



Winnersh Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 2013 IN THE JOHN GROBLER ROOM

PRESENT: Cllrs D Green (Chairman), F Breedlove, E Cooke, J Grimson, R Holdstock, D Hunt, J Leask, J Southgate, C Taylor, R Tilbe.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr P Houldsworth, 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 Cllrs P Bray, I Shepherd-Dubey, R Shepherd-Dubey. Also from Mr Quine - Forest School; Kirsten Shakiri - Berks MS Therapy Centre; John Bradshaw – Winnersh Primary School PTA; Tom Conlin – Berks County Blind Society; Pat Rowell – NAG.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2012 were agreed and the meeting **RESOLVED** to sign them as a true record.

3 ADDRESS BY CLLR BOB WYATT, MAYOR, WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Chairman presented the apologies of Cllr Wyatt, who was unable to attend.

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 Houldsworth gave a report as per Appendix 3.

Cllr Green read WBC Cllr Bray's report as per Appendix 2.

6 REPORT ON THE WINNERSH FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST

6.1 Mr G Harper, Chairman of WFAT, gave a report:

The Winnersh Fuel Allotment Trust (WFAT) was founded at the end of the 19th Century by a local landowner who left 10 acres of land in Winnersh, the proceeds from which were 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 2012 provided gifts of money to four beneficiaries who lived within the parish of Winnersh.

It is becoming harder to identify suitable beneficiaries. If anybody knows of somebody who might benefit from a small gift at Christmas to help with their energy bills then please let the Parish Clerk know and he will pass it on to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

WFAT now has 6 trustees, with Ric Tilbe taking over as treasurer from Graham Hurst.

Mr Harper spoke of the long term options for the trust to continue to provide support for the needy of the parish.

7 PUBLIC SESSION

7.1 Sam Denyer, Rector of Winnersh Parish, introduced himself. He gave a summary of his first year in office and the progress made in the amalgamation of two parishes to form a single parish covering the population of Winnersh and Sindlesham. He elaborated on the efforts to create a sense of community within the parish and the contacts which the church has made to promote this.

7.2 PCSO Ross Andrews introduced himself as one of the new PCSOs. He explained that an additional PCSO and PC will be joining the team locally. He summarised the latest crime statistics and explained that Winnersh still has a very low level of crime.

7.3 Cathy Whittington of Winnersh Brownies spoke on behalf of the Guiding organisations within Winnersh, which together provide places for 120 children in the area.

7.4 Neil Graham of Winnersh Scouts spoke on behalf of the Scouting organisations within Winnersh, which together provide places for 95 young people in the area.

7.5 Steven Polak of Wokingham Job Support Centre summarised the work done by the organisation and thanked the Council for its continued support.

7.6 Mr J Andrews of Readibus thanked the Council for its continued support of the charity.

7.7 Mr J Harper thanked the Council for the improvements at the Reading Road allotments.

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

The meeting closed at 8.12 p.m.

APPENDIX 1

Winnersh Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2013

Winnersh Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2013

Reflecting on my second year as Chairman of the Parish council has been a very pleasant experience. The council remains a busy environment, with the community at the heart of all the activities and changes that it undertakes. Although the locality of the Bearwood recreation ground is not at centre of the village, it continues to strive to be at the epicentre of community events and activities. Key events and community activities include:

- The Christmas Lights - this develops more interest and activities each year.
- Jubilee Summer Fete - another successful day, with many local charities and interests represented.
- Civic Awards - We recognised the excellent work of PCSO Nellie
- The Parish litter pick remains an excellent event that brings together many interested parties.

The planning committee chaired by John Grimson has had a very busy year, members of the committee have actively supported the community engagement with regards to the new Winnersh Parish Primary School that is currently undergoing its build. In addition to that significant input has been made into the Wokingham Borough strategy development submission; this outlines a 5 year plan for Winnersh and the wider area. What is also noteworthy is that the committee do meet every 3 weeks and support a steady stream of planning requests from within the Parish.

Facilities within the Parish continue to develop; the busy Recreation & Amenities committee have driven many changes particularly within the bounds of the Parish recreation ground. To name but a few items, we now have a public toilet, which is equipped with disabled facilities, we have created a teenage focused area with a shelter, climbing wall and soon to be further augmented with a table tennis table. In addition to this, the signage for the rec has been replaced and some significant repairs to the children's play areas have been undertaken. It is also important to mention that the R&A chairmanship had undergone change, Cllr Jill Plant, who chaired the committee for 5 years has moved out of the area to be with family, and the reins over to Frank Breedlove. I would therefore like to express my thanks and best wishes to Jill.

Finance and General Purpose committee have continued to manage the purse strings with great aplomb. Guided by its Chairman John Southgate, budgets have been controlled and even in this time of austerity we have been able to continue to deliver services and

amenities to the community. For the first time in 4 years, we have raised the Parish Precept, this is to take into account increasing running costs for the parish, and we managed to keep this within recommended guidelines.

I must also take the opportunity to thank the Parish staff, who have once again had a busy year. Led by our Parish Clerk Clive Hudson, they team have supported the delivery of many key capital projects. Our FAO Amanda Lambourne has undertaken several improvements to our accounting processes and has driven the facilities letting to the point where we have exceeded our hiring's budget by 22%. Chris our Caretaker has continued to keep the facilities at the rec clean, tidy and in good order, ably supported by the relief caretaker.

In terms of Councillors, we have seen some movement this year, as previously mentioned Cllr Jill has moved on, also Lisa Landbury decided to step down. Stepping into the breach we have co-opted Rick Tilbe, Richard Holdstock and Clinton Taylor, I welcome them to the council. We do still have two Councillor posts that I would dearly love to see filled.

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

I have been involved in a number of different projects this year in Winnersh.

My main focus in the past year has been on the provision of primary school places. Early in 2012, Wokingham Borough Council abandoned its original plans for the expansion of Winnersh Primary School because of the practical problems associated with the site. In the year since then, a new site at Winnersh Farm has been chosen, the planning application for it has been approved, an education provider for the new school has been found and building work is under way. The new school will open in September. Residents have concerns about the traffic and parking associated with a new school and Rachelle and I will be working to ensure that the right measures are put in place to deal with any problems. There is time to sort out what those measures should be, as when the school opens, it will only have 30 pupils, and will build up to its capacity of 210 pupils over the next 7 years.

There are other significant planning issues for Winnersh. I have put in a significant amount of work on opposing the Taylor Wimpey application for 150 houses behind Maidensfield. There has been no movement on Hatch Farm Dairies during the year.

Double yellow lines have been added in the area around Winnersh Primary School in an effort to reduce parking problems associated with the school. Double yellow lines have also been painted in Danywern Drive, in an attempt to address residents' issues with parking by commuters and Forest students and parents. Both have been partially successful, but there are still some problems. I supported these schemes as a member of the Neighbourhood Action Group as well as in my role as a Borough Councillor.

I have also been a member of the Rainbow Multi-Agency partnership this year. A lot of good community development work in Winnersh has gone on through that group.

As well as carrying out a significant amount of casework for individuals locally, my other roles as a councillor this year were:

- the Tenant & Landlord Improvement Panel, a body which brings council tenants, officers and councillors together to help drive improvements in the council housing service
- Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, and the Fire Commission (the national body for councillors from Fire Authorities)
- the Community Safety Partnership, which oversees community safety activities in the borough
- the Health & Wellbeing Board, the newly constituted body which is responsible for overseeing the new public health duties of local authorities
- the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee, which scrutinises council activity. This year I was a member of the scrutiny Waste Task and Finish Group, which made recommendations on improving the blue bag rubbish collection following the problems last year. Most of the recommendations have been implemented.

I am also a member of the Constitution Review working group, the Affordable Housing working group, the Decision Making Review working group, the Planning Policy Steering Group and the Sustainable Communities working group. These working groups look at potential policy changes.

Prue Bray 14th May 2013

APPENDIX 3

Report of Borough Councillors to the Winnersh Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting: Borough Councillor report from Philip Houldsworth

We started the year with the change in the waste collection services. The good news is that the Council continue to collect our waste weekly but it is fair to say that there were some teething problems with the introduction! However things do seem to have settled down and I receive few complaints now.

We also had a new Chief Executive in that Andy Couldrick was confirmed in the post. He seems to meet with general approval and I think sets a tone which encourages much more cooperation between members and officers.

The Council confirmed that the Taylor Wimpey land east of Watmore Lane was excluded from its forward plans and we hope to get confirmation of support from the Examination In Public which is happening this very week.

Following a motion from Prue Bray the Council is undertaking a review of its decision making structure. It does seem to be taking a very long time. Given the unsatisfactory nature of the present arrangements put in place by John Prescott one would hope for an early resolution.

Development of the SDL's is gathering pace and whilst no major increase in housing is envisaged in Winnersh the increase in vehicles will generate heavy traffic on the main arteries including the A329 through Winnersh. Meantime there is no sign of movement with Bovis and Hatch Farm which might have delivered the bypass.

IQ Winnersh continues to expand offering employment growth.

The Wokingham Town centre regeneration is becoming more of a reality with work starting in Rose Street and Market place, a new Morrisons in the marketplace and a new hotel will add attractions for the

many Winnersh residents who use Wokingham for shopping who will also welcome the new railway station.

Speaking personally I have continued to serve on the Health Oversight and Scrutiny Committee where we have seen the implementation of the new Clinical Commissioning Groups designed to put the emphasis on local GPs. I have attended both of the Board meetings held in public in Woodley of these new CCGs. Having also accompanied my wife on a visit to E & A on the Royal Berks, I am very impressed with the reception and service. It could not be bettered, if this is the new face of the NHS it is to be welcomed.

The biggest change for me though is that I now chair the Affordable Housing Strategy Group responsible for advising the Executive on the number, mix and tenure of affordable housing on all the new estates being built. It is also responsible for seeking commuted sums where appropriate which can be used on other social housing schemes. The figures can be substantial running into £ms.

So all in all an interesting year.

Philip Houldsworth