



Winnersh Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 8 MAY 2012 IN THE JOHN GROBLER ROOM

PRESENT: Cllrs D Green (Chairman), P Bray, E Cooke, J Grimson, D Hunt, L Lainsbury, J Leask, J Plant, R Shepherd-Dubey, I Shepherd-Dubey, J Southgate.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Dianne King, Mayor, Wokingham Borough Council; 10 members of the public; Mr C Hudson (WPC Clerk), Miss A Lambourne (WPC FAO).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr F Breedlove, G Harper (WFAT), John Ferguson (W&D CAB).

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2011 were agreed and the meeting **RESOLVED** to sign them as a true record.

3 ADDRESS BY CLLR DIANNE KING, MAYOR, WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed the Mayor and thanked her for agreeing to address the meeting.

The Mayor gave a short description on the variety of her role as Mayor. She complimented Winnersh on the good use of its facilities and the variety of the events put on within the Parish. She particularly enjoyed the Summer Fete and the Christmas Lights event, and thanked the parish for supporting the Mayor's charity during the latter event. The Mayor noted further improvements to the facilities within Winnersh with the recently opened Wokingham Cricket Club ground and the soon to be opened enhanced

facilities at Winnersh Meadows. Winnersh Meadows, she observed, was a fine example of collaborative working between local organisations to produce improved facilities within Winnersh.

The Mayor had also chaired the Wokingham Borough/Parish Working Group meeting, and hoped that the Borough and Parishes could build from that base.

Councillor Green thanked the Mayor.

4 ANNUAL REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Green gave a report as per Appendix 1.

5 REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

WBC Cllr Bray gave a report as per Appendix 2.

WBC Cllr Houldsworth gave a report as per Appendix 3.

Cllr Green congratulated the recently elected WBC councillor Rachelle Shepherd-Dubey and looked forward to receiving her reports in the future.

6 REPORT ON THE WINNERSH FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST

6.1 Cllr Green read a report from Mr G Harper, Chairman of WFAT:

The Winnersh Fuel Allotment Trust (WFAT) was founded at the end of the 19th Century by a local landowner who left an area of land in Winnersh, the procedures of which was to provide fuel at Christmas to the poor of the parish of Winnersh. The Board of Governors have carried on that good work to the current day and at Christmas 2011 provided gifts of money to six beneficiaries who lived within the parish of Winnersh. This was one down on Christmas 2010 when there were seven beneficiaries but one of those was ineligible in 2011. It is becoming harder to identify suitable beneficiaries, not helped by the Data Protection Act that prevents the Social Service and Church assisting us in identifying suitable recipients. The Trust does not have unlimited funds but if anybody knows of somebody who might benefit from a small gift at Christmas to help with their energy bills then please let the Clerk, Clive Hudson, know and he will pass it on to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

We had an addition Trustee join us in the last year, Richard Tilbe, which now brings the Board of Trustees up to a healthy seven Trustees, a warm welcome to Richard.

There is not a lot of activity at the moment at the Trust, we are hoping that some time in the not too distant future the land owned by the Trust will be zoned for building and the Board will then consider how best it might be used for the continued benefits of the residents of Winnersh. Until then the Board of Trustees are committed to keeping a local tradition alive and kicking.

7 PUBLIC SESSION

- 7.1** Mr Tom Conlin, representing the Berkshire County Blind Society, gave a short overview of the work carried out by the Society within Winnersh and Berkshire as a whole. He thanked the Parish Council for its continued support of the Society.
- 7.2** Mr Quine, Headteacher at Forest Comprehensive School, gave an update on the progress made at the school. He focussed particularly on the improved OFSTED report, the opportunities presented by the school's speciality in Business & Enterprise, and the choice of Forest School as Reading FC's football academy from 2012-13.
- 7.3** Mr J Bradshaw, vice chairman of Winnersh Primary School PTA, spoke of the Smarter Ways To Pay scheme and the benefits it brought to the children at the school in their extra-curricular activities. He thanked the Parish Council for its financial support of this scheme.
- 7.4** PCSO Nellie Williams gave a summary of the new policing structure for Winnersh, Emmbrook and Woosehill. She spoke briefly about ASBOs, graffiti and parking issues. She then invited everyone to the next Have Your Say meeting at 10.30am on 23 May 2012 at Targett Court.
- 7.5** Mrs A Vacher spoke of the amalgamation of the church parishes of St Mary, Winnersh, and St Catherine, Bearwood. The induction of the new vicar will take place on 12 June 2012.
- 7.6** Mr P Absolom of Readibus thanked the Council for its continued support of the charity.

There being no further information from the floor, Cllr Green thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

APPENDIX 1

Winnersh Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8 May 2012

Although this has been my first year as Chairman of the Parish Council, there has been no significant change in the direction of the council. As with previous years, engagement with the community and stimulation of community spirit has continued to be a focus and is gaining traction:

- The Summer Fete - this was a hit again, which despite the weather had excellent attendance.
- The annual litter, unlike previous years we had a very good turnout, primarily supported by local Scouting and Girl Guides organisations, with in the region of 50 people taking part.
- Christmas Lighting Up had the added attraction of a number of stalls, which we hope to repeat.
- Civic Awards, Mrs Mary Elliot was nominated and subsequently recognised for her many years of services to St Mary Church.

and our established communications' media underpins our community engagement, Winnersh Matters our bi-annual publication continues to be held in high regard as our main contact with to the public; the public website continues to receive a steady hit rate and generates a healthy number of inbound enquiries and subsequent facility bookings.

Recreation facilities within the parish continue improve, the Winnersh Meadows development is completed and is to have it's opening event on 19th May. This is a great enhancement to the area and was funded primarily through lottery grant with additional funds coming from both Wokingham Borough and Winnersh Parish. The Recreation and Amenities committee chaired by Jill Plant has continued to have their work cut out for them, managing our existing facilities as well as working starting projects which include a new public toilet and new youth facilities.

Finance & General Purpose committee chaired by John Southgate continues to underpin the success of this parish through prudent budgetary management. This diligence has once again has led to a zero percent rise for the per household precept, this achievement is made possible through the revenue generating facilities that continues to drive revenue year on year.

The Planning committee chaired by John Grimson has ensured that the Parish continues to have input into Wokingham Borough Council on key housing and infrastructure developments. Not only through the steady stream of normal

planning permission input but also several strategic reviews throughout the year. A continued over watch on the hatch farm development and the relief road, as well as other items including changes at IQ and Winnersh primary have kept them busy.

All of these activities can only be achieved through the people involved with our Parish, the Parish Clerk has overseen a significant change in his team. Amanda Lambourne joined us in September as our FAO, as well as her finance duties, Amanda manages the facility bookings our key income and supports Clive in many other areas. We have also seen changes in our caretaking staff, with Chris Fazey taking on the role as Caretaker and June Muller as relief caretaker.

On the Councillor front, this year saw the sad passing of our previous Parish Chairman John Wakefield. This year also saw new faces in Lisa Llandsbury, James Leask and Imogen Sheperd-dubey, other changes of note are the resignation of Liz Sigery and of course the very recent election to borough councillor for Rachelle Shepard-dubey, which I wish her the best of luck.

I would like to thank you all for your excellent work and support throughout the year.

David Green

APPENDIX 2

Report of Borough Councillors to the Winnersh Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting: Borough Councillor report from Prue Bray

During the 2011/2012 municipal year I have worked on a number of issues affecting Winnersh, including:

- the outline planning application for Hatch Farm Dairies, which was granted planning permission in November. The fact that the site had been featured in various Local Plans as suitable for development for 20 years made it extremely difficult to fight, but we did obtain several changes and a commitment from the Borough Council that their half of the relief road would be progressed.

- the proposed expansion of Winnersh Primary School. I have worked hard with the Borough Council to persuade them that the traffic and parking problems around the school needed to be sorted out before the school could be expanded, and that residents needed to be involved in the decision making. The expansion is now on hold and the council is committed to proper discussion with residents. Council officers are proposing a number of highways changes to ease congestion and parking and to encourage children to walk to school.

- other parking problems. I have been working with the Neighbourhood Action Group in trying to get some of the worst parking problems solved elsewhere in Winnersh. There is still some work to be done, but progress has been made on Danywern Drive.

- problems with the new waste collection arrangements. Leaving aside the question of whether the new arrangements are the right ones, there have been a very large number of difficulties with the implementation of the changes. There continue to be problems. They include: people with no blue bags, wrong sized blue bags, wrong number of blue bags, and no recycling boxes, failures in assisted and special collection arrangements, failures in the system for ordering brown garden waste bins, poor quality of the blue bags and the brown paper sacks, confusion about collection days and about what can be recycled, inability to communicate with the council or with Veolia, reports of fly-tipping and rubbish left behind, and difficulties with Recyclebank. I expect the waste collection to continue to be an issue for some time to come.

In addition I have worked on issues affecting council tenants in Winnersh, traffic congestion, road works, and youth and young people, and have been part of the Rainbow multi-agency group. I have also commented on a number of minor planning applications, and dealt with a number of individual queries from residents, concerning everything from school places to pot holes and street lights.

APPENDIX 3

Report of Borough Councillors to the Winnersh Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting: Borough Councillor report from Philip Houldsworth

It is a year since I was first elected so I thought it appropriate to update you on my activities as a borough councillor.

I was allocated HOS (Health Oversight and Scrutiny) and Licensing & Appeals. I have only been called once to a Licensing and Appeal panel, which dealt with a school place appeal.

On HOS I have served on a Task and Finish panel looking at access to Mental Health services for 16+ years. This has taken evidence from a range of service providers and principals and has yet to produce its final report despite meeting as frequently as twice a week. I am happy to say, though, with the exception of children's services, all forms of mental health issues can be accommodated through a range of providers both private and public fairly easily. You may be surprised to hear that the definition of what constitutes a lack of mental well being is that of the American Psychiatric Association which has been adopted by the French health service as well as by the NHS. This had led to a large amount of minor events being described as mental well-being issues requiring treatment. Events that many people would regard as a normal part of everyday life.

I have attended the Street Works Committee as appropriate with respect to the recent work at the Winnersh Cross roads and was pleased to see that they didn't ultimately have to divert the traffic down Arbor Lane. I receive Agendas for this committee and attend any that may affect Winnersh.

I am in discussion with the Leader and the Planning Chairman concerning the funding and timing of the relief road although as yet no application under reserved matters has been made by the developers of Hatch Farm.

The MDD DPD is due to be published soon and of concern is the allocation of additional development sites for future development. This could include sites within Winnersh including the site occupied by the Bearwood Primary School. I shall watch this carefully and am in touch with residents on Bearwood Road concerning this.

I am being consulted by Roy Wood Transport about their plans to develop the site. They have a growing and successful business and have to extend their workshop. Their previous application to do so was rejected as inappropriate to the use of Reading Road premises so they are looking to get acceptance for a small residential development (4 houses) and a refurbishment of the White House and use the funds to acquire another site. I am happy with this because there will be little if any additional traffic and Reading Road now is not really an appropriate location for an engineering workshop. However the Parish Council will have the opportunity to comment when their formal application comes to planning.

I am involved in the resolution of a housing issue in Targett Court with reference to a social services client.

Speed on Robinhood Lane seems to be coming more of a problem. Speed checks done more recently indicate a rise in the number of speeding drivers. I think now is the time to push for the 30 mph limit to start nearer Hurst and I will be raising this within the next few weeks.

Parking on Danywern Drive has been raised with me and I will look for a resolution of this matter which from the correspondence that I seen has been dragging on since 2009. It may be that there is no perfect solution and if so I will seek some resolution with my Borough colleagues.

Provision for primary school children is critical with only 2 spare spaces across the borough even with the additional spaces being provided at Winnersh Primary. As we are all very aware traffic and parking

here is an issue with both parents and residents in the immediate vicinity. Alternatives are being considered but some of them require funding of many millions of pounds. No decisions have been made yet.

Finally whilst waste disposal has been an issue across the Borough, I do get the impression that in Winnersh it has been a bigger issue than in some other areas. It was unfortunate that due to the incompetence of the contractor substandard bags were issued in Winnersh.

The decision to change the system of waste collection was agreed by the Executive before I joined the Borough Council so I know little of its genesis except that the past arrangements had to be re-tendered by law and the opportunity to reduce landfill and increase recycling was part of these new arrangements.

The Leader has agreed to review the arrangements in the Autumn.

I would wish to pay tribute to my colleague Liz Siggery who was an Executive member of the Borough and whilst I am just a back bencher I will be trying to influence matters concerning Winnersh to the best of my ability.

I do not know at this time which committees I shall be asked to serve on but I will continue to scrutinise and attend all that may impact on Winnersh.