

# Winnersh Matters

The community newsletter for the residents of Winnersh and Sindlesham



**Winnersh Parish  
Council**

## ***Winnersh Summer Fete*** ***Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 1 - 4:30pm***

The ever-popular Winnersh Fete is being held in its usual slot of the third Saturday in June and we hope that you will support the many volunteer groups and local businesses that will be there as well as enjoying a fun day at the Bearwood Recreation Ground.



The general format will remain as in previous years: it will be a traditional family fete including stalls with games, some selling produce, others providing information about local organisations, etc. There will also be a programme of activities including arena displays and many other attractions for all ages. In the arena the focus will be on 'family fun' with wheelbarrow races, Tug of War and other competitions as well as football demonstrations and maypole dancing.

There will be no charge to gain entry to the fete or for parking and several of the children's attractions will also be free of charge.

The primary focus of the fete is to bring the Winnersh community together by involving local organisations, businesses and individuals. If you or your organisation would like to have a stall or participate in any other way please contact us at [fete@winnersh.gov.uk](mailto:fete@winnersh.gov.uk) or call the Parish Office to book your stall or for further information. We also want to support local community activities so charities and voluntary groups keep any profits made from participating at the fete for their own use while local businesses are asked to donate a proportion of their takings on the day and this will all go to charitable causes.

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**Winnersh Parish Council**  
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## **Sign up for Winnersh Parish e-newsletter**

As part of our Climate Change Action Plan, Winnersh Matters will become a regular e-newsletter. To ensure that you receive a copy please sign up for the e-newsletter on our web site:

**[www.winnersh.gov.uk/newsletter](http://www.winnersh.gov.uk/newsletter)**

**OR**

Email details to **[admin@winnersh.gov.uk](mailto:admin@winnersh.gov.uk)**

***Check out the new Winnersh Parish Website at [www.winnersh.gov.uk](http://www.winnersh.gov.uk)***

## *New Parish Clerk*

Our new Parish Clerk, Marcia Milsom joined us on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

Marcia has worked in local government for over 23 years, having previously worked for Winnersh Parish Council from 1999 – 2007 as a part-time Administration Assistant and then Deputy Clerk. Following a year of maternity cover at Woodley Town Council, she then joined Winkfield Parish Council as Deputy Clerk and was promoted to Clerk in October 2019.

Apart from a very short period, Marcia has been a lifelong resident of Wokingham Borough, having lived in Winnersh for a number of years. She now lives in Emmbrook with her husband, 2 dogs and a cat. She has three children and two grandchildren.

Marcia has a number of years of experience managing local government facilities including community halls, allotments and sports pitches.



She has gained the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification (CILCA) and brings with her a good working knowledge of the current systems used at Winnersh.

We are sure that her experience in local government together with her local knowledge will help to drive Winnersh Parish Council forward and we look forward to working with her.

## **WINNERSH PARISH COUNCIL**

# **CIVIC AWARDS 2023**

**DO YOU KNOW AN INDIVIDUAL OR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION THAT HAS MADE AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY WITHIN THE PARISH OF WINNERSH?**

**YOU CAN NOMINATE THEM FOR A CIVIC AWARD!**

**A SELECTION PANEL FROM WINNERSH PARISH COUNCIL WILL REVIEW THE NOMINATIONS AND THE AWARD(S) WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE WINNERSH FETE ON SATURDAY 17TH JUNE 2023**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO DOWNLOAD A NOMINATION FORM, GO TO [WWW.WINNERSH.GOV.UK](http://WWW.WINNERSH.GOV.UK)**

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:  
SUNDAY 30TH APRIL 2023**



## ***Budget Plan for 2023/24***

One of the key tasks of the Parish Council is to provide excellent facilities for the local community. To maintain the facilities, we need to continually invest in the infrastructure. For the 2023/24 Financial year the Parish Council has budgeted £161,000 for capital projects.

**How do you decide what needs doing?** The Recreation and Amenities Committee is charged with maintaining our excellent facilities. The committee, along with the Council Officers review the important jobs and improvements that need to be done. They pull together estimates for the projects and these are reviewed and agreed by the Parish Council. The agreed projects are then built into the Capital Expenditure budget by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**So how are we spending our Capital budget this Financial year?** Here are a few of the items that we have set aside Capital Budget:

1. Revamp of the Community Centre floor - this is a wood floor that needs sanding down and re-sealing - budget £10,000.
2. Toilet facilities in the Community Centre - the current facilities are in a tired state and are in need of refurbishment and re-modelling - budget £30,000.
3. Replace the Footpath from the Carpark to the Community Centre - budget £15,000.
4. Update Pavilion House - the caretaker's house is in need of refurbishment, this includes new windows, kitchen and bathroom - budget £30,000.
5. Lighting Improvements to Main Hall – we are looking to install low level dimmable lighting to the hall and Sindlesham Room – budget £5,000.
6. Sindlesham Room/Parish Office reconfiguration – we are planning to strip out the unused bar area and install a lift and internal staircase to give full access to the Parish Office – budget £25,000.
7. Car Park Levelling – the disabled car parking area needs to be re-tarmaced to reduce the puddling and the gravel in the remaining spaces needs topping up – budget £10,000.
8. New Toddler Unit – we are installing a new toddler unit in the play area – budget £20,000.
9. Hall Curtains – the curtains are in need of replacement – budget £5,000.

In addition to this, we have also set aside an additional £11,000 for climate change, sustainable transport and other smaller capital projects.

**How do you decide who is doing the projects?** In line with government procurement guidelines, for capital expenditure over £10,000 we will always request at least 3 companies to bid to complete the project. These bids will then be scrutinized by the committee and the most appropriate submission will be awarded the contract to complete the project.

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## ***New CCTV***

**In April 2022, Winnersh Parish Council** were successful in being awarded funding from Thames Valley Police's Thames Valley

Community Fund which distributes money to groups and

organisations for causes and projects which will reduce offending, reoffending and increase conviction rates.

Winnersh Parish Council applied for the money, which comes from proceeds of crime, to extend and upgrade the CCTV at Winnersh Community Centre to 13 cameras and new recording and monitoring equipment.

The images are a high quality and can be accessed remotely making the area safer for the community.



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***Community Hall Hire contact the office on Tel: 0118 978 0244***



## ***Your Parish Council***

A parish council is an elected, corporate body which is the lowest tier of local government. There are 17 town or parish councils within Wokingham Borough Council.

Parish councils are funded by a precept, which is the parish council's share of the council tax collected from residents by the local billing authority, which in Winnersh, is Wokingham Borough Council. Parish councils can also raise revenue from other streams such as community hall hire and apply for money for specific projects from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Winnersh Parish Council is responsible for the running and maintenance of Winnersh Community Centre, Bearwood Recreation Ground and the allotment site off Woodward Close. The parish council also plans and runs a number public and community events such as the Winnersh Summer Fete. The parish council, along with the Winnersh Sustainable Transport Group is a member of the Community Rail Network and has adopted Winnersh and Winnersh Triangle stations.

All parish councils must hold meetings which councillors must attend. Winnersh Parish Council holds monthly meetings for three committees, Full Council, Recreation and Amenities Committee and Planning Committee. There is also a Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting quarterly. The agendas and minutes of these meetings are displayed on the parish council website.

### **How can I get involved?**

There are several ways a member of the public can get involved with their local town or parish council.

- ☐ The parish council meetings are open to and can be attended by the public.
- ☐ Some parish councils may have Working Groups for particular issues or projects which members of the public can be a part of.
- ☐ Regularly check a council's website and social media for information and events.
- ☐ Parish Councils often have grant funding available. Charities and local organisations can apply for funding, which will also make the parish council aware of their groups or projects which can create a working relationship.
- ☐ Contact your local councillors. Email addresses will be available on a council's website. Contact them with any issues, thoughts or feedback.
- ☐ You can become a parish councillor. At Winnersh Parish Council there are 15 places on parish council. Vacancies are advertised on the website and social media, along with the noticeboard at Bearwood Recreation Ground.

### **How to become a Parish Councillor?**

To become a parish councillor a candidate must:

- ☐ Be at least 18 years old.
- ☐ A UK or Commonwealth citizen, or an eligible citizen of the European Union.

To stand for election in a particular parish:

- ☐ Be an elector in the parish.
- ☐ Or during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election:
  - You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/community area.
  - Your main or only place of work has been in the parish/community area.
  - You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it.

A parish councillor can be elected to the post by the electorate or via co-option which is when the other members of the council vote on the candidates. A parish councillors' term is four years; however, any member of the council can leave at any time.