the £5 million held with Icelandic banks. Cllr Bray reported that Local Authorities had not received government guarantees. The money is with 2 banks: one is expected to repay all its deposits, the other only about 30%. Cllr Bray reported that some WBC decisions of previous years were making budgeting more difficult now.
- 8.3 Councillors asked for information regarding the day's floods.
- Sylvester Close is OK.
  - The River Loddon is flooded causing road closures at Mill Lane and the Loddon Bridge roundabout.
  - Wedderburn Close has flooded up to the garage doors. There is a known drainage problem there.

Cllr Bray reported that WBC's grit supplies have been replenished.

## 9 LAST PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

- 9.1 The minutes of the meetings of 26 January 2009 were agreed, and the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to sign them as a true record.
- 9.2 Cllr Grimson reported that 2 members of the public had attended the meeting to see 'the process in action'.
- 9.3 Cllrs Grimson & Jupp are due to meet WBC to discuss the Surface Water Management Plan. Wedderburn Close and Arbor Lane towards Arbor Meadows will be added to the list of affected areas.
- 9.4 Cllr Hunt agreed to research whether Community Service volunteers could be used for work at, for example, Winnersh Meadows. **ACTION: Cllr Hunt**

## 10 LAST R&A COMMITTEE MEETING

- 10.1 The minutes of the meeting of 3 February 2009 were agreed and the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to sign them as a true record.
- 10.2 Cllr Wakefield reported that concerns expressed by the schools regarding the Christmas Lights event appeared to be resolved. Friday 11 December 2009 had been mooted as a possible date for this year's event. Cllr Wakefield will follow this up with Winnersh Primary School and Cllr Cooke with Bearwood Primary School. **ACTION: Cllrs Wakefield and Cooke**

**10.3** WBC is organising a Borough wide Litter Pick on Sunday 26 April 2009. The WPC office has been designated the co-ordinating point for Winnersh. Would councillors please forward to the office details of contacts of local groups and organisations. **ACTION: All Councillors**

**10.4** Saturday 28 March 2009 is the SEGRO (Slough Estates) Community Day at Winnersh Meadows. Councillors were invited to attend. The event is to be mentioned in Winnersh Matters.

**10.5** Older Peoples Exercise Equipment. Cllr Wakefield is still trying to get details of the progress of this project.

## **11 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**11.1** The following addition to the minutes was agreed:  
Section 9.2.8: Council to accept Q3 accounts. **RECOMMENDS** that the accounts attached to these minutes are accepted by the Full Council.

**11.2** The minutes of the meeting of 2 February 2009 were agreed, with the addition detailed in 11.1 above, and the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to sign them as a true record. The minutes were signed by Cllr Wilkins in the absence of Cllr Clark.

**11.3** The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the accounts for the quarter ending December 2008.

**11.4** Cllr Wilkins reported that the R&A budget was higher than last year because of the Reserved items for Winnersh Meadows and the Older Peoples Exercise Equipment.

**11.5** Cllr Southgate reported that he has a trial website ready to go on test next week, prior to a formal launch. Cllr Southgate asked all councillors to view their personal details on the website and inform him if changes are needed. Cllr Hunt is willing to take photographs of councillors for inclusion on the website. Emails for councillors will be directed via the office unless councillors request otherwise. Reply receipts will not be issued for incoming emails. **ACTION: All Councillors**

## **12 PRECEPT FOR 2009/10**

**12.1** The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to agree the Budget recommended by the F&GP Committee and to set the precept for 2009/10 at £101,072. This means that there will be no change to the Council Tax charge from the previous year.

**12.2** The Clerk will confirm this figure with Wokingham Borough Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

## **13 WINNERSH PARISH COUNCIL STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 13.1** Cllr Southgate summarised the document which had been distributed with the agenda. Cllr Bray commended the document and asked whether support for the Rainbow Centre could be included in the development/infrastructure section. This was agreed. The Council **RESOLVED** to provisionally adopt the Strategic Aims (WPC S01) as a working document whilst in parallel asking for comments. The Clerk was asked to put a review of the document on the agenda for the May 2009 AGM. **ACTION: Clerk**

## **14 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

- 14.1** Cllr Cooke attended a Children's Centre meeting:  
He reported that the Children's Centre is employing a speech therapist for 2-5 year olds, for children who do talk enough at home.  
He reported that the extension of the Rainbow Centre has been held up by WBC withdrawing access to the government funds earmarked for the project. Cllr Bray reported that she has requested that the money be unblocked by WBC. The Council **RESOLVED** that if there is no progress within the next couple of weeks, the Chairman will write to Bob Stanton on behalf of the Parish Council asking for the money to be released. **ACTION: Cllr Southgate**

- 14.2** Cllr Grimson reported on the WDALC meeting:  
The Youth Department of WBC reported that they worked with 40 young offenders aged 15-17, 3 of whom were high-risk of offending. The Borough has a low teenage births-per-year rate and a high abortion rate.  
Cllr Bray reported that the young offenders programme was over budget because two young people were on remand placements.

- 14.3** Cllr Southgate reported on the NAG meeting:  
The NAG bid for £50,000 for groundworks at Winnersh Meadows had completed its first stage.

The Council noted that NAG meetings are not open to the public. In view of this Cllr Southgate will request an agenda item at a future NAG meeting asking how the public is to liaise with the police. **ACTION: Cllr Southgate**

- 14.4** Cllr Southgate attended a knife-crime initiative at Forest School.

- 14.5** Cllr Armstrong reported the aims of the Winnersh Community Partnership (formerly WVCMI) as 'to get people in touch with each other'. Cllr Southgate reported that the R&A Committee had approved a discount for a WCP music evening on 2 May.

## 15 APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

15.1 Cllr Armstrong reported that 2 sets of Christmas lights, which had previously been checked as working, failed as they were being put up. He had therefore had to buy urgent replacements for these lights as well as buy the lights pre-authorised. Council **RESOLVED** to reimburse Cllr Armstrong for the fireworks (pre-authorised) and all the lights.

15.2 It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Cooke and **SECONDED** by Cllr Peffers and the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to pay the following accounts for February 2009.

### WINNERSH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10 February 2009 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT - FEBRUARY 2009

Payee	Description	Amount	Ch.No.
Clive Hudson	SLCC annual subscription	126.65	5971
Biffa Waste Services Ltd.	Containers	143.00	5972
Bowak Ltd.	Cleaning products	98.15	5973
St. John Ambulance	First Aid Course SDG & CH	230.00	5974
PHS Group	Toiletries	97.38	5975
Nick Robins Ltd.	Monthly ground maintenance	442.75	5976
ABA (Construction) Ltd	Monthly play ground inspection	75.04	5977
ABA (Construction) Ltd	Fitting see saw	126.50	5978
Universal Leasing Limited	Lease photocopier	89.57	5979
D. Knight Esq.	Window cleaning	90.00	5980
Malcolm Armstrong	Fireworks + Christmas tree lights	180.20	5981
BT Payment Services Ltd.	Quarterly phone bill	296.83	5982
GLS Educational Supplies	Office stationery	74.41	5983
Pipex Internet Ltd.	ADSL subscription 14/10/08-13/10/09	351.80	5984
Reading Rangers	Replacement for lost cheque 5872	66.23	5985
Open Spaces Society	Donation	25.00	5986
Wokingham & District Association for the Elderly	Donation	100.00	5987
Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation	100.00	5988
Relate	Donation	100.00	5989
Wokingham Job Support Centre	Donation	50.00	5990
RBWM	Pension contribution	325.77	5991
All staff - CH, SDG, AB, PB	Salaries	2,959.18	5992-5995
HM Revenue & Customs	Tax & NI	788.70	5996
Southern Electric	Electricity supply	201.00	DD
Total for the month		<u>7,138.16</u>	

#### Financial Position as at 30 January 2009

Sub-total	£	210,261.65
Less payments for year to date	£	196,962.65
Sub-total	£	13,299.00
Add balance carried forward 31/3/08	£	59,879.91
	£	<u>73,178.91</u>

**16 ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

**16.1** None.

**17 TIME AND DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**17.1** The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday 10 March 2009** at **7.45 p.m.** in the John Grobler Room.

**PART 2**

**18 FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION OFFICER'S SALARY**

**18.1** The Clerk reported on the FAO's annual review and the good progress made by her during the year. The Council **RESOLVED** to increase the FAO's salary by one incremental point backdated to January 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.32 p.m.

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Items of correspondence received prior to the issue of the 10 February 2009 Full Council Meeting Agenda**

- 1 WBC, advance notice of Major Works (Emm Close)
- 2 WBC; Consultation on Proposed School Admission Arrangements 2010/11
- 3 WBC; Clothes Talking exhibition leaflet, January 2009
- 4 WBC Staff Bulletin; 9 January 2009
- 5 W&D CAB Annual Bulletin, January 2009
- 6 Wokingham Borough Sports Council AGM, 19 January 2009
- 7 SLCC Regional Conferences 2009 leaflet
- 8 WBC; confirmation of use of Community Hall (bar) for EU elections, 4 June
- 9 WBC; Meeting of the Personnel Board, agenda, 22 January 2009
- 10 WBC; Meeting of the Licensing & Appeals Committee, agenda, 20 January 2009
- 11 WBC; Meeting of the Finance Overview and Scrutiny Panel, agenda, 22 January 2009
- 12 VAWB; Wokingham Borough Community Safety Conference, 18 February 2009
- 13 TVP Community messaging; 15 January 2009
- 14 WBC News 16 January 2009
- 15 BALC; January Update
- 16 Volunteer Centre, Wokingham; Volunteer Recruitment Show, 21 February 2009
- 17 WBC; Children's Literacy course at Lambs Lane, March 2009
- 18 WBC; Extraordinary Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, 27 January 2009
- 19 WBC; Meeting of the Executive 29 January 2009
- 20 Lend and Play information
- 21 LINK newsletter
- 22 Scamnesty 2009, letter and poster
- 23 WBC; Meeting of the Corporate Projects Overview and Scrutiny Panel, agenda, 3 February 2009
- 24 WBC; Staff Bulletin 23 January 2009
- 25 WBC; Core Strategy, pre-Hearing Inspector's Notes
- 26 NALC/BALC, Green Seminar, Aylesbury, 27 March 2009
- 27 WBC; Corporate News, 26 January 2009
- 28 WCP events poster (Veteran Tree Society, 7 February 2009)
- 29 Pauline Helliard-Symons, WBC, Mayor, thanks for Charity collection, £80.16  
Confirmation of attendance at Annual Parish Meeting, 12 May 2009
- 30 WBC; Place & Neighbourhood Services e-bulletin, February 2009
- 31 WBC; Notice of Changes to Electoral Register, February 2009
- 32 What's On in Your Library leaflets, March 2009
- 33 WBC; Meeting of the Planning Committee, agenda, 4 February 2009
- 34 BALC; Dept of Transport consultation website details

### **Items of correspondence received since the issue of the 10 February 2009 Full Council Meeting Agenda**

- N1 Town & Parish News, January 2009
- N2 WBC; Meeting of the Finance Overview and Scrutiny Panel, agenda, 12 Feb. 2009
- N3 WBC Staff Bulletin, 6 February 2009
- N4 WBC; receipt of Cllr Cooke's Notice of Changes to Register of Interest form
- N5 WBC; effect of adverse weather on Waste Collection services
- N6 Wok. Borough Voluntary Sector Forum; 'The Volunteer' magazine, February 2009
- N7 WBC; Master Plan of Strategic Development Locations (Core Strategy)

### **Additional**

- A1 Berkshire Record Office – offer to bind minutes
- A2 Woodley Community Partnership's Draft Design Statement.