



WINTERTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

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

Clerk to the Council: Jolene Towne

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

Minutes of the Winterton-on-Sea Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2024 at 6 pm 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: 12 members of the public

Cllr. M. Bobby, Chair of the Parish Council (2023-24) welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked all for attending.

1. Attendance and Apologies for absence.

1.1. Representatives Winterton In Bloom

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2023.

2.1. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were declared correct.

3. Reports Received

3.1 Parish Council Chairman's Report

Chair Cllr. M. Bobby started his report by thanking the Parish Councillors for their continued support.

There are currently 8 Councillors and one vacancy which has had some interest tonight. No Vice Chairperson at present.

Over the last year, the PC agreed to work without a Clerk or RFO. This enabled the PC to understand the roles of the Clerk and RFO and what the village needed from this role.

Continued to thank Cllr. M. Carr for covering the role of the Clerk and Cllr. D. Clegg for taking the role of the RFO during this time. This was truly appreciated.

Chair, Cllr. M. Bobby took this opportunity to introduce the new Clerk, Jolene Towne who has been doing a fantastic job and who we look forward to working with in the future.

Last year the PC have tried to move forward in the following areas:

Traffic Management:

This is an ongoing project with the PC attempting to manage the parking situation in the village. Overall there does seem to be some improvement.

The permanent yellow line solution is currently in the Consultation Phase and we thank Cllr. J. Bensly for his support with this.

Village Hall:

A new noticeboard has been erected outside of the Village Hall along with the new flagpole. The Village Hall has also been freshly painted inside.

The PC is currently focusing on improving the VH toilets with quotes being obtained. There have also been increased bookings at the VH.

Recreation Ground:

The PC has continued its efforts to increase activities at the Recreation Ground with new equipment having been installed and a new Walking Football Group formed which is going well. We continue to work with other local sporting groups.

Changing Rooms:

There is a strategy in place to maintain and repair the Changing Rooms for the long term. The current tender is in place to attain quotes for the repair of the roof. There is a

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potential sponsorship that is being investigated also which Cllr. J. Smithson has been working hard with.

The cricket club has also conveyed that they will work on the exterior of the changing rooms once the roof has been fixed, of which we thank them for.

Duffles Pond and Allotments:

The PC would like to thank Duffles Pond for all their hard work in making the area welcoming to all, old and young. Duffles Pond is not only peaceful but educational also.

Events:

The Annual Garage Sale and Christmas Fayre will take place again this year with both events bringing the village together. Thanks again to Cllr. J. Smithson for his part in arranging these events.

Grass Cutting:

Grass cutting in the village is ever challenging with logistics and weather playing a role. The PC truly does try to ensure this gets done and is grateful for the support of the “In Bloom” Group

Newsletter

The PC has reintroduced the Newsletter, which is a 2-page document that will be delivered quarterly. The newsletter is to share relevant information with all the villagers especially those who do not have access to social media. The PC would like to thank those who have donated to the Newsletter.

Planning:

The PC continues to receive the usual planning applications however there has been an increase in tree maintenance applications. These are dealt with sympathetically on a case-by-case basis.

Monitoring Development:

Winterton – Long Beach footpath. The PC maintains a neutral perspective on the current Public Inquiry.

Projects – Strategy – Targets:

The PC continues to work with the Environmental Agency and Natural England. More input has been forthcoming from Coastal Partnerships and we, as your Parish Council, have not forgotten the priorities, for example, the Beach Toilets.

As a village, we all have a common goal of maintaining our beautiful village.

Chair, Cllr. M. Bobby asked if there were any questions.

Sean Offord asked whether the PC was receiving the applications regarding trees in the village. It was conveyed that the GYBC had experienced some staffing issues however the PC does now appear to be receiving the applications.

Thanked everyone for listening and opened the floor to the Groups in attendance.

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3.2 Parish Council Financial Report

Winterton-on-sea Parish Council 2023-24 Year-End Accounts (**Unaudited**)

ANNUAL RETURN (Unaudited 23/24)	2022/23	2023/24	Variances
Balance b/f	£70,323	£72,026	
<u>Receipts</u>			
Annual Precept	£37,517	£37,000	-£517
Other Receipts	£18,843	£24,289	£5,446
	£56,360	£61,289	
<u>Payments</u>			
Staff Costs	£25,375	£8,184	-£17,191
Other Payments	£29,282	£40,321	£11,040
	£54,657	£48,505	
<u>Balances c/f</u>	£72,026	£84,809	

Bank Reconciliation

<u>Balance b/f 1st April 2023</u>	£72,025.64
Total Income	£61,288.77
Total Expenditure	£48,505.61
Closing Balance at 31 st March 2024	£84,808.80

<u>Bank Balances</u>	<u>31/03/2024</u>
Unity Current	£1,902.66
Unity Savings	£82,906.14
<u>Total</u>	£84,808.80

The past two years have seen the Parish Council work with 'deficit' budgets which has meant some tough decisions on spending. With two Councillors doing the work (unpaid) of the Clerk from April 23 to Nov 23, this made a saving on predicted budget staffing costs. With Gt. Yarmouth Borough Council withdrawing Concurrent Functions Grants for Parks & Open spaces for 2024-25 this has meant a loss of £3720 used to help with village grass-cutting costs. This plus a rise in utilities, wages, maintenance etc left the Council with no choice but to increase the 2024-25 precept & increase the amount held in General reserves for emergency operating costs.

Some Reserves have been used to purchase a second SAM (speed awareness) sign & also football goalposts & a line marker for the Recreation Ground which we hope will promote more use of the area. Reserves will continue to be used over the coming months for much-needed repairs & improvements to the changing rooms & to the Village Hall.

Traffic management is still a priority & the Parish Council has increased this Reserve in readiness for the 'green light' for the yellow line proposal to be agreed.

Cllr. D. Clegg (Interim RFO).

No questions from members of the public present

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3.3 **Reports from the Village:** the meeting heard about activities for the past year from:

Environmental Group

Sean Offord gave his report as below:

“Things we have been doing:

1. For two years we have held an annual day of voluntary work in the South Dunes, attempting to control the invasive Russian Vine on the bank which destroys the habitat diversity, working with lots of members of the village community, and in the second year with the Norfolk Conservation Corps. Last year, various acts of habitat destruction on the valley bankside (including the unauthorised felling of several mature, well-established trees) somewhat dimmed our enthusiasm, but we intend to return to the work in the autumn of this year.
2. We have established good relationships with a number of agencies working in the village, the National Nature Reserve and the SSSI, including the RSPB, the NWT, and Natural England. A subgroup from the Environment Group is currently collaborating with all three on the 2024 Winterton Bioblitz to be held in June.
3. We have established relationships with the managers and owners of the Burnley Hall estate and now conduct regular bird surveys and monitoring visits across the estate, as well as hold meetings with the estate farming manager to discuss environmental practices such as hedge cutting.
4. We have offered to the Parish Council our views on several planning applications and applications for tree work and look forward to continuing to do so.
5. We have undertaken wildflower planting/pollinator feeding initiatives on a number of pieces of land across the village.
6. We have undertaken tree planting in various places around the village - unfortunately, as is frequently the case these have not always been successful due to aftercare issues, but we have learned from our mistakes.
7. We are currently exploring other environmental and climate issues such as ways the village and its various constituencies might be able to reduce their carbon footprint and exploring a dark-skies initiative.
8. This year we also decided to focus on a popular project to involve the community as broadly as we could and have developed our Hedgehog Project (hedgehogs being very popular, and also quite severely in decline, particularly in rural areas and in the east). This project is progressing well - our first visiting speaker event at the Village Hall proved to be extremely popular with over 50 attendees, the vast majority being village residents. Other audience members included several Parish Councillors from Hickling, who were very keen to take the Hedgehog initiative back to their PC. This month we will be rolling out hedgehog footprint tunnels and in July Maynard and John will be building hedgehog hibernation houses for distribution and deployment in various locations around the village. We have another speaker scheduled for June.

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We believe it's a really good idea to have a village Environment Group, particularly in relation to the Environment Act 2021 and the subsequent guidance that Parish Councils have a duty to preserve, restore and enhance local biodiversity, and should develop policies and strategies to do so. There is perhaps a discussion to be had about the precise nature of the relationship between the Environment Group and the Parish Council, but we look forward to working together."

Sean was thanked by Cllr. M. Bobby. Conveyed that the Parish Council believed there is a good relationship between them and the Environmental Group and is looking forward to continuing to work with them. The Parish Council care about the work the Environmental Group does and thank them for their work around the village. No questions raised from the members of the public present.

NORFOLK POLICE

PC Gary May conveyed that there were no current issues requiring Police Involvement in the village and that the Foot Patrols were still in place as and when able. The Monthly Pop-Ups continue to take place and are advertised locally and on social media.

Advised quarterly SNAP meetings take place which are open to the public and are an opportunity for residents to share information and can vote to prioritise which subjects/issues could be investigated first. These are a great source of information and an opportunity to meet the Beat Manager.

PC Gary May spoke about the Reintroduction of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. There are levels of membership available and/or you can sign up as an individual without commitment. It should be noted that being part of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme can lower your home insurance.

You can find out if there is a local watch group in your area or start a new scheme by following this link - <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>

A question was posed regarding the nature of reports that could be made by the residents – for example, reporting children kicking a ball where they should not. PC Gary May advised that there will be guidelines as to reportable issues and where to report them.

No further questions were asked.

PC Gary May was thanked for his support and hard work.

WINTERTON ON SEA CHURCH

Sandra Laws conveyed that Reverend Deborah Watson joined them in April 2024 and as well as WoS, also covers Martham, Repps, Horsey, and Somerton.

Sandra stated that the **Parochial Church Council** (P.C.C.) continues to offer weekly services on Sunday at 9 am, a Parish Mass is held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, and alternate Sunday morning prayers are led by one of their Authorised Worship Assistants where all are welcome. The P.C.C. also holds other services throughout the year, for example, a pet service, Harvest Service, All Souls Service, Remembrance, and Childrens' Crib Service.

The fundraising for the replacement of the Church Roof is ongoing with a fantastic amount being raised. The target is currently set at £40,000. Fundraising activities held

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during 2023 included the sale of pancakes at the start of Lent, the sale of flowers for Mothering Sunday, a Coronation Party for King Charles III, a Summer Concert, opening the Church Tower, and Jumble / craft sales to name a few.

There were no weddings or baptisms in 2023, however, approximately 5 funerals, a memorial and 2 internments did take place.

Thanks were given to all the current volunteers and the church wardens who work so hard to keep the Church, clean, tidy, and welcoming.

Reverend Deborah Watson was welcomed by all present and we all look forward to working with the Church.

“D”-DAY 80 EVENT

Terry Byrne was invited to share, and he initially spoke about the forthcoming D-Day 80 Event with his speech below:

“From our original engagement, as a village, in the “D” Day project last year and following on from the success of our Coronation event, things have moved on a pace. With only days to go, there are now signs of progress. I am so lucky to have the support of our Jeep owners who add so much to our events, and we have already been busy with attendance at the Desert Rays memorial event in Thetford Forest and Dereham Day. With the support of this Parish Council, our school, the church, Jan at the car park, and our village Newsletter team we are in a good place for a great day to mark this very special occasion.

The banners are up, and everyone should know what is going on, so all we need now is good weather and the support of our people to make it a very special day. “

LIFEBOAT RESTORATION GROUP

Terry Byrne shared the following Report:

“Our Lifeboat Project

Our lifeboat project started when the Edward Birkbeck, The WOS No1 Lifeboat from communication with the Harbour Master there we recovered the lifeboat to Winterton in 2011 and the Lifeboat Restoration Group was formed.

Our first home was the then disused seal sanctuary behind the village sports field where work started to strip back a sailing yacht to the original rowing boat.

Then temporary accommodation in a garden on Collis Lane followed by a new location at Hales House on Somerton Road where we constructed a large Marine Shelter (a big tent) and continued restoration work. Following eviction from this site a couple of years ago the lifeboat now lives in a private garden (my relative) in Scratby.

During all this time it was always our intention to create a permanent home for our boat in a village heritage centre. Two lengthy and costly planning applications have failed because of the special status of our dunes and despite many efforts to mitigate objections with the positive effect such a project would have for our village, it all fell on deaf ears. I am now involved in very positive discussions with the owner of Burnley all with a plan for a way forward to provide a permanent home for the Edward Birkbeck. I will give it my best shot as the project is important and if you know me, I will not be beaten. I will keep you informed of progress and may need lots of help in the future so stand by to be hijacked”

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Much interest was shown by the residents present and the Parish Council who look forward to updates when available.

WINTERTON IN BLOOM

Cllr. N. Coe read the below report from Winterton in Bloom:



The dedicated In Bloom team have had another successful year and the village gardens we love, and nurture have looked amazing.

Last year was particularly challenging at times due to the very hot weather but we didn't let it defeat us. All of the sustainable plants, grasses, and shrubs we have planted coped really well despite this.

The wildflower hedge is progressing well we have added 10 new dog Rose shrubs to help thicken it up. The birds will love the hips from the roses during the Winter months. The coronation flower bed has made such a difference to the corner outside the village hall.

From an unkempt mud patch to a colourful eye-catching array of plants. More seeds have been added to this garden so it will continue to evolve.

We have just finished installing the wooden bird baths in each of the gardens. These were made by two of our members Andrew helped by his wife Jill. The bird baths are proving to be very successful and are in constant use by both birds and insects.

Our next big thing is the pet memory tree and copper leaves will be on sale in the next few weeks. More details will be available around that time.

I would like to finish by thanking all of the In Bloom team for their dedication and hard work in keeping our village looking beautiful.

Thank you for the continuing support of the Parish Council it means a lot to the team. Lastly thank you to all parish councillors who work so hard to make our village such a special place to live and don't always get the recognition they deserve.

Claire Thompson Chair.

Cheryl Knight Vice Chair.



DUFFLES POND

Cllr. L. McMahon spoke on behalf of Duffles Pond. Advised how Duffles Pond were a newly formed Group which was set up in Sept / Oct 2023. The goal is to maintain and improve the Duffles Pond area. Already there has been a tremendous improvement. Duffles Pond held their first event "Easter Extravaganza" which was very well supported and an amazing total of £958 was raised.

Moving forward, Duffles Pond intends to erect new bird feeders, new bird boxes and install a wildlife camera to help enhance the security and wildlife experience in the area. There are also plans to set up one or two community days so more people can enjoy the area.

Cllr. M. Bobby shared his appreciation of the Duffles Pond Group and all that has been achieved so far. It was conveyed that there had been instances of anti-social behaviour and vandalism at Duffles Pond which have since been reported to the Police.

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WINTERTON ON SEA BOWLS CLUB

Riky Fenton shared the following report:

Council meeting.

Good evening, I am Riky Fenton the chairman of Winterton's bowls club. I am sure I met most of you at last years meeting, First of all I would like to invite any of you to visit our club either to try your hand at bowls or just to see the improvements around the club in the close season.

At last years meeting I told you that we had 32 members. At this point in time we have 42 members a good improvement on numbers. We had our open day on Saturday and had 11 people turn up and 5 actually tried their hand at rolling a bowl, I feel that four will be returning at Saturdays roll up.

In the past a close team of 4-5, mostly committee members have done most of the work and maintenance in and around the club.

The social side has improved and with a newly appointed lady, Rosalind Cornish she has been encouraging raffles, breakfast mornings, sale of goods and there is a great buzz around the club house.

We now have a good core of 12-13 willing hands and so much has been done.

In the close season we have installed Astro turf to 3 and a half sides of the green surround, this entailed removing and replacing 100 feet of 6x1 timbers, lifting 100s of slabs and reseating them after the plastic Astro turf is fitted and pegging the turf down securely. It looks great.

4 sheds have had roofs refeltted and painted, two new patio areas outside the tool sheds have also been laid.

The 15 foot high conifer hedge has been cut before the birds nest and the whole club house has been repainted inside.

Things have improved so much with the extra help.

We have one team that play in league matches and last season we finished third which was good result for us, this season 3 games in, we have played, Bradwell won 7-2 Gorleston and won 9-0 and yesterday we beat Caister castles 7-2 and lay in top position in the table.

We hope to have two teams in the league for next years competitions.

My committee are hard working, Steve knight secretary, Graham Dodd treasurer, Dave Oliver green keeper who does a fantastic job at making our green not only the biggest green in Norfolk but the best looking green to play on.

Lastly I want to say that our equipment is getting old as are our members, We saw a great deal for a new lawn mower normally £6000-£8000 at a cost of £3000. This would cut Dave's time down in cutting the green if we could purchase this, as it's wider, faster, cleaner and will not keep breaking down.

A member suggested we ask our members for a voluntary donation to help purchase it. Our generous members have given us enough to get this machine at the end of this month.

Things are good with Winterton Bowls Club.

Riky Fenton.

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CINEMA CLUB

Geoff explained that before the Pandemic the Cinema Club were getting good attendance. This has dwindled since however; they continue to advertise well and show on the last Saturday of every month. The idea of starting matinees was raised to encourage more people to attend. They do need to consider the costs involved in maintaining this Club, with the requirement of film licenses etc. Geoff would welcome any ideas on how to further support this Club.

It was agreed to add an advert in the quarterly newsletter moving forward.

LITTER PICKING GROUP

Annette Dale spoke on behalf of the Litter Picking Group and conveyed how they were a group of volunteers who meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 10am by the Winterton on Sea Car park entrance. The group do fantastic work which is appreciated by all. Anyone is welcome to join.

4. Parish Resolutions.

- 4.1. No resolutions were presented for the meeting.

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

In discussions arising the following issues were raised and discussed:

- It was raised that the care home in Winterton on Sea was closing and the Parish Council was asked whether they were aware. The Parish Council advised that they had no knowledge and conveyed sadness as they were the only care home in Winterton on Sea.
- Potholes in the Recreation Ground were raised and noted to be reported by the Parish Council. Residents were also advised to report using the "Love Clean Streets" App which is a useful tool.

6. General Parish Matters.

- 6.1. Cllr. N. Coe thanked everyone in attendance and conveyed concern about the diminishing numbers of people attending the PC meetings. Stressed the importance of interaction and we encouraged and welcomed people to join us.

Meeting closed at 20:00

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