

# **WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL**

## **The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013, 7.30pm in Winkleigh Community centre**

Present: Cllrs Knight, Stutt, Turner, Hodgson, Griffiths, Gledhill, Flockhart & Watson

Apologies: Cllrs Bowers & Sansom

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Bowers the Vice-Chairman Cllr Knight took the Chair for the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

### 1.1.13 Guest Speaker : Matt Edworthy : NDNIA

Mr Edworthy addressed the Council and highlighted the new project for the Nature Improvement Areas (NIA's) a handout was given to all at the meeting. Cllrs were advised that this is a 3 year project and has been set up to not only improve the areas but to encourage active community involvement and participation in improvement, protection, education, understanding and appreciation of these special areas. Cllrs were advised that Winkleigh is on the eastern boundary of Torridge catchment area and were advised of the specific habitats and wildlife that are there and those to be encouraged. Cllrs were advised that the project has a broad partner base with Local Authorities, Government bodies, Charities, Educational institutions and private companies all on board. Mr Edworthy said his organisation was working with landowners to address some specific issues and were actively working towards engaging the community to get involved explaining the various ways that this could be done. Cllrs expressed interest in the project and asked a number of questions following which it was agreed that the PC need to fully consider how they could become involved and what type of project would be most appropriate for Winkleigh.

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

2.1.13 Declaration of Interest in matters to follow: No declarations were made.

### Public Period

Mr Roland Smith addressed the Parish Council and raised objections to planning application 1/1123/2012/FUL for a wind turbine at Densham Farm, Ashreigney.

### 3.1.13 Reports

Cllrs had each been issued with a copy of the Police report and PPG report – copies were available for the public.

Cllr Hodgson reported on the Christmas lights in the square erected by volunteers under the guidelines of the Parish Council. Cllrs were advised that the lights had gone up, stayed in place over the Christmas period and then been taken down again and stored securely without incident. Cllr Knight expressed her gratitude to the volunteers and it was agreed that a note of thanks would be displayed in the notice board.

Cllr Stutt advised that a small working group were in negotiations with DCC with regard to trying to acquire the old pre-school site for community benefit in the village. Cllrs were advised that this was at a very early stage but that there were encouraging signs as DCC have agreed to take the land off the market while discussions are underway.

#### 4.1.13 District Cllr Reports

Dist Cllr Lausen was not in attendance therefore there was no discussion

#### 5.1.13 PLANNING

##### A) Returned from TDC

a) 1/0766/2012/FUL: Conversion of redundant agricultural buildings to two units of holiday accommodation, Heckapen Farm, Chulmleigh, Winkleigh : **GRANTED**

##### B) New Applications

a) 1/1036/2012/FUL: Two storey side extension, 29 Elms Meadow, Winkleigh EX19 8JU : It was proposed that this application be refused on the grounds that the extension is overbearing and out of scale in relation to neighbouring properties : voting 6 for, 0 against, 1 abstention ( Cllr Stutt): **MOTION CARRIED: REFUSED**

b) 1/1022/2012/FUL: Agricultural storage building, Great Punchardon Farm, Winkleigh : Application already refused by TDC

c) 1/1021/2012/FUL: Agricultural storage building, Great Punchardon Farm, Winkleigh : Application already refused by TDC.

Cllr Hodgson stated for the record that he was aware prior to the meeting that the applications b & c had been refused by TDC and that therefore the PC would not be discussing them and therefore he had not declared an interest although should the PC wish to discuss the applications he would make his declaration and leave. Cllrs agreed that there was no need to discuss the applications as TDC have already refused. Cllrs raised a number of inconsistencies/issues with online applications, where documents had not been uploaded or were missing. It was hoped DL may be able to clarify TDC's position.

d) 1/1044/2012/FUL: Sheeting in of existing canopy area, Bedwells removals & Storage, Winkleigh Airfield: It was proposed that this application be approved : A.I.F: **MOTION CARRIED: APPROVED**

e) 1/1123/2012/FUL: Erection of a 50kW wind turbine, measuring 25m to hub & 35m to tip with ancillary equipment, Densham Farm, Ashreigney : A lengthy discussion was held on the various issues in connection with this application. Cllr Watson stated that it was very important that the PC take a balanced approach to applications of this type and to think strategically rather than a blanket refusal of any application for Wind turbines. Cllrs discussed turbine size, noise, visual impact, carbon footprint , green energy and proximity to neighbouring properties. Following discussions It was proposed that the application be refused on the grounds that the development would have a significant detrimental visual impact on the residents of Winkleigh : voting 4 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions ( Cllrs Stutt, Flockhart & Turner): **MOTION CARRIED: REFUSED**

f) 1/0006/2012/FUL: Loft conversion & internal alterations, side extension & workshop, demolition of existing garage, Braeside, Winkleigh : Cllrs were advised that due to staff shortages this application had not been validated yet and that therefore there were no documents and no application for consideration.

#### 6.1.13. FINANCE

##### a) **Receipts & payments**

The following was received:

W.D.Carne ( Purchase of ashes plot & interment (non-parishioner) £ 150.00 100313

It was resolved to authorise the payment of the following:

Winkleigh Village Hall ( Hire)	£ 28.00	001502
SLCC ( Annual Subs)	£ 100.00	001503
Torrige District Council ( ¼ road sweep)	£ 690.98	001504
AMB Electrical Service ( parts for electricity box in square Xmas lights)	£ 187.78	001505
EDF Electricity ( Electric for Xmas Lights)	£ 160.99	001506
Mr K Burgoine ( compensation)	£ 15.00	001507
Mrs N Bullen ( Clerks Salary + expenses Jan 2013)	£ 587.13	001508

#### **b) Precept**

Cllrs signed the dispensation letter to allow full discussion on the Precept without compromising the new Code of Conduct.

Cllr Stutt addressed the Council on behalf of the Finance Group and explained the draft budget prepared for consideration. Cllrs discussed at length with a lot of discussion regarding the bungalow repairs and rent. Cllr Turner stated that the draft budget did not allocate enough finances to the required repairs on the bungalow , Cllr Gledhill responded that the finance group had identified that this may be the case and that they had anticipated pulling additional finance from the PC's reserves which were currently running at a level that would allow this to happen. Cllr Turner noted that the Finance Group had also anticipated a higher rental income that would currently be the case. Cllrs again discussed and it was agreed that further consideration of an increase in rent would be appropriate but needed to be discussed fully as a Council at a later date. Cllr Hodgson queried the recent communication from the Clerk issued by TDC regarding Localised Council Tax Support. The Clerk responded that TDC have allocated £1006 to Winkleigh under the CTS scheme to offset the impact to Council Tax payers following the changes to Council Tax Benefit. Following discussions [It was proposed that the Parish Council make a precept request of £14577 with the expectation that up to £4,000 may be required from reserves in order to address repairs subject to Council approval: A.i.F: MOTION CARRIED.](#) The Clerk was instructed to make the precept request to TDC as per their requirements in the communication regarding CTS. [It was resolved that the PC's annual subscription to the DALC would be authorised for payment direct from the first instalment of the precept.](#)

#### **7.1.13. Current business matters**

##### a) Discussions on Clerks Reports

Cllr Knight signed the entry into the Register of Burial for the interment of Ashes of the late Mrs J Abbott.

Cllr Flockhart queried that availability of the Parish Emergency Plan – Cllrs discussed and agreed that this should be raised on the next agenda.

Cllr Turner queried the position with the request for Timberwise to check the dry-air system at the bungalow – The Clerk advised that she is still investigating this.

##### b) Grant awardees 2012/13

Cllrs had all viewed the response from Winkleigh Warriors netball team in respect of their grant award of £100 and their subsequent statement that the funds had been spent on training sessions. Cllrs were advised that the only awardee response outstanding is that of Winkleigh Fair ( £300). Cllr Knight advised she would contact the Chairman of the now disbanded committee.

##### c) TAP Fund

Cllr Knight addressed the Council and gave an update on her investigations into partnership with other Parish Council's to access the TAP fund in connection with Okehampton District Community Transport Group ( ODCTG). Cllrs were advised that Sampford Courtney wished to partner Winkleigh as do North Tawton although North Tawton do not intend to use all their allocation in this way as they are partnered with another council for a different project. [It was proposed that with confirmation of Sandford Courney's allocation of £750 and confirmation of North Tawton's allocation Winkleigh Parish Council make an application to utilise all of Winkleigh's allocation to be paid via the PC to ODCTG: AIF: MOTION CARRIED.](#)

##### d) Update on New Community-Led Plan

Cllr Flockhart gave an update on the progress with the production of a New Parish Plan for Winkleigh. Cllrs were advised that the next meeting will be held next week.

### **8.1.13. NEW BUSINESS**

#### a) Cemetery Grounds

To discuss communication from a parishioner regarding the request to level a plot at the cemetery  
It was agreed that due to the nature and sensitivity of this matter the item would be discussed under Part II later in the meeting.

### **PUBLIC PERIOD II**

#### **9.1.13. Late Items at the Chairman's discretion**

Cllr Turner thanked the PC on behalf of the Village Hall for their support in writing to the Police and requesting additional cover in the village for the Young Farmer's Disco.

#### 10.1.13 .LETTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

There were a number of magazines, flyers and leaflets for Cllrs to peruse.

#### Part II

Members of the public left the meeting as the PC went into Part II to discuss communication from a parishioner in connection with levelling of plots.

Cllrs discussed the letter and the implications of any action to be taken. Following discussions [It was proposed that the Clerk write to the parishioner concerned advising that at in light of the care given to the plot in question at this point no action would be taken but that the Council reserves the right to review this situation in the future: A.i.F: MOTION CARRIED.](#)

There being no further matters to discuss the meeting was declared closed at 10.18pm