

Winkleigh Parish Council.

**Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Council held on
Wednesday 22nd March 2023
At Winkleigh Community Centre, Castle Street,
Winkleigh. EX19 8HU
at 7.30pm**

Email:clerk@winkleighpc.org.uk

Website:www.winkleighpc.org.uk

Council Members present:

Cllr Alex Phillips Chairman Cllr Alan Jacobs Vice-Chairman	Cllr Angela Findlay Cllr Greg Goldsworthy Cllr Simon Hodgson Cllr Royston Naylor Cllr Pauline Odulinski	Cllr Benjamin Roth Cllr Andrew Warner Cllr Ian Whitehead
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Minute taker for the meeting – Lorraine Wheeler (Locum Clerk)

Also Present 4 Members of the Public, DCC Cllr Andrew Saywell,

Adjournment for Public Participation – 15 minutes (3 minutes per attendee)

A member of the public asked if the Elms House application would be reconsidered this evening and Cllr Phillips confirmed that it would be. The same member of the public raised the issue of seating in bus shelters which cannot be seen by bus drivers nor can the bus be seen without exiting the shelter. In addition, many shelters exit across muddy grass and would benefit from hard standing. It was not known whether the shelters were the property of the Parish the District or the County Council. The Parish Council to enquire re ownership.

- 01.3.23 **Welcome** – Chair to open the meeting and declare if audio recording is to be taken. **Action**
The meeting is being recorded by Cllr Goldsworthy.
- 02.3.23 **Apologies** - Cllr Alice Turner, TDC Cllr Simon Newton.
- 03.3.23 **Declaration of Interests** –
Cllr Hodgson declared a personal interest in item ref; 11.3.23 1. h)
Cllr Warner declared a personal interest in item ref: 11.3.23 1. a) & b)
- 04.3.23 **County Councillor Report** – Cllr Saywell spoke and his Report is appended to these minutes.
- 05.3.23 **District Councillors Report** – Cllr Newton sent apologies and his report is appended to these minutes.
- 06.3.23 **To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd February 2023.**
The Clerk had circulated amended draft minutes prior to the meeting re item no. 38.2.23.
Cllr Hodgson added a condition to item 44.2.23 1. d)
PROPOSED BY Cllr Hodgson and SECONDED BY Cllr Findlay, 2 Against and 8 In favour. The Clerk will amend and replace the draft minutes on the parish website.
RESOLVED RRO97/22

The Chairman to sign the amended minutes as a true and accurate copy of the business transacted.

07.3.23 **Matters Arising from the Minutes if not addressed in this Agenda - None**

08.3.23 **Talking Bench – Update Cllr Naylor & Cllr Roth – Appendix A**

Cllr Roth had provided quotations for various circular bench designs and suggested that the Amazon wooden bench would be more comfortable and with a plaque and fixings and timber treatment would cost around £350.00 in total.

BR

Cllr Naylor advised he had spoke to the Communications Manager at Westwood Housing who was to help pioneer this project and add funding. Mental Health awareness week is in May and could possibly coincide with the installation. He also recommended engraving the bench with helpful quotations and would seek a local craftsman.

RN

Cllr Warner suggested a plaque that could contain a QR code linked to our website signposting organisations such as the Samaritans, Mind, Talk Devon to link in with the national campaign. He will investigate.

AW

Cllr Hodgson suggested the idea would be more likely to work if someone in need of help could speak to a professional.

Cllr Naylor advised he would look into funding from TDC. Many Counties are on board with the campaign and Winkleigh could become a flagship pathfinder in Devon.

RN

Project research to be continued.

09.3.23 **To Consider Quotations for Remedial Works to the Cemetery Bungalow Following Inspection Report – Update The Clerk – Appendix B**

The Clerk had supplied a response from Pure Lettings who have been unable to obtain tenders for inspecting the roof (to be continued). They had however received a quotation from their electrician pertaining to the kitchen fan.

Members felt this was expensive and Cllrs Warner and Whitehead offered to inspect the extractor fan themselves and report to Council on 26th April. The Clerk to arrange site visit convenient to the tenants with Pure Lettings.

PROPOSED by Cllr Findlay and SECONDED BY Cllr Phillips. All Members present in favour of Cllrs Warner and Whitehead undertaking a site visit. RESOLVED RRO98/22

LW
AW/IW

10.3.23 **Coronation Event/Street Parties (Road Closure application required by 26th March) – Update Cllr Phillips & Cllr Roth**

Cllr Phillips and Cllr Roth reported that the proposed plans for the weekend are to co-host with Allie Leah and the Kings Head as follows:

Friday 5th May – Warm space in the Community Centre or Village Hall with activities/competitions.

Saturday 6th May – Evening – Band in the Square jointly hosted with the Kings Head.

Sunday 7th May – Big Lunch – table through the Village jointly hosted with the Kings Head.

Monday 8th May – Volunteer Day – branded commemorative coasters to be distributed.

Expenditure:

Tables & chairs, stage & trailer provided by Cllr Phillips

Band 50% (Kings Head) £200

Toilets 50% (Kings Head) £100

Commemorative Coasters £100

Warm Space Activities/Competitions £500

Incidentals (prizes/certificates) £100

The total cost is unlikely to exceed £1100, however there is £2000 in the budget for the event.

Cllr Phillips will apply for the road closure on 23/03/23 if Members are in agreement.

PROPOSED by Cllr Roth and SECONDED BY Cllr Findlay. All Members present in favour of the event. Cllr Phillips and Cllr Roth to proceed with plans and road closure application.
RESOLVED RRO99/22

AP/BR

11.3.23 Planning

1. Applications for Consideration

- a) **1/0177/2023/FUL - The Cavaliers, Barnstaple Street, Winkleigh, Devon** - Proposed extension, landscaping and refurbishment works. **Expiry 19th March 2023**

Cllr Warner declared a personal interest in this application and abstained.

Following discussion it was agreed to **SUPPORT** this application.

PROPOSED by Cllr Findlay and SECONDED BY Cllr Goldsworthy. 1 Abstention and 9 in Favour.
RESOLVED RRO100/22

LW

- b) **1/0178/2023/LBC - The Cavaliers, Barnstaple Street, Winkleigh, Devon** - Proposed extension, landscaping and refurbishment works. **Expiry 19th March 2023**

Cllr Warner declared a personal interest in this application and abstained.

Following discussion it was agreed to **SUPPORT** this application.

PROPOSED by Cllr Findlay and SECONDED BY Cllr Goldsworthy. 1 Abstention and 9 in Favour.
RESOLVED RR101/22

LW

- c) **1/0067/2023/FUL - Agricultural Building At Grid Reference 262991 111029, Hollocombe, Devon** - Change of use of building to dwelling. **Expiry 19th March 2023**

Following discussion it was agreed to **SUPPORT** this application with conditions as agreed and to be forwarded to TDC planning.

PROPOSED by Cllr Findlay and SECONDED BY Cllr Whitehead. All Members present in Favour.
RESOLVED RR102/22

LW

- d) **1/1180/2022/OUTM - Bellinster House, Winkleigh, Devon** - Outline application with all matters reserved for the part redevelopment of a mixed use live/work site, to include 15 residential units, workspace and Internet café. **Expiry 23rd March 2023**

Following discussion it was proposed to **OBJECT** to this application for the reasons outlined in Cllr Findlay's report to be forwarded to TDC planning.

PROPOSED by Cllr Findlay and SECONDED BY Cllr Goldsworthy. All Members present in Favour.
RESOLVED RR103/22

LW

- e) **1/0093/2023/FUH - 6 Bullow View, Winkleigh, Devon** - Demolition of single-storey sunroom and erection of single-storey extension. **Expiry 26th March 2023**

Following discussion it was agreed to **SUPPORT** this application.

PROPOSED by Cllr Hodgson and SECONDED BY Cllr Phillips. All Members present in Favour.

RESOLVED RRO/22

LW

- f) **1/0129/2023/FUL - Land At Barons Down Farm, Bondleigh, Devon** - Demolition of 2 no. existing dwellings and erection of 1 no. detached dwelling with annexe. **Expiry 27th March 2023**

Following discussion and input from the applicant it was agreed to **SUPPORT** this application with conditions as agreed by the applicant and to be forwarded to TDC planning.

PROPOSED by Cllr Hodgson and SECONDED BY Cllr Roth. All Members present in Favour.

RESOLVED RR104/22

LW

- g) **1/0234/2023/FUL - Land At Grid Reference 260661 111485, Winkleigh** - Erection of wooden machinery and equipment store. **Expiry 8th April 2023**

It was proposed to **DEFER** this application to the meeting of 26th April due to the lack of information on the TDC Planning Portal. Cllr Findlay has requested an extension.

PROPOSED by Cllr Hodgson and SECONDED BY Cllr Warner . All Members present in Favour.

RESOLVED RRO105/22

LW

- h) **To Reconsider 1/0111/2023/FUL - Land At Elms House, Exeter Road, Winkleigh**, - Erection of 1no. dwelling with associated parking and access and the provision of 2no. parking spaces to serve Elms House. (22.02.23 Decision Object Application Incomplete)

Cllr Hodgson declared a personal interest in this application and abstained.

Following re consideration of this application in the light of the applicant contacting Cllr Phillips with further information pertaining to the Access Plan not being required, it was agreed to **SUPPORT** this application with additional notes as agreed and to be forwarded to TDC planning.

PROPOSED by Cllr Hodgson and SECONDED BY Cllr Warner. 1 Abstention, 1 Against, 8 in Favour.

RESOLVED RR106/22

LW

2. Decisions

- a) **1/1024/2022/FUL - Land At Grid Reference 262428 109531, Winkleigh**, - Erection of storage building for horticultural use. (Object) **Permission Granted**
- b) **1/0556/2022/FULM - Townsend Hill – (Object) Permission Granted Decision of the TDC Planning Committee 02.03.23 Meeting with TDC 16.03.23 - Update by Cllrs Findlay & Goldsworthy – a report appended to these minutes once agreed with TDC Cllr Newton.**
- c) **1/1003/2022/FULM - Agricultural Building At Beechlea Farm, Winkleigh, Devon – Change of use from agricultural to mixed use industrial (Neutral Concerns re Mission Creep) Permission Granted**
- d) **1/0016/2023/FUL - 23 Southernhay, Winkleigh** - Erection of dormer to the rear, solar panels to the front of the property and erection of shed and garden room – (Support) **Permission Granted**

Noted

Noted

Noted

Noted

- 12.3.23 **Finance**
(a) To Approve the Schedule of Payments and Receipts Since the last Meeting – Appendix C
It was proposed the schedule be approved and appended to these minutes.
PROPOSED by Cllr Hodgson and SECONDED BY Cllr Findlay. 1 Abstention 9 in Favour.
RESOLVED RR107/22
- 13.3.23 **Cemetery – Request to Intern Ashes in a Grave – For Consideration**
The Clerk advised that she had been approached by a gentleman whose parents had been resident in the village and whose Father is buried in the Cemetery and would like to intern his Mother’s ashes in his Father’s grave as per her wishes. The Clerk has put him in touch with Andrew Ware and issued the relevant application form, however the gentleman would like to dig the soil himself under Andrew’s instruction and seeks the Council’s approval. A copy of the Will to be provided with the application.
Cllr Hodgson advised that this had been permitted in the past as long as the position of the ashes is recorded in the burial register.
It was thereby proposed the request be permitted.
PROPOSED by Cllr Roth and SECONDED BY Cllr Jacobs. 1 Abstention and 9 in Favour.
RESOLVED RR108/22 LW
- 14.3.23 **Consultation for Consideration – TLU Contracts – Road Closure Vellaford Cross to Monkokehampton Cross 9th – 11th August. (Emailed to All Members)**
An additional consultation and also been received for a road closure from Highball Cross to Monkokehampton on 21st/22nd August. Members were grateful to be consulted and the closures were noted. Noted
- 15.3.23 **New Website – Progress Update Cllr Turner**
Cllr Turner had sent apologies and had not been able to forward a report. Item deferred to the next meeting. Noted
- 16.3.23 **Use of Parish Council Bank Account for Charitable Purposes – Update Cllr Findlay**
Cllr Findlay advised she had sought a grant from TDC Cllr Newton for the Winkleigh Volunteer Service of £200 to assist in transporting residents to hospital who cannot afford to pay however, TDC will only allow the grant to be administrated by a separate bank account in the name of the organisation or through the Parish Council. Cllr Findlay will seek to rectify and apply for a bank account next financial year however, in order to access the grant this financial year would the Members consider the use of the Parish Council bank account to administrate? The Clerk advised there was no issue with this procedure as long as transactions are recorded separately.
Following discussion it was agreed on this occasion to propose the use of the Council’s bank account for charitable purposes.
PROPOSED by Cllr Odulinski and SECONDED BY Cllr Naylor. All Members present in favour.
RESOLVED RR109/22 AF/LW
- 17.3.23 **Grants – Unallocated Grants from Budget 22/23 – For Discussion**
The Clerk has been advised that no grants were agreed for the current financial year due to the unexpected legal fees incurred by the Council. The unused grant funding is to be vired to cover legal fees.
Cllr Findlay requested a grant of £50 to be used for funding the purchase of incontinence pads by the Winkleigh Volunteer Service for emergency use, but

which will be reimbursed by users. Cllr Findlay will keep a record of transactions.

AF/LW

**PROPOSED by Cllr Phillips and SECONDED BY Cllr Hodgson. All Members present in favour of the grant.
RESOLVED RR110/22**

It was Proposed by Cllr Roth and Seconded by Cllr Hodgson to extend the meeting to complete the business to be transacted. All Members present in favour.

18.3.23 **Correspondence –**

a) Hedgehogs R Us (Emailed to All Members)

It was proposed to defer consideration of this item to the next meeting on 26th April.

PROPOSED by Cllr Warner and SECONDED BY Cllr Phillips. All Members present in favour.

Defer

b) Road Surface Dressing 11th April - Road heading south from Henacroft Cross, Iddesleigh (Emailed to All Members)

Noted

RESOLVED RR111/22

19.3.23 **Members Reports/Questions –**

Cllr Jacobs pointed out that a farmer had in his view badly trimmed the hedges in Farmer Franks Lane and left the spoil in the lane and what could be done about? Cllr Phillips advised it was not illegal.

The Clerk asked when the Vacancy for a Clerk will be advertised and if the documentation was complete. Cllr Odulinski advised documentation would be presented at the next meeting on 26th April for ratification and then the position advertised.

20.3.23 **Date of Next Meeting – 26th April 2023**

21.3.23 **Close of Meeting –**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.48pm

Signed.....

Chairman.....

Dated.....

Cllr Saywell - DCC Report for Winkleigh PC

Townsend Hill

- I've had the following response from Michael Newcombe after concerns were raised about the new speed cushions – “Yes, it's not uncommon for motorists to drive around cushions and I can think of a few other examples where we have cushions and this manoeuvre is done. The fact that this additional manoeuvre is required is a form of traffic calming in itself. I drove through yesterday and I noted that all four cushions were in place, the table is done and the two chicanes are there. The chicanes still need their wearing course, but a road closure wouldn't be needed for this.”

20 mph zone

- Councillors may recall Townsend Hill and Farmer Frank's Lane was successful for a 20 mph limit application. This has now been extended to include Southernhay, and the whole of the Westcots estate – the rationale being to have few entry/exit points into the 20 zone. The proposals are currently being advertised and, assuming no objections, I expect it to be implemented later this year.
- The new housing estates on Townsend Hill will be included in the 20 zone once the roads are adopted.
- As part of this traffic order, the 30 mph limit on the A3124 'bypass' road will be extended down to the entrance of Elms Meadow.

Potholes

- Since January 1st a total of **14,469** safety defects have been repaired. Over 40 gangs have been deployed and the Dragon Patcher also used in Torrington Rural to help with the repair backlog. From the anecdotal evidence I'm seeing locally they seem to be finally catching up, though where there has been big delays have been on patching repairs – which involves planing off the top road surface and resurfacing it, not a basic pothole repair.
- Of the 14,000 repairs – nearly 6,000 of those were additional defects identified by safety inspectors when responding to public reports.
- Non-safety defect repairs (i.e. small or shallow potholes) have been suspended pending catching up on the backlog. The service seems to be confident they can resume non-safety defect repairs next month in April.
- **In addition, in the Budget the Government awarded DCC over £9.4m of additional capital funding, the highest amount for any local authority in England.** This will be used to fund further patching and resurfacing schemes.

Devolution

- The Government have given outline approval for a Devon-wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.
- More details to be confirmed but this will not involve the creation of an elected Mayor for Devon or a change to the existing democratic structures.
- Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a Final Business Case to present to Government for final approval later in the year.

Councils to receive additional funds to help support households with rising food and energy costs

- Devon has secured additional funding to help households weather the rising costs of living, to help pay for food, energy and other essential items.

- The latest bid amounts to a little over £10 million, to cover the period from April 2023 until March 2024. It will take Devon's total level of Household Support Funding received so far to just over £25 million.
- The funding is to support households in most need that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials. And specifically, those households that may not be eligible for other support that is already available from the government.
- More details online here - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/councils-to-receive-additional-funds-to-help-support-households-with-rising-food-and-energy-costs-2/>

Growing Communities Fund

DCC has announced another round the [Growing Communities Fund](#), and are encouraging not-for-profit groups, charities, church or faith groups, schools and councils to bid for grants. Typically these are grants of between £500 and £1,000, although funds of up to £3,000 will be considered for exemplary projects that will receive their funding when their project is completed.

The Growing Communities Funding is to support projects that:

- could offer warm safe spaces, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn, socialise or encourage healthy activity, or that address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity
- build greater degrees of self-reliance and community resilience, for example offering advice, peer support or guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals
- tackle loneliness and isolation and build self-esteem
- and that have a clear and direct community and environmental benefits

More information can be found online here - www.devon.gov.uk/communities/growing-communities-fund

That's it for this month. Please let me know if there is anything locally that you would like me to look into. I hope to see you all in April!

District Councillor Simon Newton MBE
Winkleigh Ward 2019 - 2023

Attendance and Responsibilities

Torrige District Council (in Bideford)

Council and Committee meetings attended	-	108
Committee absences recorded	-	12
Committee attendance record	-	90%
Meetings with Council Officers	-	29

Winkleigh Parish Council

Parish Council meetings in attendance	-	33
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Ashreigney Parish Council

Parish Council meetings in attendance	-	25
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Winkleigh Society

AGMs attended	-	3
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Membership of TDC Committees and Working Groups:

External Oversight & Scrutiny Committee (2019 – 2021)
Internal Oversight & Scrutiny Committee (2019 – 2022)
Capital PID Working Group (2021)
Quarterly Business Report Working Group (2022)
Leadership Committee (2021 - 2023)
Community & Resources Committee (2022 – 2023)

Other TDC Responsibilities:

Chair of Torrington Area Advisory Group (2019 – 2023)
Conservative Group Leader (2021 – 2023)
Lead Member for Legal & Democratic Services (2022 – 2023)

Local Causes Championed

- Supporting the later stages of the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan – Complete*
- Forcing TDC to be transparent over the Holsworthy Agri Centre costs - Success
- Stopping commercial helicopter flights at Eaglescott Airfield – Success*
- Bringing new business onto Winkleigh Airfield – Some success / Ongoing
- Funding for the Plough Arts Centre, Torrington – Success / Ongoing
- Transparency over the real cost of running TDC's leisure centres - Ongoing
- Increasing the Community Benefit Fund from Coldharbour Solar Farm – Success*
- Opposing building beyond the Winkleigh Development Boundary – Ongoing*

- Supporting the redevelopment of Ashreigney Village Hall - Ongoing
(* Causes where I have involved our local Member of Parliament)

Local Planning and Enforcement Issues

- Organised public meetings in Winkleigh with our MP and senior TDC Planning Officers to campaign against overdevelopment - Ongoing.
- Held numerous meetings with local residents, Winkleigh PC councillors, TDC Planning Officers and site visits.
- Advised Winkleigh PC planning group on best ways to lodge objections etc.
- Campaigned for the restoration of a 5-Year Housing Land Supply in Northern Devon – Ongoing, hopefully in March 2023.
- Townsend Hill Ph 2 - “called-in” and opposed plans as outside the Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan development boundary – Not successful.
- Great Well Park – “called-in” plans due to poor layout and high density – Ongoing.
- Lobbied TDC and property owners to take action on the empty houses in Winkleigh – Unsuccessful to date.
- “Called-in” two rural planning applications to protect the livelihood of the local farmers concerned – Success.

TDC Grants secured for Local Organisations

Winkleigh Cemetery - Noticeboards	Ashreigney Play Area
Winkleigh Snooker Club Room - Insulation	Winkleigh Society Business Directory
Winkleigh Defibrillators	Winkleigh School – New Printers
Ashreigney Village Hall	Ashreigney Lunch Club
Winkleigh Football Club – Disabled access	Winkleigh Tennis Courts
Winkleigh Village Hall - Refurbishment	Ashreigney Audio Equipment
Local Scout & Cub Packs – Scout Camp Fees	Winkleigh Work Hub (withdrawn)
Ashreigney Village Hall - Refurbishment	Winkleigh Community Centre

Casework

Over the 4-year period, undertaken 43 separate casework actions across the Ward including supporting Housing Benefit appeals, representing tenants’ issues with Westward Housing, working with Social Services and advising on individual Planning Applications or appeals.