



WINTERTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Tel: 07918 978921. Email: clerk@wintertononsea-pc.gov.uk

Chairman: Mark Bobby, Vice-Chairman: Liam McMahon

Clerk to the Council: *Jolene Towne*

Responsible Financial Officer: Jolene Towne

DRAFT Minutes of the Winterton-on-Sea Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 14th May 2025 at 6 pm at the Village Hall

Councillors Present: Cllrs. Mark Bobby, Mark Shepperd, Dawn Clegg, Nigel Coe, Richard Tunbridge, Liam McMahon, Rachel Tooke, and John Smithson.

Public Present: 21 members of the public

Cllr. M. Bobby, Chair of the Parish Council (2024-25) welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked all for attending.

1. Attendance and Apologies for absence.

1.1. Cllr. Emma Punchard and Cllr. James Bensly

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

2. Reports Received

3.1 Parish Council Chairman's Report

Chair Cllr. M. Bobby welcomed all attendees to the Village Hall for the Annual Parish Meeting. Conveyed that this meeting is a wonderful opportunity to get together and share the groups and activities in the Village.

"Looking back over the last year, the Parish Council have had a few changes to the Council, which is to be expected with day jobs demanding more time and taking priority. Marina Carr and Richard Henwood both resigned from the Council and we would like to say a huge thanks to Richard Henwood and Marina Carr who was a very dedicated Councillor. Marina took on the role of the Clerk whilst we recruited and was instrumental for notable events for the Parish Council.

We have welcomed three new Councillors –

- Rachel Tooke
- Richard Tunbridge
- Mark Shepperd

All are settling in and we look forward to their input and contributions to the Parish Council and the village.

Just to highlight that as a Parish Council we of course hold monthly meetings and feel that perhaps it is not well known that all the Councillors have individual Roles and Responsibilities which cover areas of the village. These include:

- Finance
- Personnel
- Village Hall Management
- Village Maintenance
- Highways
- Policies
- Polce Matters
- Website
- Playing Fields

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- Playground
- Paths and Rights of Way
- Planning
- Newsletter

On these subjects we hold Operational Meetings to discuss concerns raised and actions needed.

To give an example of actions in some of these areas in the last year:

Grass Cutting

We had concerns and observations about the grass cutting of our green spaces, particularly during the early season. Grass getting too long, the first cut taking place late and the grass cuttings being difficult to manage.

This year we have invested in a program where we commenced cutting earlier and more frequently. This has been witnessed by how the green spaces look today and hopefully has been noticed by you all.

Parking Issues

After many years of working with the Highways Agency, we are on the verge of getting the yellow lines in the critical areas junctions and pinch points installed.

This has been a very long-drawn-out process holding public consultations, writing to every property in the Village. Finally, we are at the point that the work has been approved and is soon to be carried out. This means we will be able to retire the traffic cones which were deployed as part of this process.

We would like to give a special thanks to Cllr. James Bensly for all his support over this process.

The Changing Rooms – Recreation Ground

We have surveyed the building and decided to action the phased repair plan. This is to accommodate the use of the changing rooms and to spread the budget.

Phase I – New Roof has been completed

Phase II – Electrical upgrade and repairs completed

Phase III – To complete any plumbing requirements which is currently ongoing

Phase IV – Carpentry

Phase V – Painting

New Signs in the Village

There have been some new signs placed around the Village. To name a few -The Village Hall has had a brand-new sign, The Recreation Ground Car Park Sign has been replaced, and we were able to get the Village sign coming into Winterton from Hemsby replaced after it went missing.

Village Hall

We have continued to receive good bookings for the hall with a good selection of regulars returning.

We have installed new kitchen appliances

Installed new emergency / fire doors

Purchased a new ramp for better accessibility for all.

The Village Hall is a focal point for events, such as this evening.

The NHS have used the hall for local COVID and Flu vaccinations which is an

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invaluable service for our Village

A drop in event was organised with attendance from the following agencies to offer advice and support.

- DIAL
- AGE UK
- Centre 81
- Community Police
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council Community Hub
- Cultural Connections
- First Aider Stephen Rose

This is an event we hope to repeat.

Other events which have taken place are the Garage Sale and Christmas Fayre.

These events have continued to be well supported, and thanks must go to Cllr. John. Smithson for all his efforts in arranging these.

Planning

We have seen the usual applications with increasing numbers of TPO's (Tree Preservation Orders) which have been put in place to protect established trees within the Village which we support and welcome

The Allotments

The allotments are looking good with no current vacancies. There is a waiting list in place should you wish to join.

The Children's Playground

This continues to be maintained, with broken equipment being repaired within the budget.

And finally...

Finance

All these areas generally require money which through strong governance we manage the budget.

Our precept increase is tightly aligned to inflation or less.

To bring my comments to an end, as the Chairman, I would like to express a huge thank you to all the Parish Councillors for their support to the Village.

I would like to make a special mention to our fantastic Clerk Jolene, and to Jackie who works tirelessly to keep things clean and tidy.

Hopefully we are considered as a listening Council and hopefully this is evidenced by how our Village looks.

Just a quick reminder that our monthly meetings are always open to the public and you would all be welcomed".

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 2024-25 Year-End Accounts (**Unaudited**)

ANNUAL RETURN (Unaudited 24/25)	2023/24	2024/25	Variances
Balance b/f	£72,026	£84,809	
<u>Receipts</u>			
Annual Precept	£37,000	£43,475	£6,475
Other Receipts	£24,289	£20,573	-£3,716
	£61,289	£64,048	
<u>Payments</u>			
Staff Costs	£8,184	£18,104	£9,920
Other Payments	£40,321	£36,457	-£3,864
	£48,505	£54,561	
<u>Balances c/f</u>	£84,809	£94,296	

Bank Reconciliation

Balance b/f 1 st April 2024	£84,808.80
Total Income	£64,048.10
Total Expenditure	£54,561.14
Closing Balance at 31 st March 2025	£94,295.76

Bank Balances **31/03/2025**

Unity Current	£2,430.27
Unity Savings	£91,865.49
<u>Total</u>	<u>£94,295.76</u>

In the main, the Parish Council has kept within the proposed budget, however, we are forever mindful of constantly increasing costs.

The appointment of a Parish Clerk / RFO sees an increase in staff costs due to two Councillors doing the work as unpaid from April 23 to November 23. This figure remained within the predicted staffing costs budget

There was an overspend on the 24/25 grass cutting budget. This has led to the 25/26 being increased due to no CF and front-loading of cuts to keep on top of the green spaces.

Some Earmarked Reserves were used to repair a broken piece of playground equipment to ensure safety and to repair the Recreation Ground changing room roof.

Reserves will continue to be used over the coming months for continuing repairs & improvements to the changing rooms & to the Village Hall. Following the "green light" being given for the yellow line proposal, it is expected to use some of the Traffic Management Reserve.

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The number of hire bookings for the Village Hall and Recreation Ground has increased, which goes towards covering the running costs.

Whilst there was a slight increase in the 2025/26 precept, the relevant tax base increased, which led to an overall decrease of 7.2% for Band D properties

		Relevant Taxbase	Per Band D
2024/25 Parish Precept Amount	£43,475	584	£74.47
2025/26 Parish Precept Amount	£44,562	645	£69.09
% change in band D			-7.2%

In line with increasing costs, the amount held in General Reserves has had a slight increase to ensure cover for emergency operating costs.

Jolene Towne – RFO

No questions from members of the public present

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

WINTERTON ON SEA CHURCH

Revd Deborah Walton thanked everyone for their support to the Church. The Church is for the Community with everyone welcome.

There is a big fundraiser underway for the Church Roof and so far, an amazing £50,000 has been raised. The plan is to complete a phased repair so that the Church can remain open. There is also the ambition to put toilets in the Church with several applications submitted for grants / funding. Rev Debs continued that they have had a lot of funeral services and weddings at the Church over the last 12 months.

Revd Deborah Walton also shared the following Vicars Report:

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The Vicar's Report

So much happens in a year that it is hard to condense it into a page or two! It is strange to think that at the beginning of 2024 I had not yet arrived in Flegg North.

I am grateful to everyone for the warm welcome Pete and I received. I had a wonderful licensing service on 15 April with Bishop Graham and it was lovely to meet so many people from Flegg Parish Churches. We had hoped that the legal side of the creation of Flegg Parish Churches would have been completed in May and so we had a licensing service on Pentecost Sunday, 19 May, which became a service of commissioning with Bishop Ian. At the time of writing this report we are still waiting for the legal formalities to be completed.

We have welcomed people into Holy Trinity and All Saints Church in large and small numbers throughout the year.

It has been a joy to welcome Winterton-on-Sea Primary School to mark the important Christian festivals. We have also had opportunity to go into school to take assemblies and participate in RE classes. I attend fortnightly at lunchtimes to offer chaplaincy and chat to the children and staff.

We marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day in June with a service on the beach and a fish and chip lunch in the church room. We celebrated Sea Sunday on 23 June and were delighted to be joined by the 901 Troop cadets and the Mayor of Great Yarmouth. The summer saw two services of Songs of Praise on the village green which were well attended. Our gift day saw our volunteers blown about by the wind and rain, but people were exceptionally generous.

We started holding occasional midweek services of Wholeness and Healing and these have been well received.

We marked Harvest on 13 October and collected donations for Flegg Food Bank. Our All Souls service was a lovely time of reflection on Sunday 3 November when we read the names of loved ones and people had the opportunity to light a candle. Our Remembrance Sunday Service was well attended.

During December we marked Advent in our Sunday morning services and held our Christmas services at other times. We had a wonderful Christingle Service with the School in Church on 8 December. Carols around the Piano on 14 December was another wonderful and well attended event. We held a service of the Longest Night on 15 December which provided people with an opportunity to bring the losses and disappointments they had experienced to God in prayer. Christmas Eve was busy with a Crib Service and Moonlight Communion and it was a joy to welcome visitors and regular church goers to both of these services.

Friday morning prayers continue to be faithfully attended. We started an advent book group which met in people's homes and read Women of the Nativity by Paula Gooder. This home group has continued to meet.

All these highlights are underpinned by the work of so many people behind the scenes – thank you!

I am very grateful to the Churchwardens and the PCC for their commitment and support particularly as you have navigated through the interregnum and the transition of my arrival. I am also grateful to them for their kindness and generosity in so many ways.

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I am also grateful to everyone who volunteers to help ensure that we are able to engage in our mission and ministry. Thank you to everyone in both the church and village communities for their generous donations of money, time and gifts, which support this mission and ministry of the church. Without your kindness and generosity nothing that you read about in this report would be possible - Thank you!

As we look forward to the coming year, we are hoping to continue to develop our mission and ministry with baptism, wedding and funeral families.

Thank you for your prayers throughout this past year and for sharing in ministry with me.

Revd Deborah Walton

LITTER PICKING GROUP

Caroline Fernandez conveyed that the Winterton Community Litter Picking Group has been running since 2017 and is supported by the Parish Council. A friendly group who picks up discarded items from the beach to keep it looking beautiful.

The group has been well supported during the Summer months, however less so during the Winter months. Any volunteers are always welcomed.

The Winterton Community Litter Picking Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month.

They meet at the Beach Car Park at 10 Am with all litter pickers and bags provided. Open to locals and visitors alike.

You can see more on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/522699401893038>

NORFOLK POLICE

PC Callum Ball was unable to attend however shared the below

“Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on policing activity in the Rural Flegg area. I have had the privilege of serving as the Beat Manager here since September, and I’m pleased to share a summary of the work undertaken over the past year.

Community Engagement

Over the last year, I have prioritised public engagement to strengthen trust and build positive relationships with residents. I have attended and hosted numerous community meetings, drop-in sessions, and events across the villages, ensuring a visible and approachable police presence. These engagements have provided valuable insight into local concerns and helped guide policing priorities.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

A key focus has been addressing anti-social behaviour in known hotspots. Targeted patrols, increased visibility, and intelligence-led interventions have led to a reduction in incidents in several areas. Where necessary, enforcement action has been taken against repeat offenders, and ongoing monitoring continues.

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Partnership Working

Strong collaboration with Great Yarmouth Borough Council and other local agencies has been central to our problem-solving efforts. This joint approach has enabled us to better support vulnerable individuals, apply effective ASB measures, and respond more quickly and holistically to community issues.

Looking Ahead

Moving forward, I will continue to prioritise visibility, engagement, and problem-solving in the Rural Flegg area. Your feedback and local knowledge are vital in helping us deliver effective, community-focused policing, and I welcome continued dialogue with all parish councils in the area.

Thank you for your continued support.

Thanks,
Callum"

DUFFLES POND

Kelly McMahon shared that over the last 12 months the Duffle's Pond Volunteer Group have continued to work hard, planting hundreds of bulbs, maintaining the trees, repairing and expanding the compost area. A new hedgehog house was put in place, and several wildlife have visited Duffle's Pond

They had a mini beast hunt hosted by Rob from the National Trust which was well supported. Lots of fundraising events took place, including the garage sale and the Annual Easter Eggstravaganza which raised £1336.84. Thanks to those who donated to the raffle.

Some of the funds were used to purchase bug hunting kits.

Continue to hold Community Days which really help achieving goals. Anyone is welcome to join these days.

Kelly shared her thanks to all the volunteers who help them in enhancing and maintaining the shared space.

LIFEBOAT RESTORATION GROUP

Terry Byrne shared the following Report:

"The Group remains active, albeit on administrative matters, while we await progress on planning for a new location for the boat. The following progress report was posted around the village earlier this year:

February 2025

We continue to be frustrated and disappointed with further difficulties and planning permission refusal for our ambition to build a Shed/Heritage Centre in Winterton to house "The Edward Birkbeck", Winterton's No 1, and last lifeboat which we plan to continue restoring.

Currently The Boat is being stored in Scratby on private land with no public access. We are, again, exploring the possibility of a new home and a place to continue the restoration with a local landowner who may be able to include our requirements in a new project. Watch this space for further updates.

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If anyone would like to join our Group, they would be very welcome for appointments as Trustees, IT Specialists, Boat Builders, Painters and most important “General Dog Bodies”. Contact Terry on 01493 393483 for details.

ARMED FORCES VETERANS AND JEEP OWNERS EVENTS

Terry Byrne shared the following Report:

“Our Jeep owners, here in the village continue to give excellent support to many charities and other events. Our Christmas “Elf Convoy” in support of “Scotty’s Little Soldiers” is now a popular annual event and we propose to continue with it into the future. The group support to our VE Day 80 event in the Church on 8th May was great and very much appreciated.

Future events will include the Strumpshaw Annual Steam Rally, Armed Forces Day in Great Yarmouth on Saturday 28th June, The Market Harborough Military Show 1st – 3rd August, VJ Day 80 event in Great Yarmouth 15th August, the Norfolk Tank Museum “Armourfest” 15th-17th August, and the Sheringham 40s weekend 19th-21st September.

We are a very busy crew”

WINTERTON IN BLOOM



Christine Ford shared that she had taken on the role of Chair in June 2024 with Nichola Hughes becoming the Vice-Chair. Currently 10 people in the group with new volunteers welcomed.

Christine conveyed that they had been concentrating on various areas, thinning out overgrown sections.

They have held a couple of quizzes to raise vital funds which goes towards keeping our village beautiful.

They had been very busy planting and were intending to plant cornflowers and poppies in “The Plough”. The Village is full of colours and is looking pretty and new planters had been placed around the Village.

In addition, The Group had also helped tidy the flower beds at the Recreation Ground Car Park.

Plans for the Winter was to clean up outside of the Church Rooms with the addition of a new planter.

Cllr. M. Bobby thanked Winterton in Bloom for all their hard work

RSPB

Pamela Hallesy gave a report on the RSPB.

Nesting Birds Project

2024 season – Fencing had been installed. The Little Terns started nesting late May and it was reported that there were 500 Little Terns at Winterton on Sea and 250 Little Terns at Eccles.

This year, The Little Terns arrived over Easter on the Saturday morning however were quite unsettled and started nesting late May. At present there were 40 Little Terns at Winterton on Sea and between 100 – 120 Little Terns at Eccles

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6 field officers started in Winterton on Sea, then split into two groups covering both locations. Pamela added that volunteers were needed from May to July to assist.

Question asked: -

Cllr. M. Bobby asked what determines the terns staying and what unsettles them. Pamela responded that disturbances by people can influence the terns abandoning the area, as can supply of fish and the general weather. Pamela continued that overall, people on the beach have been very respectful.

901 TROOP MARINE CADETS

Paul Dodson shared that he is the Senior Officer of the Marine Cadets, namely TS Fearless and TS Victory, which was established in 2001.

They draw cadets from Winterton on Sea and surrounding villages and would like to welcome new cadets. Paul continued that the Cadets support a lot of events and take part in several activities, such as bowling, swimming shooting, water-based activities, field craft and sub aqua diving.

Recently the Cadets took part in tidying and maintaining the memorial garden at James Paget Hospital and providing a guard of honour for the major.

Paul conveyed that there are currently only two staff at Winterton on Sea and that they were looking for volunteers to help run the Group. They don't need to be military trained and that they will train them and pay for the DBS Check.

Question asked:

Cllr. M. Bobby asked if many of their cadets go into the services to which Paul Dodson confirmed that this was the case but stressed that they were not a recruiting service.

WALKING FOOTBALL GROUP

Cllr. N. Coe shared thanks to *Cllr. L. McMahon* and *Cllr. J. Smithson* who had been instrumental in setting this group up. Conveyed that the group has been well attended with an age range of 12 to late 70s. Nice cross section of people and abilities with anyone welcome to join. Takes place on a Tuesday evening at 7pm, £2 per session. Takes place 6 months at Winterton on Sea, Recreation Ground and 6 months at Fleggburgh Recreation Ground due to lighting

WINTERTON (NORFOLK) TRUST FUND

To Note that Valerie had been unable to attend and as such this was read out by *Cllr. M. Bobby*

"Although we are only a small village charity, this past year we have been able to assist local inhabitants who applied to us. As usual the majority of applications were for a grant towards the cost of fuel during the Winter. We were able to keep within our budget but due to the volatility

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of the markets, the amount of interest on our investments has decreased and the amounts we can grant are likely to be smaller in future. We are, however, fund-raising with quizzes etc. to try and increase the amount that we can pay out.

We will try to provide financial assistance to any resident of the Parish of Winterton and East Somerton who is in need and approaches us.

Valerie Blake”

CLLR. J. BENSLY – Borough and County

In his absence *Cllr. J. Bensly* shared the GYBC Update for APM and the NCC Report. Handouts are available and these have been published on the Winterton on Sea Parish Council Website.

CLLR. N. GALER – Borough

Cllr. N. Galer introduced himself and shared the committees he sits on, including the Broads Drainage Board.

Cllr. N. Galer confirmed he will speak with Terry Byrne in relation to the report he shared earlier on and wanted to share that “The Place” in Great Yarmouth has officially opened.

3. Parish Resolutions.

3.1. No resolutions were presented for the meeting.

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

Attendees were asked if they had any concerns or comments to which there were none.

5. General Parish Matters.

- *Cllr. M. Bobby* thanked everyone in attendance and shared a need for further volunteers in the Groups.
- Expressed that if anyone has any issues or if the Parish Council can assist, please do not hesitate to approach us.

Meeting closed at 20:04

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