

WINSTER COUNCIL

Clerk & Financial Officer: Trisha Dale
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MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING: 4th December 2023, 7:00pm, held at the Jubilee Room, Burton Institute, Winster.

These minutes are hereby approved as a true and accurate record of the above meeting following Resolution of the Council at its monthly Council meeting on 8th January 2024

Signed Chair of meeting

In attendance: Cllr. Frederickson (Chair), Cllr. Hatfield (Vice Chair), Cllr. Geddes, Cllr. Randles, Cllr. Stone, Cllr. Cooper.

Also Present: Trisha Dale (Clerk), 3 members of the public.

No.	Item	AP
12/01/23	Apologies Apologies received from Cllr. Robinson, Cllr. Brown, Cllr. Buckler.	
12/02/23	Declaration of Interests Cllr. Cooper, Council Matters item A.	
12/03/23	Reports: A: County Councillor's Report: None this month. B: Borough Councillor's: Cllr. Buckler sent a brief report as follows: DDC meeting on the 28 th September was dominated by two issues, the future of the public toilets at Monsal Head and the ongoing search for suitable sites for local Gypsy and Traveller families. Both are continuing to be considered by working groups. Many Councils are declaring themselves insolvent, for example Derbyshire County Council. However, at present Derbyshire Dales District Council are in a healthy position. Housing is still an issue and work is still ongoing to resolve/improve the situation. The Borough Councillor fund of £1000 has now been exhausted for this year. Clerk to circulate email to Parish Council. C: Police Report: None this month. D: Chair Report: None this month.	Clerk
12/04/23	Public Participation Resident 1: Raised issues with items being left at the village toilets, two green caddies, hula hoop, blue bags and ironing board. Councillor to check if items were left by a resident and request removal. Resident 2: Raised concerns regarding the campervan parked on the common. It was noted that this was an agenda item and will be discussed later in the meeting. Resident 3: No issues raised.	MR
12/05/23	Members Questions to the Chair No issues raised.	
12/06/23	Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto A: The minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 6 th November 2023 were considered and approved. (Prop: JG 2 nd : DF; Unan) In relation to topics on the minutes the following was discussed:	

	<p>Village toilet repairs: A new hand dryer needs to be purchased and installed; the costs of a dryer vary from c£50 - £700. It was agreed that the dryer should be replaced with like for like to the existing dryer. The Parish Council were asked to agree a cost cap for the purchase. It was resolved that no more than £300 should be spent.</p> <p>(Prop: DF 2nd: AC; Unan).</p> <p>The Parish Council were made aware, for information only, that Hulley's have purchased a bus company based in Kent. It was felt that this was a strange acquisition, considering the current situation with services provided and costs attributed with Hulley's obtaining "soft loans".</p>																																		
12/07/23	<p>Finance</p> <p>A: To note the Council's monetary assets: Royal Bank of Scotland, and for the Chair of the meeting to examine, approve and arrange to sign the bank reconciliation and latest current account statements when available.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th><th>As at 4th December 2023</th><th>As at 6th November 2023</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Balance brought forward 1st April 2023</td><td>£34,563.70</td><td>£34,563.70</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Income</td><td>£35,870.52</td><td>£35,368.14</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure</td><td>£22,926.44</td><td>£21,415.22</td></tr> <tr> <td>Balance</td><td>£47,507.78</td><td>£48,516.62</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Last Statement Balance as at 30th October 2023</td><td>£48,620.23</td><td>£49,678.95</td></tr> <tr> <td>Less un-presented cheques</td><td>£1,514.83</td><td>£1,399.15</td></tr> <tr> <td>Add uncleared deposits</td><td>£402.38</td><td>£236.82</td></tr> <tr> <td>Available Balance 4th December 2023</td><td>£47,507.78</td><td>£48,516.62</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>B: To approve and instruct the payment by cheque, of presented invoiced items, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) T. Dale – Salary and arrears - £483.20 ii) F. Purlow – Salary – £100.90 iii) E. Smith – Cleaning - £100 iv) S. Wood Gardening Services – None this month v) WaterPlus – Utilities - £18.93 (DD) vi) Peter Street – Bus Stop Cleaning - £9.50 <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vii) HMRC Arrears of £643.93 in regards to unpaid employee contribution in the first quarter of 2021. viii) National Trust – Revised lease payment, previous notification did not include VAT. Cheque has been returned - £390.00 <p>C: To note the income and receipts of the Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Foresters Friendly Society – Donation to the Play Area Project - £100.00 ii) Honesty Box - £24.38 iii) Burial Ground - £378.00 <p>(Prop: MH 2nd: DF; Unan)</p> <p>D. Clerk updated the Parish Council on the NALC Pay Award. The pay award covers April 2023 – 2024. The award provides for an annual increase of £1925 pa for full time employees up to pay spine 43, those above received a 3.88% increase. In real terms for the Parish Council, it provides for an increase of £1.00 per hour on Clerk salary.</p> <p>E: The 2024/25 Budget was discussed. Clerk prior to the meeting shared the costs, income and projects with the Councillors.</p> <p>The following was raised:</p>		As at 4th December 2023	As at 6th November 2023	Balance brought forward 1st April 2023	£34,563.70	£34,563.70	Total Income	£35,870.52	£35,368.14	Total Expenditure	£22,926.44	£21,415.22	Balance	£47,507.78	£48,516.62				Last Statement Balance as at 30th October 2023	£48,620.23	£49,678.95	Less un-presented cheques	£1,514.83	£1,399.15	Add uncleared deposits	£402.38	£236.82	Available Balance 4th December 2023	£47,507.78	£48,516.62				
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	<p>Questions regarding the estimated year end spend on Grounds Maintenance, is this realistic? Whilst the next quarter would be quieter in terms of work required it was agreed that there were likely to be some costs.</p> <p>Why is the current estimate for year-end greater than the estimated spend for 2024? It was explained that there were some additional spends in 2023/24 that are not expected next year.</p> <p>Why is the estimated expenditure for next year greater than the proposed precept? It was explained that the expenditure is offset by other income and balances brought forward to calculate the required precept.</p> <p>Concerns raised over the biggest spends being salaries and grounds maintenance. As nothing can be done on the salaries the cost of the ground's maintenance should be investigated. It was agreed to re look at this, but it needed to be taken into account that the Parish Council are reliant on tenders, if we can get lower tenders that can provide a good job then that will of course be taken. It was said that whilst we can advertise, all Parish Councillors should be advertising and looking for contractors so that we can widen the net and hopefully get an increased number of tenders. It was agreed that the specification will be reviewed. Clerk reminded the Parish Council that getting the advert out for tenders is urgently required. Clerk to forward specification to Cllr. Randles to review. Item to be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.</p> <p>A review of the budget took place with varying views, from reducing costs, no increase, or increase with inflation. The outcome being that an inflation rate of 6% was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr. Geddes. A vote was requested, it was resolved by the majority. (DF, JG, MH, MR in favour, AS against, AC abstained)</p> <p>F: It was agreed a formal Finance Committee Meeting will be held on the 24th January 2024.</p>	Clerk MR
12/08/23	<p>Council Matters</p> <p>Cllr. Cooper left the meeting.</p> <p>A: Further quotes have been requested for Woodhouse Lane pathway, deferred additional quotes to be obtained. Add to next agenda.</p> <p>Cllr. Cooper returned to the meeting.</p> <p>B: The item on play area replacement and funding was deferred till the next meeting. Add to next agenda.</p> <p>C: An update on the consultation on the tree planting and common proposals held on the 23rd November at the Bowling Green was given. Twelve residents attended the meeting.</p> <p>The group had familiarised themselves with both briefing documents on the website and whilst they were reminded that we were focusing on the proposal for planting on the Griffin, they also wanted to discuss both proposals because they didn't want the Griffin to just be considered phase 1.</p> <p>The residents in attendance were overwhelmingly opposed to the planting of trees on the Griffin and below is the summary of their concerns:</p> <p>They wondered WHY it was necessary and whether any change was desirable.</p> <p>There was some level of acknowledgement of climate change and biodiversity, however they considered Winsters contribution would be insignificant in the scheme of things and it already has enough trees. It is towns that are causing the problem and therefore they should be addressing the issues.</p> <p>It was felt that planting trees would fundamentally change the character of the common, which they considered should be an open space.</p> <p>There was a concern about the lack of light in the village in the winter. This area of the Griffin in particular is a place where you can stand, enjoy unobstructed views up to the Tor field and down the valley whilst in sunshine.</p>	DR DB

	<p>Planting trees along the length of the Griffin could increase safety concerns for people walking along the road in the dark evenings/winter. E.g. dog walkers and people walking to and from the Miners Standard public house.</p> <p>Leaves in the autumn could make the road/path slippery and increase nutrients on the common area, which we are trying to prevent. The trees may also affect funnelling of wind in the area, which is already a high wind spot.</p> <p>The docks in the rewilding area are growing strong and as it would be impractical to try and graze the area, consider spot spraying as a way of managing them.</p> <p>This group would like to see the common area open and grassy, with places for picnicking and walking, the swing repaired and a fully accessible seat both in terms of shallow steps to get to it and a height that is easy to stand up from.</p> <p>Cllr. Randels thanked all those that attended.</p> <p>The following proposals were presented to the Parish Council:</p> <p>Carry out a tree survey in Winster and replace trees when they are approaching end of life. (Preferably in same area and at a 2 to 1 ratio, new:old).</p> <p>Formalise the path at the back of the Griffin, making it accessible.</p> <p>Repair swing, add picnic bench, ensure seat is accessible and better seat height.</p> <p>Photos and Information Board about the Common and Historic Interest.</p> <p>Consider dog fouling notices and disposal facilities.</p> <p>Combine this work with tidying up the area where people are parking cars along the roadside.</p> <p>Move the main tree planting proposal to another area of the village. Ashmore Pringle would fit this requirement, as we are close to needing to expand the cemetery. In the tree planting area, add a pet cemetery, people can have a memory stone or plaque.</p> <p>Start seeding some of the area with wild flowers.</p> <p>A brief discussion on the proposal raised financial concerns regarding a tree survey and the removal of trees that may be identified as approaching or at end of life. The cost will be explored with the hope to get this for free if possible. Whilst some did not want to be aware of the trees, others did not want to shy away from the issue especially if it was a health and safety issue.</p> <p>Reservations were raised about the use of Ashmore Pringle, if it is to be used to expand the cemetery then tree planting would become an issue. It was explained that any planting would be incorporated into the plans therefore this is a non issue. Subsequent to this project, this would impact on the expansion of the cemetery, it was explained that the mound on the righthand side was manmade, this could be flattened with the shaft being capped off. This was noted.</p> <p>Costs attributed to the project were raised, the Parish Council were assured any work/cost incurred would be presented to the Parish Council along with quotes for consideration.</p> <p>(Prop: MR 2nd: DF; Unan)</p> <p>D: The item of the request to commence advertising for the Grounds Maintenance contract was included in earlier discussion. (see Finance, item E) It was agreed that a meeting with the environment group will be held on the 24th January to resolve and present at the following Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>E: The removal of the fallen Ash Tree at Woodhouse Lane was discussed; two quotes had been received one at £648 the other £200. Parish Council decided not to commission removal of fallen tree.</p> <p>F: The item on Freedom of Info regarding housing was deferred. Item to be added to the next agenda.</p> <p>G: An update on the pathway project from Florence Gladwin Close to the Play Area path was given. Funding has been requested, in addition further information</p>	<p>MR DR</p> <p>MR DR</p> <p>AC DB</p>
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	<p>requested by DET has been provided. It is likely that planning permission will be required, this may rule out funding at this stage but DET funding will reopen later this year where if applicable another application will be presented.</p> <p>H: Further updates on traffic issues discussed with Cllr. Spencer were deferred until the next meeting. Item to be added to the next agenda.</p> <p>I: An update on Noticeboard repairs and displayed information at the playing fields was given. A map has been produced, next step is to draft a narrative. The draft to be presented at the next Parish Council meeting. Item to be added to next agenda.</p> <p>J: There was no update on footpath from Clough wood. Item to be added to the next agenda.</p> <p>K: The repairs to East Bank Noticeboard will take place in spring.</p> <p>L: An update on EV charger point/s was given. Funding has been requested and additional information required from DET has been provided.</p> <p>M: An update on the Campervan parked on the common, was given. The Owner has been contacted and given notice to remove. It was brought to his attention that it is a health and safety risk. The response received is that he challenged this and at present does not have the finances to move the vehicle. Both DCC and DDDC have been notified requesting removal. Advice sought suggests that as notification has been given to the owner, DCC and DDDC have become liable should any individual injury occurs. In addition, after liaising with NALC, under LTN 53, the Parish Council will notify the Police of trespassing. Item to be added to the next agenda.</p> <p>N: Requests, following issues raised on behalf of elderly residents struggling to leave and return to their homes, for repairs to the lane leading from East Bank and going past the public toilets to Public Rights of Way, DCC initially provided a proposed agreeing to pay a portion of the costs, meetings were request but none had been agreed. Subsequently the proposed share of costs has been withdrawn, the rational given being that the frontages, i.e. the properties to the east of the public conveniences, do not normally use private vehicles. The majority of the use is from residents further North East of East View. In these circumstances, it is with regret that they are unable to put this forward even for a "split cost" exercise. A conversation will be held with the residents to explain the situation.</p> <p>O: Whilst no urgent matters were raised the following was shared.</p> <p>Grit has arrived from the DDC Snow Warden scheme. All last year's stock has now been used with the majority of grit bins being filled, and the few outstanding will be filled shortly.</p> <p>Gigaclear have been seen pulling fibres through and cables up telephone poles.</p>	<p>MR Clerk DB</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>DF MH</p>
12/09/23	<p>Planning:</p> <p>A: The following were discussed, considered and instruction reporting the Council's views on applications received are available to view on www.peakdistrict.gov.uk, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) NP/DDD/0923/1063 - Ashton House, West Bank, Winster. Listed Building consent - Replace six panel front door with top two panels glazed, replace frame, replace existing non-traditional step with gritstone step and fit gemini type low line threshold strip in brass to finish. – NO OBJECTIONS RAISED <p><i>Note: item missed off the agenda</i></p> <p>B: To note any planning decisions as notified by the Peak District National Park Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) NP/DDD/0723/0786 & NP/DDD/0423/0415 - Mews Cottage, Elton Road, Winster. Garage conversion to home office. GRANTED ii) NP/DDD/0823/0993 – East Leigh, East Bank, Winster. New windows to front of house. GRANTED iii) NP/DDD/0623/0695 – Sunnybank, Wensley Road, Winster. GRANTED 	

	iv) Demolition of existing domestic garage and erection of replacement garage and widening of domestic driveway within garden (access to highway unaltered). GRANTED	
12/10/23	Correspondence & Circulars: Noted and discussed, correspondence received and pre-circulated to Members by email, unless otherwise indicated, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) DCC – Community news, Road Closures. ii) DALC – Newsletters. iii) Public Sector Executive – various. iv) PDNPA – Green Businesses Receive Recognition. v) Derbyshire Police & Crime Commissioner – Have your Say. 	
12/11/23	Items for the Village Magazine: None for this month.	
	The next Council Meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Monday 8th January 2023, at the Jubilee Room, Burton Institute, Winster. Meeting closed at 8.08pm.	