



WINTERTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Cllr. Mark Bobby, Vice-Chairman: *vacant*

Clerk to the Council: *Vacant*

Proper Officer: Cllr. Marina Carr. Responsible Finance officer Cllr. Dawn Clegg

Minutes of the Winterton-on-Sea Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 at 6pm at the Village Hall

Councillors Present: Cllrs., Mark Bobby, Marina Carr, Dawn Clegg, Nigel Coe, Richard Henwood,
Liam McMahon, Emma Punchard and John Smithson.

Public Present: 37 members of the public

Cllr. M. Bobby, Chair of the Parish Council (2022-23) welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked all for attending. He was pleased to see the turnout of village groups and hoped that all would be prepared to share their groups' year with the meeting.

1. Attendance and Apologies for absence.

1.1. Representatives from Norfolk police, Winterton-on-Sea Primary School,

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 3 May 2022.

2.1. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were declared correct. Proposed by Cllr. N. Coe and seconded by Cllr. M. Carr the meeting approved those minutes.

3. Introduction to the New Parish Council.

Elections for Borough and Parish Councillors were held on May 4th 2023. As there were 8 (out of 9) nominations for parish councillors, no voting was held and those nominated were elected unopposed. James Bensly and Noel Galer were elected to the Borough Council but neither were able to attend the meeting of this parish this evening.

Cllr. M. Bobby began by thanking all past Councillors for their commitment last year and was grateful to all continuing this commitment after being elected. He introduced the members of the council, explaining that Marie Hartley and Norman Parcell, members of the previous parish council, had decided not to put themselves forward for nomination. He thanked them for their hard work and was appreciative of their time and support. Marie had been a parish councillor for many years and Cllr Bobby told the meeting he was grateful for her dedication and the council would miss her experience and expertise.

Apart from returning councillors, Cllr. Smithson has rejoined the parish council and the newest councillor was Cllr. Richard Henwood who has now lived in the village for over a year. He told the meeting that he was previously a parish councillor in Leicestershire.

There was a vacancy on the parish council Cllr. Bobby told the meeting and asked anyone interested in becoming a councillor to contact any councillor.

Cllr. Bobby explained that the parish council was currently operating without a clerk: the previous clerk, who lived a long way from Winterton, had resigned at the end of March and the parish council had agreed that they would take a little time to reflect, review and consider options before recruiting another clerk, hopefully one who lived within the area and would understand its delights and challenges. During this time, Cllr. Carr would assume responsibilities of the Proper Officer and Cllr. Clegg would be the interim Responsible Financial Officer, and both would prepare the year-end audit return. Cllr. Bobby thanked both for the opportunity this would provide the council to reorganise and especially Cllr. Clegg taking over in 'audit season'. The council will advertise for a new clerk and are looking for a person who will work and grow with the council and support and care for the village and residents.

4. Village reports.

4.1. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

Looking back at the Council's year there were highs and lows with all the usual work being carried out, often unnoticed. The highlights included:

The Platinum Jubilee Weekend with the Beacon Lighting on the Beach and the Tea Party on the Village Green, where family and friends assembled enjoying the fun while celebrating the Queen's Jubilee and the D-Day 78th Anniversary. There were pods, picnics, songs and music, entertainment and raffles. Special thanks to all involved in making this happen. It was a military exercise under the command of Terry Byrne whom we thank with a special mention to Marina Carr, Dawn Clegg and John Smithson and all who made it a special village time. The Coronation of King Charles III was another celebration and opportunity for all to join and celebrate this historic event together.

Other items achieved by the parish council during the year, include:

- Installing the Village Hall footpath with mobility access to the Village Hall Green;
- Jubilee Tree Planting and the Wildflower Project;
- Introducing the Village Hall online Booking System
- The Environmental group was established;
- The continued efforts with traffic management in the village, including the proposal to add additional yellow lines to the pinch points in the village.
- The flow of Planning applications continues, which have been dealt with through the year and on the whole have been supported including the new access to the beach car park. We continue to monitor with a watchful eye, causes of concern and the ongoing building works.
- Winterton In-Bloomers celebrating a Gold award.
- The new Seal View Café in the Beach carpark, we wish the proprietor well.

On the other side:

- We have seen occurrences of anti-social behaviour which were reported to the police.
- The Coast Watch tower and manpower being removed.
- The Second Saturday Surgeries were stopped by the Parish Council due to lack of take up from the village.
- The tragic events in July on the beach reminding us of all the dangers of offshore conditions, the winds, tides and current which we experience on our beautiful beach. The work to ensure signage to highlight the dangers is ongoing.
- The passing of Queen Elizabeth II
- The terrible news that Peter Robins had passed away suddenly. This was a shock to us all, Peter was a champion of the village, and promoted everything that is good about it. With Tina, he produced our wonderful newsletter. Peter was one of a kind – irreplaceable.

Moving forward, the council will look to be more strategic in our approach when considering improvements within the village, targeting specific projects. It is aware of the demographic in the village and key to their objectives is improving the open spaces to meet all requirements, taking into consideration many things including wellbeing. It will continue working with Natural England and environment agencies for protections and adaptations for our Dunes and Beach.

The parish council appreciates all the support from the village: all are volunteers on the council and any further voluntary assistance would be very much appreciated, working together to keep Winterton-on-Sea the beautiful village of which we are all proud.

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4.2. Parish Council Financial Accounts for 2022-23

(Unaudited accounts at the time of presentation)

<u>Annual return 2022-23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Balances b/fwd	£75,668	£70,323	
<u>Receipts</u>			
Annual Precept	£34,105	£37,517	£3,412
Total other receipts	£18,510	£18,843	£333
	£52,615	£56,360	£3,745
<u>Payments</u>			
Staff costs	£28,053	£25,375	-£2,678
All other payments	£29,907	£29,282	-£625
	£57,960	£54,657	-£3,303
Balances carried fwd	£70,323	£72,026	£1,703

Bank reconciliation

<u>Balance b/fwd 1st April 2022</u>	£70,322.66
Total income	£56,359.73
Total expenditure	£54,656.75
Closing balance at 31st March 2023	£72,025.64

<u>Bank Balances</u>	<u>31st March 2023</u>
Unity current	£27,023.97
Unity Savings	£51,106.55
Total	£78,130.52
** uncleared payments	-£6,104.88
	£72,025.64

After much discussion the Parish Council decided on a deficit budget for both 2022/23 & 2023/24. This was not an easy decision due to the rising costs the Parish Council are facing, especially with energy costs, but they were fully aware residents would be struggling with household costs, food, energy etc.

The result of this decision means the reserves may need to be used this coming year, though tougher 'reins' have been put in place to manage the Parish Council budget. We will continue to look for any village improvements, albeit these may have to be scaled back versions.

Cllr. D. Clegg (Interim RFO)

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4.3. Reports from the Village: the meeting heard about activities for the past year from:

Rachel Tooke told the meeting of the great year that the TS Fearless 901 Troop Marine Cadets had enjoyed. One of the troop was appointed Great Yarmouth Mayor's cadet, which involved many ceremonial events and another 'graduated' to take up a place at Harrogate Army training college. Their year began with the Falklands Memorial parade and the troop was actively involved with the Strumpshaw Steam Rally. There was a Sailing course for cadets, a wonderful opportunity, and a great deal of field training in the summer months, including camouflage and concealment and team communications, marksmanship training, harbour drills and a great deal of section work. A camping weekend at Armourfest, held at the Norfolk Tank Museum. The Trafalgar Night Mess Dinner raised over £1200 and was a great success followed by Exercise Sabre Strike held over a weekend on Winterton Dunes, co-ordinated with Winterton's L/Col (Rtd.) Terry Byrne and the ARP Military Vehicles and a hostile guerilla enemy force! The troop received a funding boost from money raised for charities by the outgoing great Yarmouth mayor and undertook a 30mile 'yomp' in April along the Norfolk coast to raise further funds. They participated in the Coronation event in Great Yarmouth, the last ceremonial duty for their mayor's cadet, and cadets' powerboat training has just begun.

Pam Hallesy, a Community Volunteer Officer for the RSPB with special responsibility for nesting beach birds. She explained that she was getting to know people and the area and was setting up 'operations' for the Little Terns who nest on Winterton beach every year. These are the smallest and rarest seabird on UK shores and Winterton is one of the most successful breeding sites where the birds return every year. The beach area is cordoned off and dog walkers are asked to keep their dogs on leads or avoid the area altogether. Last year's breeding season was the most successful at Winterton with 577 chicks fledged from 311 nests and Pam reported that the Little Terns have started to arrive and build nests already and there are Ringed Plovers this year too. There are 4 beach wardens this year, including at night, to protect the birds from predation and disturbance.

John Pendergast took over as Chair of the Winterton-on-Sea Cricket Club the previous year and hoped to work closely with the parish council. They are sited on the edge of the village and sometimes feel they are inconvenient. Amateur cricket has seen a reduction in numbers John reported, but they still have 2 adult sides and a very successful junior team.

They would like to play a larger role in village life. Cllr. Bobby wondered if there was a misconception about the playing field being solely for cricket which may cause resentment and Cllr. Henwood suggested to widespread agreement that the playing field should be used more often for events. The parish council will work with the Cricket Club in refurbishing the changing rooms and to best utilise the recreational space for all residents. He wished the Cricket Club all success for the season.

Dicky Fenton is the new chair of the Winterton-on-Sea Bowls Club and in an amusing speech tried to persuade more in the meeting to try bowls. The Club has a beautiful green which volunteers maintain, and its 32 members are very welcoming. As for the Cricket Club, the Bowls Club feels it is on the outskirts on the village and is trying to grow by holding Open Days every Saturday afternoon where newbies can have a game for £4: all equipment is available. They are open April – September and there is a league. Cllr. Henwood said that greater use of social media was the way to attract new people and publicise events and he offered to help with that.

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Geoff Roper of the Winterton-on-Sea Film Club told the meeting that attendance at the Club on the last Saturday of the month had not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The Club enjoys high quality technology in showing films – not reel-to-reel projection of old – and efforts are made to procure recent releases that residents would enjoy, occasionally interspersed with old favourites. For £5 which included tea/coffee and good conversation, residents could be assured of a good evening out.

Clare Thompson for Winterton In-Bloom told the meeting that they had recently been painting 'everything' for the Coronation celebrations, and that a great deal of their work over the past year had been driven by events: Jubilee, passing of the Queen and now the coronation. She drew the meeting's attention to the fact that Great Yarmouth In-Bloom had closed due to cuts in funding and this was the end of an era. Winterton In-Bloom would continue but without the timetable of competition with neighbouring villages – she felt this could be a good thing, as planting could be more suited to the environment than to gaining awards. She welcomed the new footpath outside the village hall which In-Bloom had successfully pressed for, explaining that a wildflower hedge has been planted to meet it to continue the protection. They had made significant efforts the past year to improve the car park at the playing field with planting, some of which had been stolen and some vandalised. Winterton In-Bloom felt it was just too difficult to maintain that area although it could and should be made attractive as the gateway to the village. Rachel Tooke of 901 Troop Marine Cadets suggested that the troop could maintain and sponsor that corner if all were in agreement.

Caroline Fernandez from Winterton-on-Sea Litter Picking group explained that they had set up in 2017 and grown with some help from the parish council. They met on the second Saturday of every month at the end of Beach Road (outside the car park) which ranged from well-attended to only 3 litter-pickers. Dog fouling on the dunes was an increasing issue but Caroline explained that signs really don't work, it was necessary to change peoples' attitudes. Increased bins at the car park and outside the public toilets had helped a little but many people simply couldn't be bothered to walk the extra distance to safely dispose of their litter. At some times of year, broken glass was a problem for all.

Rebecca Durant (now of the environment group) spearheaded a small project to create 3 wildflower areas in the village. Two were doing extremely well, one had suffered a little with confusion from the Great Yarmouth maintenance team spraying weedkiller! She reminded the meeting that wildflower areas by definition looked a little sparse in winter periods and could take 2-3 years to mature and she thanked all in the village for their support.

5. Parish Resolutions.

5.1. No resolutions were presented for the meeting.

6. Engagement session with the parish and general Parish Comments.

In discussions arising the following issues were raised and discussed:

- Greater use of the playing field for village events and other sports, including acquiring more equipment to encourage such; inconsiderate dog owners who used the playing field caused problems both by children being scared and dogs' fouling.

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- It was reported that professional dog-walkers have started using the playing field and the dunes, allowing dogs off leads. On the dunes, being a declared SSSI, no dog should be off the lead but residents were as likely to allow their dogs off lead as visitors.
- The 'coming-together' of the village with the lighting of the Beacons and the tea party on the village green over the 4 days of the Jubilee period was welcomed by all with requests for future events. Using the playing field to hold events and fairs was strongly suggested. Cllr. Bobby reminded the meeting that organising events could be undertaken by residents and residents' groups as well as the parish council.
- Success of the parking cones to deter parking on junctions and at village pinch points was agreed but recognised as a temporary solution and the parish council was urged to complete the yellow lines application as soon as possible.
- A date for the upcoming garage sale was suggested but residents felt it was best suited to the August bank holiday weekend. Cllr. Smithson is organising the event.
- Erosion of the dunes remained a topic for conversation, having lost the end of Beach Road in a storm in early December 2022. Cllr. Punchard reported that Coastal Protection East (a partnership of East Suffolk, Great Yarmouth Borough and North Norfolk District councils) did not appear to be very proactive at the current time despite having promised funds to Winterton-on-Sea to examine the threats, timeframes and possible adaptations. Clearing the debris on the beach was a problem which was explained arose through the difficulty of getting trucks onto the beach during the very wet weather and the erosion issues at Hemsby as there was no vehicle access to Winterton beach.
- Safety signs at the beach were discussed with best locations for siting such.

Meeting closed at 20:00 so that the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting could commence.

Hard copies of 'How to report It' – on the Parish Council website – were provided to those requiring it.