



## Winnersh Parish Council

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### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 11 MAY 2010 IN THE JOHN GROBLER ROOM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs J Southgate (Chairman), M Armstrong, P Bray, E Cooke, F Breedlove, J Grimson, D Jupp, J Peffers, J Plant, J Wakefield

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Cllr B Patman – Mayor, WBC; PS Tim Woolford, PC Nikki Hamblin, 8 members of the public; Mr C Hudson (WPC Clerk), Mrs S De Groot (WPC FAO).

#### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs D Hunt, E Siggery; Mr G Hurst.  
Representatives of Forest School, Winnersh Primary School, Home Start; Berks MS Therapy Centre, Winnersh Rangers FC.

#### **2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2009 were agreed and the meeting **RESOLVED** to sign them as a true record.

#### **3 ADDRESS BY CLLR BARRIE PATMAN, MAYOR, WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL (WBC)**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Barrie Patman and thanked him for agreeing to address the meeting.

Cllr Patman gave a speech during which he reminisced about his introduction to politics and his early days as a Parish councillor at Winnersh, at which time there were no allotments, no Community Centre and no village centre refurbishment/Sainsbury's. He graduated onto Wokingham District (later, Borough) Council, eventually becoming Mayor. Holding the office of mayor has enabled him to see new things within the Borough. The Voluntary Sector is very active. He has been able to represent the Borough at local schools. More formally, he has attended citizenship ceremonies and chair meetings of Wokingham Borough Council. As first citizen of the Borough he has met royalty, including the Princess Royal and the Duke of Kent, and has visited Windsor.

Winnersh has been foremost of the parishes in inviting him during his year in office. He has attended the village fete, the opening of the adult gym – a picture of which was used in the national Local Government magazine – and the opening of the Christmas Lights.

Cllr Southgate thanked Cllr Patman for all the support he had given Winnersh over the last 35 years and invited questions from the floor.

#### **4 ANNUAL REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Southgate gave a report as per Appendix 1.

#### **5 REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

WBC Cllrs Armstrong and Bray gave reports as per Appendix 2.

#### **6 REPORT ON THE WINNERSH FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST**

##### **6.1 Mr G Harper, as Chairman of WFAT, presented the following report:**

The Fuel Allotment Trust was set up in 1895 and was given a piece of land, the proceeds from which are used to enable local people to keep warm. Income from the rental of this land enabled the trust to give donations to 7 people in the parish last Christmas. It is possible that the trust may be able to generate more income by the sale of some or all of the land at a future date.

The trust is run by a maximum of 9 trustees. There are 7 in place at the moment. Mr Harper summarised the duties of trustees and invited anyone interested in becoming a trustee to contact him.

#### **7 PUBLIC SESSION**

**7.1.1** Mr Ian Brown introduced himself as representing Wokingham Job Support Centre. He thanked the Council for the grants received, pointing out that the Centre had helped 40 people from Winnersh in the last year. The Centre is based at the Cornerstone in Wokingham, which has a well-used computer suite. The Centre is facing a cut in funding of nearly 40% this year.

**7.1.2** Mr John Andrews introduced himself as representing Readibus, who provide an important service transporting people to a wide range of venues locally.

**7.1.3** Rev. John Coombes introduced himself as vicar of St Nicholas, Hurst and St Mary's, Winnersh. He spoke of the aim of creating a greater community within Winnersh and gave an update on the progress of re-aligning the church boundaries to reflect the physical boundaries of Hurst and Winnersh.

**7.1.4** Sgt Tim Woolford explained the resourcing problems experienced by the police locally in the last year. He introduced PC Nikki Hamblin, who is looking after crime issues. He thanked the Council for its work with the NAG and explained police measures regarding anti-social behaviour and Operation Lion Cub.  
Cllr Bray asked if there was any further information on the accident on Robinhood Lane this afternoon. PC Hamblin replied that the cause of the accident was not known, but no-one was badly hurt.

Cllr Southgate observed that further road delays could be expected for another 6 weeks on Mole Road for gas pipe laying and during the summer holidays for during the closure of the A329(M) road bridge between Hurst and Winnersh.

**7.1.5** Mr Michael Hurd of Arborfield and Mrs Debbie Brunt, representing St Catherine's PCC, introduced themselves.

The meeting closed at 8.26 p.m.

## APPENDIX 1

### Winnersh Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2010

First I would like to pay tribute to **Cllr Judith Wilkins** who we sadly lost to cancer just over two weeks ago. It is difficult for me as her long-time partner to be wholly objective about her contribution to the Council over the 19 years during which she was a member, but I can recount that many of you have said or written to me of the great affection and esteem in which you held her.

She took a leading role in the Council as R&A Chairman, Vice-Chairman and for four years as Chairman. She also initiated and led the organisation of the Winnersh Village Fete in 2008 and 2009. I know that all my fellow Councillors will join me in regretting the loss of her vitality, consideration for others, enthusiasm and hard work for the Council.

We have also lost the services of two other Councillors over the past year: first **John Townsend**, who will be remembered for his work on the planning and environmental fronts; and more recently **Bill Clark** who is moving out of the area and has been a considerable asset to the Council, latterly as Chairman of F&GP. I would especially like to thank Bill for his good judgement and patience in guiding that committee over the past few years.

New to the Council we welcome **Frank Breedlove**, who joins us this evening after a sojourn in the USA. However that still leaves us with three vacancies, so if any of you have just a little energy and motivation to get involved do consider joining us.

Over the past twelve months WPC has continued to build on its objective to be a **community leader and to promote a sense of community** in Winnersh. We have continued to build on several now well-established events:

- the **Christmas Lighting Up**, with carols and seasonal songs from the children of Bearwood and Winnersh Primary Schools, mulled wine and mince pies, and what might almost be termed “a firework extravaganza” this year
- the **Litter Pick** in conjunction with the Big Tidy Up campaign – although slightly less rubbish was collected this year I’m afraid that this was largely due to the colder weather and clash with Sports Aid than because less rubbish had been deposited in the first place
- and of course the **Winnersh Village Fete**, which built on the success of the first fete for over 35 years held in 2008 – the weather certainly did help this event with increased numbers of stalls and attendees but its success was largely due to all the volunteers on the stalls and to those who led the organisation, especially Judith, as mentioned previously, Geoff Harper who organised the arena events and others such as John Peffers on the car park

We also hosted a Thames Valley **Police Fun Day** and planted additional trees on the Bearwood Recreation Ground as part of the Tree O’clock Project during National Tree Week.

August saw the opening of the **Outdoor Gym** on the recreation ground, in the forefront of ‘green exercise’ of which there has been considerable publicity over the past few weeks. The equipment was originally conceived as a facility for older people but has proved popular with all ages. It was funded jointly by WPC and by WBC using ‘development contributions’. The opening was covered by Radio Berkshire and some of us had to be there to start exercising for the very early-morning news show.

The Bearwood Recreation Ground is now one of the best leisure facilities in the area, catering for a wide range of ages, and this has created a demand for somewhere to get a ‘cuppa’ or an ice cream. The Council is very pleased that in March two enterprising ladies, Claire Pulleyn and Lisa Lainsbury, approached us asking to start up a cafe in the Allnatt Pavilion. Less than eight weeks later this has resulted in the opening of **the Pavilion Cafe** – do give it a try!

All these activities have been publicised in two editions of the **Winnersh Matters** community newsheet and on the expanded *Winnersh Parish website*.

It was another relatively **quiet year on the planning front** in terms of the number of applications received. However considerable attention was paid to the WBC Core Strategy proposals and WPC remains very concerned that the infrastructure provisions do not take full account of impacts outside the Strategic Development Locations, in particular the traffic impacts on Winnersh.

There was no new application for hundreds of houses on the **Hatch Farm Dairies** site despite several statements that there would be one within a few weeks. Only recently have we considered a couple of more controversial applications, both in neighbouring parishes: the traveller's site in Barkham and the wind farm south of Lower Earley.

**Winnersh Triangle** has moved ahead over the past year and is to be rebranded as IQ Winnersh from Thursday with the new Holiday Inn hotel set to open next month. We also have two new bridges: the renewed Bailey bridge in Mill Lane and the rather innovative new footbridge at the entrance to IQ Winnersh, which opened today complete with trees along the top of the bridge.

The Council incurred a major expenditure towards the end of last year when the main **hall roof had to be reconstructed** due to dry rot and structural instability. The opportunity was also taken to upgrade the roof insulation to meet modern standards.

This led to a small increase in the Council Tax precept levied by the Council, but even so WPC's element of the **Council Tax has still been kept below its level five years ago** (in 2005/06) – and that's in monetary as well as real terms. Despite this the Council has continued to increase support to valued local voluntary groups.

Finally I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the Council over the past year, indeed over the past three years that I have been Chairman. In addition to those already mentioned, my sincere thanks go to:

- Jill Plant as Chairman of R&A, actively supported by John Wakefield acting as her Vice-Chairman
- John Grimson for putting in the preparatory work that ensures that the Planning Committee operates effectively, ably assisted by his Vice-Chairman David Jupp
- Malcolm Armstrong for leading the organisation of the Lighting Up event and the production of *Winnersh Matters*, assisted by Ted Cooke, David Hunt and others
- Our Clerk Clive Hudson and our Finance and Administration Officer Sylvie De Groote for managing the day to day operations of the Council so efficiently
- Our Caretakers Alison and Paul Bennett and the relief caretakers for maintaining the Council's facilities and looking after their users to a high standard

Although I will be standing down as Chairman of the Council, I still very much look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

**John Southgate**  
**Chairman, Winnersh Parish Council**

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Report of Borough Councillors to the Winnersh Annual Parish Meeting**

Borough Councillor's Report for 2009/10 - Prue Bray

During this municipal year there have been fewer planning applications than usual in Winnersh, and no discernable progress on the application to build on the Hatch Farm Dairies site. I have, however, been involved in several requests for enforcement action against developers.

For most of the year I have been involved in trying to resolve parking issues in Danywern Drive. Sufficient residents have supported action being taken, and officers have drawn up a scheme, on which the majority of residents have now sent me their comments. The next step, which will happen over the next few weeks, is to chase the remaining residents for their responses and then hold a meeting to discuss points of disagreement.

I have worked with the residents of Sylvester Close on securing action from the council on their flooding problems, and have also been working on other flooding and drainage issues in the parish.

Following the bad weather, I have reported a record number of pot holes, most of which have now been repaired.

I have been chasing SW Trains to get the ticket machine at Winnersh station replaced. At first they promised a replacement and then withdrew their promise.

I have also been Vice Chair of the Winnersh Neighbourhood Action Group during the year.

My roles at the council have included being a member of the Wokingham Strategic Partnership Board, the Community Safety Strategy Group, the Tenant & Landlord Improvement Panel, which supports council tenants, and the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee. I have also been a member of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, and continued as a governor of Forest School.

Prue Bray

### **Wokingham Borough Councillor's Report – Malcolm Armstrong**

**Winnersh Parish Council 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010.**

District Councillors Report

The following report has been prepared in respect of my role as a Wokingham Borough Councillor. As a councillor I undertake individual and group casework and pursue decisions that can bring benefits to the community of Winnersh. I interact with officers of Wokingham Borough Council in order to express the needs and requirement of my residents.

The following are of the issues that I have been involved with during the past year.

1. Planning issues involving both large and small developments. Recently there have been several enforcement cases which have required some element of input on behalf of our community.
2. The identification of 106 money in respect of developments and beneficial contributions to the Winnersh community.
3. The continuing problem of traffic flow at Winnersh Crossroads. Traffic issues involving speed limits and pedestrian crossings. Drainage at the crossroads and the railway bridge – the Winnersh pond.
4. Undertake contact with the police and the PCSO's. Developing links with Borough Council officers in respect of behaviour and youth contributions.
5. Serving on the Health Select Committee. Involvement with the expansion of the local dental practice. Lead Councillor for mental health. Pursuing a number of cases that have arisen in respect of poor service from the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Visit to the cardiology unit at the RBH. Focus on individuals with learning difficulties and physical impediments.
6. Assisting individuals and groups in and around Winnersh in order to confirm that front line services are being maintained.
7. During council meetings I ask both borough and ward questions and contribute to a great number of debates.

The issues that seem to be of greatest concern to our residents are as follows:

- a) Financial and managerial.
- b) The preservation of front line services.

Malcolm S Armstrong  
(Wokingham Borough Council – Winnersh Ward)  
Date 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010.