

WINTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Winterbourne Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th May, 2011 at 7.15pm

Present: Cllr A Atkinson
Cllr J Randle
Cllr P Biggins
Cllr P Johnson
Cllr C Tarver
Cllr V Harrod
M. Thomas (Clerk)

Unitary Councillor Mike Hewitt
2 members of the public

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed those for attending the meeting.

2. ABSENCE APOLOGIES

Cllr C Penn, Cllr R Baker, Cllr D Baker

3. MINUTES OF APM 2010

A copy of the minutes for the APM of 2010 were submitted and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2010 MINUTES

None noted

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010/11

Cllr Atkinson had prepared and distributed a report to the attendees (a copy is attached to these minutes) and thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their support throughout the year.

6. QUESTION TIME FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS AND UNITARY COUNCILLORS

A number of questions were asked to Council members which included the Parish Plan and when it may be that it would be further discussed as part of the Parish Council work – confirmation given that this would be likely to be in the Summer time of 2011 and when Cllr Penn who is a main organiser in the Plan, would be available following agreed absence from the Council due to work commitments.

An acknowledgement of thanks was given to the newly introduced scheme from Community First and Wiltshire Council of the Good Neighbour co-ordinator scheme and which was recognised as being a benefit to the community.

The Annual General Meeting closed at 7.25pm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 18TH MAY 2011

Welcome and thank you for attending this Annual Parish Meeting.

Your Parish Council has unfortunately received 3 resignations during the year, Leslie Wastie, Milton Grimleigh and Mike Hewitt. Leslie found himself in the situation of not being able to attend any of the PC meetings and Milton and Mike resigned for reasons of potential conflict with their other activities. In the case of our Unitary Councillor, Mike Hewitt, the Parish is far better served by him **not** having to represent the Parish at Unitary Council meetings, as he can support the Parish from an independent position. I am happy to report however, that Charles Tarver, agreed to be co-opted to the Parish Council and is the first representative for many years from Hurdcott. An election was held in March this year and both Becky Baker and Peter Biggins were formally elected to the Parish Council. I am delighted to welcome them all. Mike Hewitt, as our Unitary Councillor, continues to attend WPC (Winterbourne Parish Council) meetings and to brief us on developments within Wiltshire Council. Can I also thank Leslie Wastie and Milton Grimleigh, not just for their work for the WPC but also for agreeing to remain as consultants to the WPC on Amenity and Tree Work matters, respectively. Their continued support is welcomed and shows an increasing Parish personal involvement in the needs of the Parish as a whole.

Village Developments

The grit bin installed at Hurdcott was a great success this last winter. Unfortunately Wiltshire Highways thought they owned the land on which the bin was placed, at their advice. This did not turn out to be the case but we have secured a new location for the Hurdcott grit bin. We also purchased and placed a new grit bin on Downbarn Road, which again proved to be a significant success. With increasingly cold winters we are still exploring where new grit bins need to be purchased and placed.

Your Parish Council continues to deal with many planning applications and this year particularly with a large number of applications for tree works. It is gratifying to note that residents in the Conservation Areas are increasingly registering formal

applications, rather than arbitrarily undertaking work. In some cases we, through Wiltshire Council, have even encouraged and persuaded Parishioners to plant new trees to maintain the landscape.

Wiltshire Council has implemented white lining in the layby below Earls Rise, in order to help and ease the problems to local residents that are currently experienced by vehicular use at Winterbourne School. We have evidence that this has not been successful and now Wiltshire Police are monitoring the situation closely. White lining has also been implemented adjacent to Winterbourne Stores and I am glad to report that this has worked.

Maintenance of Village Amenities

Allotments. The allotments are still under the good management of the Parish Council Deputy Chairman, David Baker. An annual allotment holders meeting (Sept/Oct) has been established. Further work is being carried out at the allotments to clear a number of small oak trees, which have impinged on current plots and prevented the creation of new plots. Water usage (paid largely by the Parish Council) remains of concern and costs are rising rapidly. Hose pipes are accepted but sprinklers are not allowed.

The Annual Parish Footpath Walk took place in September 2010 and various maintenance issues have since been addressed, including removal of debris, repair to stiles and signage. Dog fouling continues to be a headache. The Parish Council does have the power to fine persistent offenders - new warning signs have been erected. Fly tipping in Tanner's Lane and other areas in the village has been noted. The police have been informed and have investigated. They have found a letter in the debris at Tanner's Lane, which could lead to the offender(s) being prosecuted. They will continue to monitor this site and surveillance cameras may be placed there. This is a significant issue for the Parish and detracts from the area.

We have again placed a contract for cutting verges, banks and footpaths on a regular basis, to keep the village both tidy and attractive but have continued to designate certain areas with marking posts to protect natural and important flora and fauna.

Wider Village Issues

The second harsh winter caused major damage to road surfaces through the village. The most severe pot holes were reported constantly to Wiltshire Council by both Parishioners and Parish Council members and I am happy to report that, in the main, they were rapidly dealt with. Our campaign to have the road between Broken Cross Bridge and Hurdcott repaired was successful and I am again happy to thank Highways and our Unitary Councillor, Mike Hewitt, for a successful outcome.

Winterbourne Parish Council is part of the Bourne Valley Alliance of Parish Councils and the BVAPC is attempting to get the A338 de-trunked, to avoid very heavy goods traffic and articulated container wagons coming through the village. The issue of the HPA at Porton Down remains outstanding but we are now hopeful that the potential move is unlikely. The traffic lights on the Portway are still reducing the flow of through traffic and this remains under investigation by the BVAPC.

A Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) meeting was held in April, attended by the Neighbourhood Policing Team and new NHW co-ordinators were recruited. Further development of this Scheme is expected in the near future under the guidance of Councillor Vernon Harrod.

We have three other major amenities available to the Parish. The Winterbourne Post Office & Stores, the two public houses, the Black Horse at Hurdcott and the

Winterbourne Arms, in Winterbourne Dauntsey. To lose any of these could only be detrimental to this Parish. Can I ask that you support them, as I do and as they do for the Parish. If we lost any of these amenities, it would be detrimental to the life and sociality of the Parish. Your support, as a Parishioner, in these difficult times and for whatever you can do, is essential.

The Future

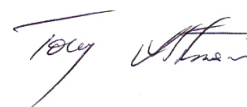
A summary of the Parish Plan was distributed to all Parishioners in 2009. Implementation is on-going and all Parishioners should note that the Parish Plan also includes the Parish design for the next decade; i.e. what we all want, as Parishioners. In this regard can I thank Charles Penn for all his efforts. Can I also thank Councillor John Randle, our Flood Warden, for all his work and input into Environmental issues, including river management and flooding matters.

For the future we are still attempting to get the 30mph sign moved further to the west of the entrance to the allotments on Downbarn Road and further to the south on the Portway. We are also in discussion with Wiltshire Council regarding the length of the 30mph limit on the A338. We have informed them that the Winterbourne Earls boundary sign is wrongly placed and should be sited opposite Long Close (between the Hurdcott turning and Broken Cross Bridge) and that is where, in the opinion of the WPC, the 30mph restriction should start. We have made some headway on these issues. I will keep you informed. We are also in discussion with Wiltshire Council regarding potential pedestrian crossings on the A338 through The Winterbournes. Our aim is to establish two crossings. Firstly, opposite Earls Manor Court (re school crossing) and secondly opposite Winterbourne Stores (often accessed from the opposite bus stop). We are likely to have 30mph sign and measurement signals provided for 4 to 6 weeks for Wiltshire Council to establish "crossing flow". The Parish Council has potential funds of circa £6,000 from R2 funding for new play equipment in the Amenity Area. A wide range of new equipment, for children of all ages, is becoming increasingly available. We would much appreciate your suggestions from any on-line facility or catalogue you have, because we wish to upgrade this area.

Other Matters

It is also very much a pleasure to thank John Brown for continuing to manage the village website and Jenny Head for editing and distributing the Village Link, enabled by many willing volunteers.

Can I also thank all the Parish Councillors for their voluntary hard work and input and also, particularly our Parish Clerk, Melanie Thomas, for being so pro-active and for keeping the WPC informed and up to date with its responsibilities and Parish agenda.



Tony Atkinson
Chairman
Winterbourne Parish Council