

Winkleigh Parish Council.

Draft Minutes of the meetingthe meeting of Winkleigh Parish council be held on Wednesday 28th February at Winkleigh Community Centre, Castle Street, Winkleigh. EX19 8HU at 7.30pm

Email:clerk@winkleighpc.org

Website:www.winkleighpc.org

Council Members Present

Cllr Angela Findlay Chair Vice-Chairman	Cllr Greg Goldsworthy Cllr Alan Jacobs Cllr Andy Keys Cllr Pauline Odulinski	Cllr Andrew Warner Cllr Adam Wonnacott
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Public Participation: Members of the public are invited to raise matters of interest to them concerning issues listed on the Agenda and any other urgent matters with the consent of the chair. Each member of the public should be entitled to a maximum of 1 session of not more than 3 minutes. The entire session shall be limited to not more than 15 minutes.

Reports from Ward members from Devon CC (Councillor Andrew Saywell) and Torridge DC (Councillor Simon Newton MBE)

01.02.24 **Welcome** – Chair opens the meeting

02.02.24 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Alex Phillips, Cllr Benjamin Roth, Cllr Jason Roberts, Cllr Josh Rickard (All work commitments). It was noted that the apologies should, according to Standing Orders and national best practice be sent by the individual councillors involved ahead of the meeting, and preferably in writing with the reason for absence provided. Apart from respect to the other councillors this prevents non-quorate meetings being set up, wasting time for other councillors and enables a proper attendance record to be kept. On a motion from the chair it was agreed that any apologies not provided in this way should be regarded as unapproved.

03.02.24 **Declarations of Interest:** None were declared. The chair reported that any councillor reports or requests which were not on the agenda would be taken under item 05.02-24, matters arising,

04.02.24 **To receive and approve the minutes for the meeting on 24th January 2024**

Proposed by Cllr Walker, seconded by Cllr Keys, that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. **Approved Unanimously.**

05.02.24 **Matters Arising – to note any new updates on the rolling activity sheet.**

The re-introduction of a council action plan, prepared by Councillors Findlay, Warner and Odulinski. The action plan was intended to be updated at each parish meeting, published as soon as possible thereafter, and checked against the minutes when they became available. This proposal was received very positively and would be kept updated by those involved in its creation.

The problem with the website resulting from the change to the new version which had led to confusion between the old and new addresses. See item 12.02.24 below

Purchase and installation of the Hollocombe bench was complete.

To discuss whether, and if so when, to replace bench on the Ring 'o Bells site was held over for a future meeting,

Agreed that a recommendation for the increase in cemetery charges must be sent to the clerk at the very latest 1 week before the date of the following council meeting. Failing this the motion will not be laid before council.

06.02.24 **To receive and approve the minutes of the planning meeting, 7th Feb 24**

Proposed by Cllr Odulinski, seconded by Cllr Keys, the record, which included the detailed responses to TDC regarding the applications, was approved unanimously as a true record.

07.02.24 **Matters arising therefrom:**

The Chair reported that she had received formal notification from the office of the monitoring Office at TDC that, with regard to the complaint from North Tawton Council, Cllr Findlay had no case to answer and that, so far as they were concerned, the matter was closed. It was noted that a correspondence had been left open between Winkleigh Parish Council and North Tawton Town Council pending the outcome of the TDC adjudication. The Clerk was instructed, after consulting with TDC Officer Tom Vanstone, to write to NTTCC closing the matter formally.

The Chair proposed that the meeting be paused to allow the County and District Councillors to make their reports. She initially invited Councillor Saywell (Devon CC) to speak.

He stated that he had prepared a written report which is attached to the minutes.

Councillor Newton (Torrige DC) was then invited to speak and he began by apologising for his late arrival as he had been caught up in the Roadworks.

He confirmed that the budget for TDC had been set for the coming year but they had been required to draw down £500,000 from reserves to balance the budget. More concerning was that these reserves would be exhausted within 2 years if practices were not changed. The Council tax for TDC would increase by 2.9% in 2024-25 which is the maximum allowable.

Regarding the devolution deal he was pleased that it had been restricted to the tertiary council level.

The Govt team to validate the levelling up grant application was expected in the coming weeks.

The grant of £450 towards Winkleigh Warm Space had been agreed and paid over.

The meeting was re-opened by the Chair.

08.02.24 The Hollocombe bench had been received and was installed. It was confirmed that the bench was teak and would benefit from an annual maintenance schedule which would be done by the local resident at the site.

As regards the Ring o' Bells bench it was accepted that this was fit for renovation and then maintenance. It might be prudent to move the bench to a more open position. Councillors Warner and Jacobs undertook to do a review and agreed to bring back a proposal for maintenance.

Agree a programme of meetings for the year 2024-25 (Schedule A attached) and organise posting of same to Facebook and other appropriate sites. All dates followed the practice of the 4th Wednesday of the month except for January 2025 which was on the 5th Wednesday. A discussion on the date and format of the Parish Meeting would be scheduled for the following meeting.

Finance

09.02.24 **A: Agree payment of creditors and note payment to clerk: (Schedule B).** Additional invoice received from TDC for street cleaning of £707.

B: Consider projection to year end: Confident that, with control of the bank now established, the data should be sorted by the year-end.

C: Update on Bank Situation

D: Confirmation of precept request received by TDC. Confirmed

E: To select quotations for outstanding work yet to be done

Cemetery Shed Roof: 3 quotations had been received with the lowest on: e being the insurances had paid on. After some discussion it was decided that the lowest quotation should be used as the price saving was considerable. The motion to proceed was proposed by Cllr Findlay,

seconded by Cllr Jacobs, Approved by a majority with one vote against and one abstention.

Cemetery Bungalow Boiler Replacement: This had already been discussed at previous meetings. The improvement in Air pump performance recently might make a difference. It was agreed that we should continue with investigations to establish the options.

Ditch clearance Work: Quotation received from Roger Hill for £450. Other quotations awaited.

Order for Bollard placed. Awaiting final installation decision

Consider payment of invoice 217298 from Stephens Scown. The clerk had confirmed that this invoice, received early November during the changeover, had not been paid. It was agreed that the invoice be paid promptly and Cllr Jacobs undertook to do so.

To progress order for child-friendly bin for Elms Meadow.

Members considered the options provided by the clerk and it was agreed to obtain a Tidy Bear Bin from Glasdon at a price of c. £275. The clerk was instructed to place the order ASAP. Proposed by Cllr Warnes, seconded by Cllr Odulinski and approved unanimously.

10.02.24 Planning Matters:

To consider new applications received since the last meeting:

NEW APPLICATIONS

1/1088/2024 New outbuilding on cemetery Land at Hollacombe Chapel: No objections

1/0100/2024 New Dwelling and associated works; Parramoor, Eggesford Road – acceptable if conditions are met

1/--38/2024 First Floor Extension, 4 Westcots Drive, Winkleigh

1/1197/2023 – Change of use: Grade II Listed building and barns to 2 dwellings; Hollocombe Barton. Conditions on timing of workings should be met.

All recommendations agreed, proposed by Cllr Jacobs, seconded by Cllr Odulinski.

Additional Item received regarding the planning meeting on Thursday March 7th regarding Great Wells Park development.

An invitation had been received to enable the council to send speakers to the planning decision meeting to be held in Bideford and it was agreed that Cllr Findlay and Cllr Odulinski should appear and speak on behalf of the council. Proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded by Cllr Keys and approved unanimously.

The following decisions has been sent by TDC

1/1213/2023: Willow End – Permission Granted

1/1226?2023: Rear extension to surgery – Granted

11.02.24

To consider proposal to send letter to other councils in Torridge Area seeking mutual support on planning issues and strategies in relation to Torridge District Council.

Cllr Findlay explained that the Planning Group were becoming increasingly frustrated at the way in which TDC planners were persistently ignoring or overruling Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plans and other local views and the suggestion had been raised as to whether Parish councils in Torridge might set up an informal group to co-ordinate actions. Cllr Findlay tabled a document which she proposed sending to the Chairs of other local councils in Torridge. Proposed by Cllr Jacobs, seconded by Cllr Warner and approved unanimously that a letter be sent in the form agreed.

12.02.24

A discussion followed regarding the confusion between the new website and the old one. In order to try to sort this out: First option is to buy the domain name and enable everything to be forwarded to the n site. If that is impossible then we will try to set up page by page forwarding and as a final option then all pages of the old site be deleted.

13.02.24

Employment Committee Report:

The committee had had a number of meetings showing that, amongst other challenges, and contrary to what had been stated by Cllr Roth, his open office data was taking up a considerable amount of space on the clerk's laptop. This data had been removed with the transfer to the new laptop.

On the matter of his contract the unanimous recommendation The recommendation was that the clerk's appointment should be approved as permanent and no longer serving under a provisional agreement.

14.02.24

To consider the council recording and posting the recording of proceedings online.

Planting of wildflower seeds in village

Both the items held over to the next meeting.

Meeting closed 9.24pm

Date of Next Meeting < Wednesday 24th March 2024

7.30 pm at the community centre.

Angela Findlay, Chair, Winkleigh Parish Council

Winkleigh Parish Council
Schedule of Meetings for 2024-25
Meetings to be held at the Winkleigh Community Centre
Unless otherwise stated

Date	Time	Event	Venue
27 March 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
24 April 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
TBA May 2024		Parish Meeting	WCC
22 May 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council AGM	WCC
26 June 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
24 July 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
25 Sept. 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
23 Oct. 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
27 Nov. 2024	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
29 January 2025	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
26 Feb. 2025	7,30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC
26 March 2025	7,30pm	Parish Council Meeting	WCC

Cllr Andrew Saywell DCC Report for Winkleigh Parish Council

Local Highways Matters – Resurfacing along the Airfield Road appears to be going well and what has already been done is an enormous improvement on what had been there previously! Am aware of ongoing issues with the road towards Bridge Reeve and the road past Chris Hodgson Engineering up near Hollocombe, as well as roads near Bondleigh in the south of the Parish. I will also be attending the site visit with the Chair on Friday to look at road safety issues.

Grants – I was pleased to be able to award a £500 from my Locality Budget to help support the continuation of Distinctly Winkleigh. Parish newsletters are still, despite this age of social media, a very important tool in communicating with our residents and informing them as to what is going on in the area. Afterall, not everyone has or uses a Facebook account!

DCC Budgets – The Budget meeting was held on the 15th February and agreed. The overall revenue budget is set to increase to £743 million. Adult Care and Health gets a 6% (£20.5m) increase with an overall budget of just under £361m. Children’s Services gets a £21.5m increase of 10.4% for a budget of just under £228m.

The Highways and Transport Directorate gets a more modest 4.7% increase of £3.9m... but that is still welcome!

In addition, the final Central Government Financial Settlement was more generous than expected – a further £1.5m will go into Highways Drainage on top of the proposed budgets.

Councillor Locality Grants will also be increased from £5,000 back up to £8,000.

DCC’s share of the Council Tax will increase by 4.99%, of which 2% is specifically ringfenced for Adult Social Care. I know Council Tax increases are never welcome... but it is needed to fund the continued demand on social services and Highways and to ensure the Council has a sound budget. The alternative is to take money out of

reserves to prop up day to day expenditure... and if we did that it would weaken Devon's financial position and start getting the Council into the mess that other authorities like Somerset and Birmingham have got themselves into...

Devolution – The Devolution Deal for Devon and Torbay has now been published. The 40-page proposed Deal sets out in detail proposals that could see the transfer of powers and funding to a Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, subject to approval by Devon and Torbay following a public consultation which has now started.

The proposed Combined County Authority would be a partnership made up of Councillors representing the councils of Devon and Torbay, including District Councils, and representatives from business and education. Together, that partnership would deliver on a jointly agreed programme, working alongside a wide range of local stakeholders to tackle key local priorities.

The Government has chosen Devon and Torbay as one of only a small number of local authority areas in the country to form a Combined County Authority (CCA), that will **not** require an elected Mayor or changes to the current structure of local councils.

The Deal should allow important decisions to be taken locally by people who know their areas best, on priorities that matter to the people of Devon and Torbay Rural such as building more affordable homes, investing in new quality jobs and skills, and improving public transport.

Highlights of the proposal are:

- Direct control of adult education to create up to 50,000 new training and retraining opportunities by 2030
- Government transfer of over £16 million to invest in new green jobs, homes, skills, and business growth, and accelerate Devon and Torbay's transition to a net-zero economy
- Stronger partnership with Homes England to create a joint local action plan for affordable housing schemes for local people and reduce homelessness
- Even closer working between Devon and Torbay to improve the efficiency and co-ordination of public transport. There is an ambition to introduce a single ticketing system for travellers and investment in services to provide greater access to public transport
- Devon and Torbay would be responsible for developing, designing and delivering the next stages of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2025
- Boosting and supporting high growth business sectors in Devon and Torbay, such as advanced marine engineering, defence, photonics and digital

Schedule B

Meeting 28th February 2024

Note B: Major expenditure since last meeting

Parish Clerk Salary:	£ 1,114.80
Hollocombe Bench:	£ 614.99 (incl VAT)
Clerk's Computer:	£ 649.00 (incl VAT)
GG Website Charges:	£ 120.00 (incl VAT)
Torrige DC Cleaning Charge	£ 707
Invoice for Stephens Scown	£ 240.00 (incl VAT)

Note: The ledger held by the clerk shows the final item as having been paid on 2nd November 2023 but a check of the bank statements from October through to January 2024 shows no cheque has been banked. Action taken to make the payment and, if necessary, cancel any previous cheque if it has been issued.

Committed ongoing expenditure

Devon County Council:	Bollard Supply and Installation	c. £700
Litter Bin for Children's Playground:	Glasdon Litter Bear	c. £275