

WINTERBORNE WHITECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes

Wayne Lewin – Clerk to the Parish Council
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Minutes of Full Council held on Wednesday 15th January 2025 in The Old School Room
Meeting commenced at 7.00pm.

Councillors in attendance:

Julien Turner, Ian Bruce, Geoff Eaton, and Alan Holford-Walker

There were 3 members of the public in attendance along with
Cllr Emma Parker (Ward Councillor)

FULL COUNCIL

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr's Deeney and Trim sent apologies.

2. Declarations of pecuniary or other interest

There were no declarations made.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th November 2024

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Clerk's report

The Clerk confirmed that the Play Inspection has been scheduled for later in the year.
A sewage overflow pipe to run underground from Chescombe Court through Fields Close to
the Upper Sewage tank behind the garage had also been approved.

5. Chair's update

The Chair confirmed that the meetings were now back on schedule for the 3rd Wednesday
of each month – to ensure no clashes with other Ward Parish Council meetings.

He was happy to state that the new bus shelter had been installed.

In addition, the guttering work at the Coronation Bus Shelter was due to start soonest.
Funding had been approved for a new (more basic) bus shelter opposite Lady Bailey.

The very large pot hole on Lower Street had been filled.

Work on the solar farm has commenced. At the present time, only construction of the solar
panels project had started.

It was confirmed that planned meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)
had shown lack of back up for CSW input. It was agreed that any further correspondence
with the PCC would go via the official channels of the Parish Council.

To conclude, the Chair wished to ask members of the public and fellow Councillors to try
and identify and recruit 2 more people to fill the casual vacancies that will be available at
the Annual General Meeting.

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6. Public participation – items on the agenda only

A question was asked on community funding from the solar farm.

The Clerk had spoken to the planning department at Dorset Council who stated that the s106 agreement had no developers' contributions attached to it.

The Clerk had also spoken to Centrica who had no knowledge of any financial agreement.

It was believed that a verbal pledge of £7000 p.a had been offered by the Applicant previously. Cllr Bruce offered to look into some technical/legal aspects of such Offers - and the Chairman would ask former Chair (Cllr Deeney) for his recollections.

The landowner confirmed that Valley Public & Permissive Footpaths had been further cleared for easier walking.

7. Dorset Councillors report

The Ward Councillor spoke on the following matters:

Dorset Council precept was likely to raise by the maximum allowed

The devolution programme was looking at merging Dorset with South Somerset and Wiltshire.

This would likely go to public consultation but no time frames were known.

There were talks regarding some assets and services being passed down to Towns and Parishes although no indication of what had been mooted.

The 20 is plenty project was awaiting confirmation of a Traffic Regulation Order prior to any public consultation. This was likely to be a few months due to the large back log.

It was also confirmed that the inaugural meeting of Clerks and Chairs within the Ward had been scheduled for 24th Feb. Times and location were to be confirmed.

8. Planning

a. P/FUL/2024/07319

Whatcombe Down Dairy, A354 - Blandford Hill Winterborne Whitechurch To Thornicombe Hill, Winterborne Whitechurch, DT11 9AN

Change of use and conversion of part of the former dairy and farm staff rest room into 1 No. dwelling

The Parish Council supported this application.

9. Financial matters

a. Payments for authorisation

There were **6** payments (**PV's 33-38**), totalling **£ 2712.57** that were approved and authorised for payment.

b. Q3 budget report

The Clerk confirmed that the budget spend at the end of Q3 was **50.25%**.

The Clerk was content that the end of year spend would come in under budget.

10. Traffic calming measures update

a. A354

Further to the Chair's update at minute 5, it was stated by the PCC that the Auto Speed Watch trial did not work as the data did not support further investment.

It was also confirmed that Average Speed Cameras were cost prohibitive and around £250,000.

It was noted that covert police speed cars did achieve penalty results.

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To that end, the Parish Council disappointingly, accepted that in the near term there would be no permanent speed camera in the village.

Focus now returns to a permanent engineering solution to be supplied by Dorset Council. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter to all stake holders with Dorset Council requesting that a review and proposal be conducted which would be circulated to Members for comments and approval prior to distribution.

b. 20 is plenty

Further to minute 7, it was noted that another SID would not arrive in the near future.

c. Community Speed Watch

Further to the meeting with the PCC and the lack of resources, specifically the sending of letters, it was agreed to place the CSW in abeyance until further notice.

11. Interface with Dorset Council – way ahead

For a considerable time (and effort), both the Clerk and Chair had tried to establish a formal distribution of the Role of the Ward Councillor for the ward they were elected.

The only guidance was on the Local Government Agency website, which has no legal power.

To that end, despite it still being a pertinent question, it was agreed not to pursue this matter any further for the time being, but to concentrate on Item 10a letter above.

12. Grit bins

It was agreed that no further grit bins were needed at this time.

13. Tree planting in Winterborne Whitechurch

It was agreed that no further trees were needed at this time.

14. Setting the Precept for 25/26

The Precept was set at **£17000.00**, down from **£18850.00**.

This means for a type D property; the amount is **£ 56.55 – down from £ 65.18**.

15. Public participation – items not on the agenda for discussion only

There were no further matters.

16. Items and date for the next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for **19th March 2025**.

There being no further business the meeting closed at **2051 hours**.

Julien Turner _____ Chair of Winterborne Whitechurch Parish Council

Dated _____