

WINSTER PARISH

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
15th MAY 2023 AT 8.00PM IN THE BURTON INSTITUTE**

These Minutes are hereby approved as a true and accurate record of the above meeting following Resolution of the Council at its meeting on Monday 13th May 2024.

Signed

Chair of meeting

Present: Cllr. Frederickson (Chair), Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Brown, Cllr. Hatfield, Cllr. Randles, Cllr. Geddes, Cllr. M. Buckler and 14 residents.

Clerk to Parish Council: Mrs T. Dale

APM 01/05/23	A: The Chair gave a brief introduction to open the meeting. B: Cllr. Frederickson was nominated as Chair, Clerk as Clerk of meeting. (prop MH 2 nd Resident, unan) C: Apologies received from Cllr. Cooper.
APM 02/05/23	Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto: A: The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Council meeting held on 30th May 2022 were considered. The minutes were then approved. (prop DF, 2nd MH, unan). B: No matters arising.
APM 03/05/23	Reports and Presentations: A: Chair report: Where have we come from? First standing and being elected, with five others, two years ago the Parish Council was in chaos. The resident Clerk was on sick leave with the role being covered by locum Clerks one after another, unfortunately it was found difficult to cope in addition, during the covid period, meetings were held on Zoom. As the Council was in disarray and grievances were dominant and unable to be addressed prior there was a lot of interest in the meetings. At one meeting there were c36 devices, with one or more attendees on a zoom call, and it was a very difficult time. There were many arguments and complaints including those around planning applications. We have come a long way since then. We employed a new clerk who has spent a lot of time resolving issues, especially regarding finances. There was a lot of incomplete records, missing bills, bills not being forwarded, lack of paper trail, lack of document transferrals. We are now pleased to say we have a grip on the finances, thanks to the Clerk for working over and above contracted hours unpaid. Now we are in a better position we will monitor the Clerks hours, should the workload require additional hours this will be discussed and considered. After re-reading my first article, we have adhered to the principles. We advised that we would not act as planning police when dealing with Planning requests, we do consider and comment on each request as we deem necessary but ultimately it is a matter for Peak Park which have the authority. Secrecy, we intend to be open and transparent, we do not put confidential items on the Councils spend, as was the previous case, as we believe the residents have the right to know how the council spends/allocates finances. Councils' representation on village committees, the council do not wish to take a heavy-handed approach being in favour of a more collaborative line. To be more

informal and have a broader remit, build upon relationships with the Burton Institute, Secret Gardens, Village Shop, Public house etc.

Where are we going?

To build upon the Wild Flower Meadows project, expanding to verges and Tree Planting. To incorporate other village initiatives such as a memorial bench for Freda. Proposals to be drawn up with the village being consulted.

Working in partnership with Burton Institute, Luncheon Group to look at providing warm spaces in the future. Looking into funding as we did this year from DDC which enable the purchase of chairs. The Warm Rooms were a partial success with 40 – 45 residents attending although it was thought that it possibly wasn't attracting those in most need. More work will be required to engage residents without coming across as patronising.

To monitor and approach Highways and other agencies to resolve issues arising from traffic in the village. Currently concentrating need the school, to continue with the Speed Watch Group.

To continue and explore funding opportunities, in 2022/23 we obtained funding of £500 for the Jubilee celebrations, £1,300 for the Coronation, in addition to donations from the Carnival fund and Secret Gardens amongst others.

We have and continue to receive donations for the replacement of the play area equipment and hope to work with the playing fields committee.

We've received funding from Better Derbyshire Dales Fund for the wild flower meadows, have engaged with Longcliffe to support enhancements to the common. We have managed to reclaim the VAT back from the Outdoor Gym. We have donated to the Swift Box Project, there are now 20 boxes in the village, a thank you to David Mitchell for making this happen.

The Council will be looking into the approach for the Burial Ground, Church Yard making a useful space, Play Area, Repairs/footpath to Woodhouse Lane from Florence Gladwin meanwhile continuing consultations with Residents.

A thank you to Cllr Robinson for leading on the Wildflower Meadows, Cllr Brown for leading on traffic, Cllr Wood for setting up the allotments, Cllr Randles for organising the consultations and David Bentley for the use of the Bowling Green.

It has been and continues to be a privilege to work with residents and councillors, a thank you to all, we have stood together and with hard work we are moving forward. B: 2022-23 Finance Accounts, Audits and Annual Return.

All accounts/year end documentation has now been completed. It was explained that part of the procedure was to explain any variances between 2021/22 – 2022/23 greater than 15%. The Clerk drew attention to the opening balances where there was a variant of 100%, explaining the variant being that the large donation for the outdoor gym was included in the 2021/22 opening balance but was spent on the project throughout the year and therefore not included in the 2022/23 opening balance. All documents are/will be available on the Parish Council website. Shortly prior to the meeting the internal auditor report was received, the Clerk was happy to report that the auditor having concluded that the system of internal control in place for 2022/23 has seen considerable improvement and that it is functioning in a satisfactory manner. The residents showed their appreciation by clapping, which was much appreciated by the Clerk.

C: Presentations, updates or reports by Village / Community Organisations were given.
Pond and Orchard Group:

All is going well the group is financially solvent. Money has been raised via the selling of plants. There are however costs incurred by the group that are expensive, such as insurance cover, that they would like the council to support.

Unfortunately, due to vandalism the noticeboard that was to be donated will no longer be available.

Burton Institute:

As with the Pond and Orchard Group the institute is financially solvent, thanks in part to donations from the Secret Gardens. However, things are expensive, the lift, insurance etc and at a time when usage of the institute was down. They are current working out what can be done to encourage/generate more usage. They have considered putting in a shower and opening at weekends as a bunk house although this being viable is debateable. The committee is open to any suggestions for the generating income.

To reduce costs heating controllers have been installed, instead of the lift being on by default it is now switched off and only put on when required, therefore there can be a delay in it starting for which apologies were given.

They have purchased an electronic piano which is used by the choir. The Choir use the facilities in winter due to the warmth but move to the church in warmer weather because of the acoustics.

Winster Shop:

It has been a challenging year. Although finances are likely to show the best turnover at £1.5M the net profit is expected to be low at c£2K. To increase revenue and footfall the plan is to stock specialist products with the aim of attracting more people including residents who do not use the shop at present.

The shop does provide employment for 5 people.

Communication in the past has been poor, to rectify this they have engaged a resident experienced in this field.

Councillor Buckler:

The Chair invited Cllr Buckler to introduce himself.

Cllr Buckler introduced himself as the new Borough Councillor for Bonsal and Winster. Previously a Councillor covering Stanton, working with the Parish Councils in Stanton, Birchover etc, which he enjoyed. He hopes to attend as many meetings as possible and thought that the activities underway in Winster are good.

Cllr Buckler stands for the Green Party and understands the requirement for Affordable Housing, he is keen on allotments and in addition will be exploring Air/Water Quality, Climate/Bio Diversity initiatives. He understands the impact of bin lorries, Leisure Centres etc on the environment.

He holds a small funding allowance for local projects and works with the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, and he will provide to the Council any help that he can.

D: Written Notices:

A notice was received raising the following:

- Strongly support any move to reduce speed limit along Main Street to 20mph. Clerk was able to, on receipt of an email from Cllr Athwal, advise that consultations were in progress on trials of two 20mph speed limits in Buxton and Long Eaton. If the data gathered following the trials support the roll out of 20mph speed limit within Derbyshire then Winster will be considered for suitability at this stage.
- To support any move to join the two footpaths leading from Clough Wood as to avoid having to walk along the main road without any pavement to get to the further footpath. Please see APM 04/05/23 Resident 2 below.

APM 04/05/23	<p>Open Forum - Any Business to be Raised for Discussion and Invitation for Questions from the Public:</p> <p>The Chair opened up the meeting to all present.</p> <p>Resident 1: Regarding the Noticeboard by the Playing fields, they intended to update the board but feel it is best handled by the Parish Council. It was suggested that a map of the village that pinpoints the facilities such as the Village Shop and Bowling Green should be displayed. The frames are also in need of repair.</p> <p>The Council agreed to look into this and work together with residents to resolve. The attendees of the meeting were made aware that West Bank was due to close for two weeks for work to be completed by Gigaclear. No notification was given and it had not appeared on the website. The Council agreed that this was not acceptable and would arrange a further meeting with Gigaclear to stress the importance of communication, they will also be invited to attend the next consultation event where they can be questioned and respond to residents directly.</p> <p>Resident 2: Raised the issue as with the resident who provided the written notice of the two footpaths leading from Clough Wood to the main road. It was requested that this footpath be joined/linked to another footpath close by. This would avoid having to walk along the main road without any pavement which can be dangerous. It was noted that this would not be an easy task as the footpath also involves crossing the boundaries into South Darley. It was also noted that this issue has been looked into over the past twenty years, with the owner of the land not giving their consent. The Council agreed to look into this and check if there has been a change in land ownership, if this is the case would the new owners be willing to consider?</p> <p>Resident 3: Raised the issue of weedkiller being used along Woodhouse Lane, it is unsure who was responsible but it is believed to be DDC. Cllr Buckler stated that DDC have a no use policy, therefore the resident was asked and agreed to provide a map of the footpaths for further investigation.</p> <p>Resident 4: Questioned why the Cow Parsley was being cut down at the cemetery, as yet this area is not part of the Wild Flowering project, there are different opinions on this matter that need to be taken into account.</p> <p>Resident 5: The road leading to the toilets and East Bank View residences is in disrepair, it was questioned who was responsible for repairs. As it does not fall under the Parish Council, the question was asked of DCC and the housing association both confirmed that it is not their responsibility, it is believed to be an unadopted road. In the same area, walkers walking towards the footpath stray onto private property, could a sign be erected showing directions to the footpath. Council to look into viability.</p> <p>Resident 6: On departing the meeting congratulations were given to a functional, harmonious Parish Council.</p>
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Meeting closed at 20:00

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