



## Winnersh Parish Council

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### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 10 MAY 2016 IN THE JOHN GROBLER ROOM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs J Southgate (Chairman), J Bray, P Bray, J Curtis, D Green, S Hanna, G Harper, R Holdstock, D Hunt, F Obileye, P Ray, R Shepherd-Dubey, C Taylor.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 8 members of the public; Mr C Hudson (WPC Clerk), WBC Cllr P Houldsworth.

#### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs F Breedlove & N Kilby, Miss A Lambourne (WPC FAO), WBC Mayor. Also from representatives of Berkshire Vision, Berks MS Therapy Centre, Keep Mobile.

**1.1** Apologies for lateness: none

#### **2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2015 were agreed and the meeting **RESOLVED** to sign them as a true record.

#### **3 PUBLIC SESSION:**

##### **3.1 ADDRESS BY INSPECTOR JOHN DONACHY - TVP**

Inspector Donachy summarised the latest crime statistics, which show a 10% increase from last year, which follows national trends. He spoke of the variation in the statistics for burglary, violence against the person, sexual offences and drugs, noting the changes in the areas in which crime is committed eg more online harassment. However, Winnersh remains a low-crime area and a safe place to live. He spoke of the increase in the size of his team to 4 PCs and 4 PCSOs.

He updated the meeting on Neighbourhood Policing, which remains the backbone of the delivery model for TVP. He spoke of the 4 pillars of policing; visibility, engagement, problem solving and community resilience. The neighbourhood priorities are to protect the vulnerable, reducing violence and abuse, tackling drugs and road safety. He discussed Community Speed Watch and looked forward to its use in Winnersh. He thanked the Winnersh NAG for its grant to the scheme.

Inspector Donachy took questions from the floor: what to do in the event of a car being left with its engine running; the role of PCSOs and cyclist road safety/education.

Cllr Southgate expressed his thanks to Inspector Donachy.

### **3.2** report of Me2 Club

Tess Eagles reported on the role of Me2Club, which is to help children and young adults to access mainstream activities, and to provide help where it is needed.

Volunteers are recruited and trained. Children are matched to the volunteer and inclusion training is practiced.

### **3.3** Mr J Andrews spoke of the role of Readibus within Winnersh, with its increased number of journeys in the last year.

### **3.4** Mr Iain Brown gave a summary of the work of Wokingham Job Support Centre, which includes 1 to 1 coaching on interview technique, CVs, and workshops in groups. He explained the relationship between staff and volunteers and the costs involved. The Centre takes on 28 new clients per month.

### **3.5** Mr Tony Martin of HomeStart addressed the meeting. He explained the structure of the organisation locally. HomeStart supports families with children under 5 and offers support in Winnersh at the Rainbow Centre.

### **3.6** Rev Calvin Julian-Jones of Sindlesham Baptist Church addressed the meeting. He explained the part the church plays within the community and explained its role within Christians Against Poverty and the link with the Foodshare enterprise.

### **3.7** Rose Green, Community Development Worker at the Rainbow Centre addressed the meeting. She explained the need for a youth club on Friday evening and expressed the wish for a Youth Worker to be appointed. Jenny Poyser, Chairman of the Centre Forward Group, endorsed her suggestion.

## **4 ANNUAL REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL**

Cllr Southgate gave a report as per Appendix 1.

## **5 REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

### **5.1** WBC Cllr Houldsworth gave a report.

He spoke of the 2 elections which had taken place in the last year and announced that Cllr K Baker was elected Leader of WBC for 2016-17.

He reported that the land transfer had gone through for the Relief Road and that the design for this road and the King Street Lane junction was incomplete. The developments at Hatch Farm Dairies and 40 Arbor Lane have started this year.

The Marvellous festival will be held at Dinton Pastures during the summer and he had had meetings with the organiser in preparation for the event.

He spoke of the increased success of Planning Enforcement during the year and explained how the usage of California Country Park had increased.

**5.2** WBC Cllr P Bray gave a report per Appendix 2.

**5.3** WBC Cllr R Shepherd-Dubey gave a report as per Appendix 3.

## **6 REPORT ON THE WINNERSH FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST**

**6.1** Mr G Harper, Chairman of WFAT, gave a report as per Appendix 4.

There being no further information from the floor, Cllr Southgate thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.

### **APPENDIX 1**

#### **Winnersh Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10 May 2016**

The year started with the election of a 'new' council, though I am pleased to say that many councillors chose to continue to serve the community by offering themselves for re-election. However I'm equally pleased that we were able to welcome some new blood to the council, namely James Bray, Jeremy Curtis and Nick Kilby. We then co-opted two old faces to make up our full complement of 15 councillors, namely Richard Holdstock and David Hunt.

The council continues to provide facilities for parishioners to meet and play, with the Community Centre hall and meeting rooms in almost constant use and the Bearwood Recreation Ground intensively used for football and other leisure activities. The council has continued to build on several well-established elements:

- the Christmas Lighting Up, with carols and seasonal songs, this time from the children of Winnersh Primary School, with mulled wine and mince pies, and the now expected firework finale
- the Litter Pick in conjunction with the Big Tidy Up campaign, newly hosted by St Mary's Church who kindly provided refreshments afterwards
- the Winnersh Matters newsletter, produced twice a year to keep parishioners abreast of local items of interest, with Clinton Taylor having taken on the editor role (which mainly involves chasing up the contributors to get their items submitted!)

- and of course the Winnersh Summer Fete, the eighth in succession, improving in scope and attendance each year, despite the weather not always being as kind as we would like. As always its success was largely due to all the volunteers on the stalls and those who performed in the arena. As Chairman of the Fete Working Group I'd particularly like to thank Geoff Harper who organised the arena events; Karen Vass and Trevor Hockley, the non-councillor members of the Working Group, and others such as Nick [Kilby], Phil [Ray] and James [Bray] who came to my rescue when the ATC were unable to attend to supervise the car park. The Grand Raffle organised by Shaun Hanna, ably supported by Prue [Bray], Rachelle and Imogen [Shepherd-Dubey], again raised a record amount. A Silent Raffle run by Frank Breedlove for a Porsche VIP Day at Silverstone (obtained by Femi [Obileye]) and a Bearwood Lakes Golf Day (obtained by Karen [Vass]) added considerably to the amount we were able to donate to our main charities Guide Dogs and Dementia UK.

[Plans are well advanced for the 2016 fete so do please make a note of the date: Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> from 1pm.]

On the Planning front the main event was of course the start of the Hatch Farm development with the associated Winnersh Relief Road. I reported last year that "the developers have indicated that they expect to move ahead within the next year". There was some scepticism that this would happen after several previous statements, but we now see that the development is moving ahead rapidly with both sections of the Relief Road due for completion in early 2018. Some of us visited the site recently and were interested to see the remains of field boundaries and round houses from the Iron Age, unearthed by an extensive and ongoing archaeological excavation of the site.

The new Abbeyfield Care Home at Winnersh Farm has been completed and will be opening in the summer. The new Park & Ride Scheme by Winnersh Triangle station finally opened, the A329 cycleway was extended through Winnersh and the general route of the North Wokingham Distributor Road decided, meaning that the Winnersh allotments will have to move, though not for a few years yet.

The allotments have been more actively managed for the last few years and this has contributed to making them as well tended as we can remember. Anyone waiting to get an allotment will be pleased to know that the waiting list is now depleted and there will be opportunities for new allotment holders to start cultivation for the new growing season.

The council has been improving the energy efficiency of the Community Centre over the past few years with improved insulation and new boilers. This year the council decided to install solar panels in conjunction with a Wokingham Borough Council initiative to install more solar panels at its schools, hence providing a very cost-effective means of getting the work done. After a few teething problems, the panels have now been installed (discreetly on the Community Hall roof) and we are now generating electricity to reduce our electricity bills and in addition to sell electricity back to the national grid.

The Council has continued its support for local voluntary groups including the Citizens' Advice Bureau, the Wokingham Job Support Centre, Berkshire Vision, ARC, the Link Visiting Scheme, Home Start, Readibus and Keep Mobile.

Finally I'd like to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the Council over the past year: my grateful thanks go to:

- Geoff Harper as Chairman of R&A assisted by his Vice-Chairman David Green And also very much to Geoff for his support to me as the council's Vice-Chairman
- Clinton Taylor for leading the Planning Committee, assisted by his Vice-Chairman Shaun Hanna
- Frank Breedlove as chairman of F&GP and his Vice-Chairman Phil Ray. And to David Hunt and Jeremy Curtis for their work on emergency planning and council procedures
- Our Clerk Clive Hudson and our Finance and Administration Officer Amanda Lambourne for managing the day to day operations of the Council and making sure that things still run smoothly when problems arise
- Our Caretaker Chris Fazey and the relief caretakers for maintaining the Council's facilities and looking after their users to a high standard
- And to all Parish Councillors for their work and support throughout the year.

**John Southgate**

**Chairman, Winnersh Parish Council**

## APPENDIX 2

### **Report of Borough Councillor Prue Bray Annual Parish Meeting 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

There have been a number of planning and highways issues this year. Apart from Hatch Farm Dairies, which got planning approval in March, and progress on the Winnersh relief road, other notable applications, developments and enforcement issues which I have spent significant time on include

- 29 houses at 40 Arbor Lane – construction issues
- 6 houses next to Grovelands Park – application by the council with debate over tenure
- Enforcement appeal on unauthorised tyre centre on Reading Road
- Extension of hours and frequency of events at the cricket club in Sindlesham
- Various proposals for flats on the Reading Road and elsewhere

There have also been a number of parking issues that affect Winnersh I have been engaged with, some of which are still ongoing:

- Three different occurrences of businesses operating from residential addresses causing problems for neighbours, two of which are still ongoing
- The Winnersh Triangle park and ride – opening and already at capacity
- Removal of vehicle parked on the verge
- Increase in cost of parking at Dinton Pastures
- Proposed introduction of Sunday and overnight parking charges in council car parks, including Winnersh Triangle station – the Lib Dem group has objected to the way this has been dealt with procedurally and there is a meeting to review it next week
- On-street nuisance parking around the parish

Traffic on the Reading Road and at the Winnersh crossroads continues to be a source of irritation to everyone. Some minor improvements have been carried out this year but the fundamental problem of trying to get more traffic through the junction than it can cope with will continue to exist, and no amount of tweaking can solve that. Things may change in 2018 when the relief road is due to open.

Earlier this year we learned that Highways England intends to improve the noise barriers on the M4 through Sindlesham and Winnersh as part of their smart motorway project, and this should benefit residents.

During the year I have done a considerable amount of casework for individuals, including dealing with many housing related queries.

This year I have been a member of the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee, the Affordable Housing Working Group, the Sustainable Communities Implementation working group, the Tenant & Landlord Improvement Panel, and the Local Plan Update working group.

Prue Bray

## APPENDIX 3

### Report of WBC Cllr R Shepherd-Dubey

The Winnersh bypass was officially funded in the budget presented and approved in Feb 2015, prior to this time it had no official funding by WBC. The first part of the Relief Road through Hatch Farm Dairies is scheduled for completion this winter ( It was scheduled for the end of the year). The second part of the bypass will probably be completed sometime in 2018 but as of a few weeks ago WBC does not own the land to build it on nor do they have a final design of the road including the Reading Road interchange. But a design is expected before the end of this year.

The Winnersh portion of the Northern Distributor Road is scheduled to be completed in 2021, however there are open questions on access for Green Lane, Sadlers Lane, Sadlers Court and the residents along the Reading Road. Also at this point WBC does not have permission from Network Rail to cross the tracks nor do they have a design of the bridge required for the crossing. The WPC contract for the allotments can't be broken until 2018 and then they must give us around 15 months to relocate the allotments before commencing construction.

WBC is looking into restoring the right turn lane into Wickes , but they have no definite plans for how to achieve this.

The Environment Agency believes that the flood prevention schemes for Hatch Farm Dairies will work, but local residents are still unsure. I have worked with local residents and the Developer ( Bovis) to change and tweak some of Hatch Farm to help residents in Eden and Welby and Greenacres areas. There is still an open question if we have adequate school provision for 433 new homes in Winnersh, since Wheatfields is filling up in the existing classes.

The Marvellous festival at Dinton Pastures has applied for a 6 day license for the event, but the event was only scheduled to be a three day affair. There are still open questions about Noise for Residents on the Robin Hood Lane area of Winnersh.

Mole Road is finally being repaved in June 2016. It is proposed that it will be closed from the Roundabout to Harrow Lane, however the MD or Nirvana is negotiating with the Borough to see if only half could be done at a time but WBC would like to close the road and do it all at once.

The other half of the A329 M bridge over the Loddon is scheduled to be worked on during the school holidays this summer. Contraflow lanes will be on the Bracknell bound carriageway.

Regards  
Rachelle

## APPENDIX 4

# WINNERSH FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST

## Report to the Winnersh Annual Parish Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

Winnersh Fuel Allotment Trust (WFAT) was formally registered as a charity in 1892, although the practice of giving the proceeds of an area of land in the parish of Winnersh to the poor of the parish to buy fuel for Christmas dates back to 1814, over 200 years. The Trust currently owns just over ten acres of land at the end of Old Forest Road which it rents out to a local stud.

There are currently seven trustees and the Board meets two/three times a year mainly around Christmas time when it decides and approves beneficiaries for Christmas. At Christmas 2015 there was only one beneficiary remaining and as no more could be identified the Board of Trustees resolved to extend the remit while keeping the original aim of helping the poor of Winnersh by giving a donation to the Woodley and Wokingham Food banks, each receiving £120.

The long term vision of the Trust has always been to develop the land it owns, selling some to a developer and using the money generated to build and run social housing of which there is a scarcity in Winnersh. Planning for the development of the North Wokingham Distributor Road which will cross WFAT land continues and initial discussions have taken place with Wokingham Borough Council about them acquiring part of the Trust's land. Further discussions will take place later this year with the Trustees hoping to negotiate the land remaining as part of the next Local Plan which is just about to commence.

Thank You.

Geoffrey Harper

Chairman – Winnersh Fuel Allotment Trust