

**WINSTER PARISH**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 AT 7.00PM IN THE JUBILEE ROOM, BURTON INSTITUTE**

*These Minutes are hereby approved as a true and accurate record of the above meeting following Resolution of the Council at the next Annual Parish meeting.*

*Signed .....*

*Chair of meeting*

Present: Cllr. Frederickson (Chair), Cllr. Hatfield, Cllr. Stone and 5 residents.

Clerk to Parish Council: Mrs T. Dale

APM 01/05/24	A: The Chair gave a brief introduction to open the meeting. B: Cllr. Frederickson was nominated as Chair, Clerk as Clerk of meeting. C: No apologies were received.
APM 02/05/24	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Relating Thereto:</b> 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 03/05/24	<b>Reports and Presentations:</b> A: Chair report: The wildflower project is making good progress, since seeding over the last year wildflowers are spreading well and even Orchids have been spotted. Yellow rattle seeds have been spread but these will take time to flourish, it is hope these will help with the managing the grass on the common. The Parish Council are looking into the resurfacing of Burma Road with material donated from Longcliffe (this item was discussed at the Parish Councils meeting and will be on the agenda for the next). The Parish Council have been liaising with the school, whilst past relations between the school and previous Parish Council was not so good, it is hoped to build a good relationship moving forward. It was feared, due to rumours, that the school would be closing, the Parish Council wished to offer support. However, the school is not closing and has received a budget for this financial year. The Parish Council agree in general terms with the school that there are flaws in the County Councils policies and will support and promote the school where possible. The Parish Council have been liaising with the Village Shop committee, identifying possible capital funding to support shop projects through DDC Economic Development. Also coming this year is the levelling of play provision. The Playing Field Committee have done excellent work at the school. The project will need to include consideration of the falling numbers of children within the village within the project. B: 2023-24 Finance Accounts, Audits and Annual Return. The clerk explained that work was underway to finalise the accounts for this financial year, an internal auditor has been instructed and that it is expected to sign off the 2023/24 accounts at the annual Parish Council meeting being held on the 13 <sup>th</sup> May, after which all the associated documents with the variant will become available on the website. As the accounts have not been fully completed a brief overview of the current situation including comparison to 2022/23 was given.

	<p>The balance brought forward in 2023/24 of £34,564 was an increase of 17% on the previous year, this was mainly due to the reimbursement of VAT claimed on the outdoor gym expenditure claimed in 2022/23.</p> <p>The precept increased by 8% as per agreement in the 2023/24 budget.</p> <p>Other receipts increased by 4%, this included funding received for wildflower project and the play area.</p> <p>Staff costs rose by 19%, this can be attributed to negotiated DALC salary increase and a claim from HMRC for unpaid tax form 2021.</p> <p>The loan previously taken by the previous Parish Council has now been paid in full.</p> <p>Other costs reduced by 18% mainly due to extra expenses in the previous year, belated rent payments for Burton Institute, installation of the bollards at the triangle and external auditor costs following a challenge on the accounts.</p> <p>It is expected that the balance brought forward from 2023/24 will be c£44,731.</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting for questions:</p> <p>Resident 1 – asked what the figures in the reserves was. Clerk explained they were not at hand but apart from the reductions agreed to the property reserve and the introduction of an election reserve there had been no change from the previous year. Clerk offered to forward the information to the resident post meeting.</p> <p>C: Presentations, updates or reports by Village / Community Organisations were given.</p> <p>Pond and Orchard Group:</p> <p>All is going well, and the group is financially solvent. Collaboration with the Parish Council taking ownership of the sit-on lawn mower means that they are in a better financial position and not reliant on raising money via the selling of plants. The group have also been collaborating with the 6<sup>th</sup> form who will be assisting in the pruning of the damson trees.</p> <p>Burial Ground:</p> <p>Cllr. Stone explained that he had pulled information together and shared with fellow Councillors as to the current status at the Burial Ground, based on documents produced in 2014. That the plan is to expand, initially to provide further consecrated ground and increase the burial and internment plots by using the area on the righthand side of path for interment of ashes with the level section providing further burials plots before considering expanding into the neighbouring land. That the process of consecrating further land is being investigated with the District Dioceses to be contacted.</p> <p>Café in the Church:</p> <p>The café is opening for warm spaces, which is going very well and well attended.</p> <p>Burton Institute:</p> <p>Burton Institute is financially solvent at present, however, since covid there has been a reduction in usage and therefore reduction in revenue. It is understood that the current Treasurer will be stepping down this year.</p> <p>D: Written Notices:</p> <p>No written notices received.</p>
<p>APM 04/05/24</p>	<p><b>Open Forum - Any Business to be Raised for Discussion and Invitation for Questions from the Public:</b></p> <p>The Chair opened up the meeting to all present.</p> <p>Resident 2: Advised the Parish Council that Monyash Parish Council have managed to get the mobile signal in their area improved. As there is pressure to move to digital voice could the Parish Council contact the Monyash Council for advice on how this was established. This was supported by another resident who raised concerns that should there be an outage and route not working there is a serious risk that emergency calls would not be possible.</p>

<p>The Parish Council agreed that they would contact Monyash Parish Council, that there had been some investigation into what if any support is given by the network providers etc.</p> <p>Resident 3: Raised the issue as at the last meeting regarding the footpath from Clough wood being joined/linked which would avoid people having to walk along the main road without any pavement, which can be dangerous.</p> <p>The Parish Council advised that the item has been on the agenda and investigation have been ongoing, to date it has been difficult to find out who actually owns the land. Conversations was held with a possible owner, and others through local knowledge were asked of ownership but unfortunately to no avail. It was agreed at the last meeting that the only option now, after exhausting this avenue was to contact the land registry.</p> <p>It was also stated that the Parish Council does not have the power to close footpaths and that the footpath concerned most likely comes under Wensley, but the Parish Council will contact them once researched and the ownership established.</p> <p>There were no further issues/questions raised.</p>
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Meeting closed at 7:25

Trisha Dale Clerk/RFO to Winster Parish Council

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