



Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
New Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham
Berkshire RG41 5DU
Phone/Fax 0118 978 0244
e-mail parish@winnersh.gov.uk
www.Winnersh.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 9 MAY 2017 IN THE JOHN GROBLER ROOM

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

IN ATTENDANCE: 8 members of the public; Mr R Stanton (WBC Deputy Mayor), Mr C Hudson (WPC Clerk), WBC Cllr P Houldsworth, Sgt T Woolford, PC A Roberts.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr C Taylor, Miss A Lambourne (WPC FAO), Clare Connell, Also from representatives of Wokingham Job Support Centre, Me2 Club, St Mary's Church, Wheatfield Primary School.

1.1 Apologies for lateness: none

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2016 were agreed and the meeting **RESOLVED** to sign them as a true record.

3 PUBLIC SESSION – PART 1:

3.1 Sgt T Woolford passed on the apologies of Inspector Donachy.

He gave an update on policing in Winnersh and the Wokingham area. He explained the 3 tier system of response with a large investigation hub and a smaller neighbourhood team of 2 specialist officers, 4 other officers, plus PCOs. He reported that the main concerns within Winnersh are cycle thefts, drug dealing and dealing with vulnerable people. Crime figures are up by 8.3%, which is partly explained by a new recording system. He reported that the Winnersh NAG has ceased operating until a new chairman can be found.

PC Andy Roberts introduced himself.

Sgt Woolford and PC Roberts gave their apologies and left the meeting.

3.2 ADDRESS BY WBC CLLR R STANTON, WBC DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr Stanton explained his role as Deputy Mayor, which had included opening three care homes recently and giving prizes to the St Martin's golf club junior section and at other local schools.

He had googled 'Winnersh' and discovered its Norman origins and the influence of the railways and the current significance of the crossroads in the local transport network.

He takes part in many municipal events, including fundraising for the Royal Berkshire Hospital, local fetes and churches.

He indicated that he hoped to progress to the role of Mayor in a week's time.

Cllr Harper indicated that it was the convention to invite the Mayor to the Winnersh fete and the Christmas Lights event, so we may be seeing more of each other over the next year.

Cllr Harper expressed his thanks to Cllr Stanton.

4 ANNUAL REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Harper gave a report as per Appendix 1.

5 REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

5.1 WBC Cllr P Bray gave a report as per Appendix 2.

5.2 WBC Cllr R Shepherd-Dubey gave a report:

Phase 1 of the Relief Road is not to become operational until Phase 2 is also complete.

There will be 'twin bridges' at the junctions of the Relief Road and NDR at the M4 road bridge. There will also be road closures for works to the M4 road bridge.

The Hatch Farm Dairies development is going ahead. WBC is monitoring flood mitigation measures on the site and at Showcase Roundabout.

5.3 WBC Cllr Houldsworth gave a report.

A change of Leader of the Council is due next week. The new leader is to be Charlotte Haitham Taylor, who has been Executive Member of Children's Services for the last 6 years.

Cllr Houldsworth spoke of the progress of the Winnersh Relief Road and the slippage of the completion date from 2018 to 2022. He too expressed concerns that Phase 1 may be opened before Phase 2 is ready.

He spoke of the Local Plan and the concerns over potential development.

More positively, he reported that many libraries, including the Winnersh Library, had been kept open. Civil Parking Enforcement is being introduced and WBC's innovative municipal housing scheme has been commended.

WBC is undergoing changes through its 21st Century programme. The website is more comprehensive and easier to use. Some senior staff have lost their posts and the CEO had recently resigned.

6 REPORT ON THE WINNERSH FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST

6.1 Mr G Harper, Chairman of WFAT, gave a report as per Appendix 3.

7 PUBLIC SESSION – PART 2:

7.1 Jim Dunne spoke on behalf of Berkshire MS Therapy Centre. He explained that the centre had grown from small beginnings at Battle Hospital and was now situated in a purpose built building near Brock Barracks, which is open to MS sufferers and other visitors.

He thanked WPC for its support.

7.2 John Andrews spoke on behalf of Readibus. He explained the transport link which enabled people to visit venues such as the MS Therapy Centre.

He indicated the level of service to Winnersh residents and thanked WPC for its support.

7.3 Angela McMullen spoke on behalf of Homestart. Homestart supports children under 5 and their families and has 60-70 volunteers within Wokingham. A family group session is held within Winnersh.

7.4 Nick Campbell-White spoke on behalf of Citizens Advice (formerly the Citizens Advice Bureau). He indicated the large numbers of people receiving help and the main topics they came for advice on. He reported on an overview analysis of the people contacting Citizens Advice.

He thanked WPC for its support.

7.5 Cathy Whittington spoke on behalf of the Guiding organisations within Winnersh. She explained the benefits of guiding and thanked the Council for its support.

7.6 Alison Griffin spoke on behalf of the Wokingham & District Veteran Tree Association. She gave a breakdown of the proportion of the species achieving veteran status, mainly oaks.

She reported on the veteran trees with Winnersh, including ancient trees on the Bearwood Recreation Ground and Watmore Lane.

The WDVTA is broadening its remit to include raising awareness and planting new trees.

She thanked WPC for its recent support.

7.7 Helen Bean spoke on behalf of Berkshire Cruse. The bereavement counselling is undertaken by 40 volunteers on a one-to-one basis.

She thanked WPC for its support.

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

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

APPENDIX 1

Winnersh Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 May 2017

I am coming to the end of my first year as Chairman of Winnersh Parish Council and would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their support and patience. It has been an interesting and sometimes challenging year. We started of the year with a full complement of fifteen councillors but due to work commitments two councillors resigned, Nick Kirby and Jeremy Curtis. I would like to thank them both for their support and contribution during their time on the council. We have permission from Wokingham Borough Council to co-opt two new councillors and an item will be appearing in the next issue of Winnersh Matters asking Winnersh residents to register their interest with the Parish Clerk. We will also be putting the vacancies on local social media to attract candidates as well as on the parish noticeboards.

The parish facilities, the Community Hall, Sindlesham Room and the Bearwood Recreation Ground have continued to be well utilised with Winnersh Rangers Football Club basing their junior teams here. The Pavilion has unfortunately not been able to be available for a great part of the year. We budgeted to replace the flat roof as it was beginning to show its age. When work started it was discovered that there was no lintel over the front windows and door so we had to have one installed, this in turn identified low grade asbestos that had to be safely removed. This was done, the lintel installed and the roof re-felted. The Pavilion is now fully open and we now have a facility that will be dry, safe and comfortable for many years to come.

The council has continued to support its annual community based events:

- The Village Summer Fete was held for the ninth year running. The weather could have been better but this did not stop a good crowd enjoying themselves and making the Fete a success. Work started on organising the fete back in January with a group of councillors and volunteers meeting to start organising the event. Our thanks to the Chairman of the Fete Working Group, John Southgate, who yet again kept the show on the road and organised all the stalls. Other specific thanks go to Jeremy Curtis for organising the car parking, not an easy task. Thanks also to Karen Vass and Trevor Hockley, who are not councillors, but played a vital part in making the day go well through their support and enthusiasm. There are many others who also deserve our thanks in making the day an enjoyable one
- The Christmas Lights Switch On in December was bigger and better due to generous sponsorship from Bovis and Prospects. This enabled additional entertainment such as the fire-eater and a bigger and I think louder firework display. Carols and festive songs were provided by the pupils of Winnersh Primary School ably lead by their teachers. The Lights Switch On was done by Councillor Bob Pitts, the Wokingham mayor. Winnersh Church Ladies served the festive hot mulled wine and mince pies
- Winnersh Parish Council again supported the annual Litter Pick held in April. Thirty volunteers walked the main streets of Winnersh picking up forty bags of rubbish. Our thanks to St Marys Church for letting us use their carpark and the ladies for providing refreshments
- The Winnersh Matters community newsletter was delivered in June 2016 to all 4000 households in Winnersh containing items we hope are of interest to our local residents.

- The current edition is now in its final draft and will be delivered at the end of May/beginning of June. My thanks to my fellow contributors, John Southgate and David Hunt and to Clinton Taylor, our editor, who makes sense of all our ramblings.

The Hatch Farm , or as its now called, Hatchmill, development is now well underway with the first residents moving in. Work is well advanced on the Southern Relief Road and work has started on the junction with Rose Kiln Lane just before the M4 motorway bridge. The northern section is forecast to be open at the same time as the North Wokingham Distributor Road in 2021.

The Council has completed other special projects as well as the work on the Pavilion. The Community Hall exterior has been painted with some rotten panels replaced. There is also a new window in the parish office which has made a tremendous difference to the working conditions of our staff.

The council continues to support local voluntary Groups including, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Wokingham Job Support Centre, Berkshire Vision, ARC, the Link Visiting Scheme , Home Start, Redibus and Keep Mobile.

Winnersh Parish Council is a team who all work hard for the benefit of the local community and I would like to thank all those who have contributed over the past year:

- My Vice Chairman, John Southgate, whose knowledge and experience has been invaluable in my first year as Chairman
- Clinton Taylor and his Vice Chairman Shaun Hanna for their work on the Planning Committee
- Phil Ray ably assisted by his Vice Chairman, David Green, on the Recreation and Amenities Committee
- Frank Breedlove as Chairman of F&GP Committee and his Vice Chairman, Jeremy Curtis
- My fellows councillors for their support and contributions
- Last but not least our hard working staff. Clive Hudson, Parish Clerk, whose advice and guidance has kept me mainly on the straight and narrow
- Amanda Lambourne, who despite being unwell, has kept our admin and finances under control
- Chris Fazey our caretaker and our relief caretaker, Cameron whose hard work and care has kept the facilities spotless and well maintained and the Recreation Ground and play area enjoyable places for children and adults alike.

Geoff Harper
Chairman, Winnersh Parish Council

APPENDIX 2

Report of Borough Councillor Prue Bray Annual Parish Meeting 9th May 2017

During the past year two main and connected issues have dominated in Winnersh – roads and development.

Work has begun on building the 433 houses at Hatch Farm Dairies and the first residents have now moved in. All your borough councillors are very concerned that the flood mitigation measures are properly constructed. We have had a very dry winter so at this point it is not possible to make any meaningful judgements on this.

Work has also begun on the Winnersh Relief Road. The junction at King Street Lane, where Phase I and Phase II of the road meet, has started and will continue into the Autumn. This work is being done by the developers. They will then move on to constructing the Lower Earley Way junction, which will take a further 8 months. After that we expect work to be carried out to widen Lower Earley Way between the new road and the Showcase roundabout. We have been assured by the council that Phase I of the road, between Lower Earley Way and King Street Lane, will not open to through traffic until at least all those works are complete and possibly for longer.

Meanwhile the council is working on its half of the road and we expect a planning application to appear later this year. The road is currently expected to be completed in 2021.

We expect the road to end in a roundabout on the Woodward Close side of the motorway bridge on Reading Road. There will also be a roundabout built on the BP petrol station side of the motorway bridge, which will form the end of the Northern Distributor Road which will run round the back of Emmbrook. It would be an understatement to say I have some concerns about both how this twin roundabout will work when built and what the disruption will be like when they are building it.

The decision to put traffic lights at the junction of Reading Road and Old Forest Road has been reversed.

During the year I have served on the Audit Committee, the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Tenant & Landlord Improvement Panel and the affordable housing working group. Most of the casework I have done has related to parking, housing and planning applications. I am pleased to be able to say that following last year's unfortunate start to the new grass-cutting contract, there have been far fewer problems with grass-cutting this year.

Finally, I would just like to mention the recent sad and untimely death of Rose Green, the community development worker for Winnersh. Rachelle and I attended a celebration of her life held in Woodley last Friday, as did Geoff. Rose did a lot for people in Winnersh over a long period of time and she will be greatly missed.

APPENDIX 3

WINNERSH FUEL ALLOTMENT TRUST

Report to the Winnersh Annual Parish Meeting of 9th May 2017

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.

The Board meets two/three times a year mainly around Christmas time when it decides and approves beneficiaries for Christmas. At the Christmas 2016 meeting no additional beneficiaries had been identified and the Board of Trustees resolved to keep the same beneficiaries as 2015, an individual and the Woodley and Wokingham Food banks, each receiving an increased £150 donation.

The Trust can have up to nine Trustees and currently it has eight. The Rev Sam Denyer has resigned to take up a new post in Wells, Somerset, and we wish him well in his new post and thank him for his support and contribution. Two new Trustees have joined the Board of Trustees recently and we welcome Samantha Lane and Peter Dennis to the Board. I am sure they will find it as rewarding as the other Trustees do.

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 we await detailed negotiations with Wokingham Borough Council about their acquisition of part of the land. The land has also been registered with Wokingham Borough Council for inclusion in the next Local Plan that will run from 2026 until 2036. A decision on whether it is to be included is expected later this year.

Thank You.

Geoffrey Harper
Chairman – Winnersh Fuel Allotment Trust