



## WINSCOMBE & SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**The Annual Parish Assembly was held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
at 7.30pm via Zoom**

### **Confirmed minutes of the annual meeting of Winscombe & Sandford Parish**

**Present:** Mr A Forbes (Parish Council Chairman)  
Approximately 51 parishioners and guest speakers  
Including 12 Parish & Ward Councillors

**NSC Parish Liaison Officer:** Mr J Kirby  
**Clerk:** Mrs. L Rampton  
**Deputy Clerk:** Ms C McGrath

***Mr A Forbes, Chairman of the Parish Council presided.***

The Chairman expressed sadness on the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021. On behalf of the Parish Council, he wished to send heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and all her family. ***A minute of silence was held before the start of the meeting.***

Apologies for absence had been received from the Police Beat Team along with Ward Cllr Harley

1. **The minutes of the 2019 Annual Assembly.** The minutes of the 2019 Annual Assembly held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.  
Proposed by Mr G Lloyd Seconded by Mr L Van Haaren.  
The majority of those present and voting at the meeting were in favour  
*COVID regulations had meant that the annual parish assembly in 2020 could not be held due to National lockdown restrictions in force for best part of 2020.*
2. **The Chairman's Report.** Mr Forbes addressed the Assembly, and the full text of this report is attached. This was the first, and quite possibly last assembly to be held virtually due to current temporary Government legislation permitting meetings of this nature expiring on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The Chairman gave a summary only of Parish Council works. Tribute was paid to a long-standing Parish Councillor and past Parish Council Chairman, John Westlake who had served over fifty continuous years as a Parish Councillor and who had passed away in December 2019. Details of Parish Council committee and working group activities had been circulated in the form of written reports.
3. **Community Policing.** A report was read to the meeting.
4. **Banwell Bypass: An update on project progress and plans for public consultation on route optioneering.** NSC Officers advised that although early into the Banwell Bypass project, transport assessments and models were in the process of being developed and a final contractor yet to be appointed. Groups of local residents and businesses would be organised into community consultation groups with the assistance of the Parish Council for end of May 2021 and public consultation on proposed routes following in the summer of this year.  
Questions submitted in advance of the Assembly were answered by NSC Officers.
5. **Winterstoke Hundred Academy school expansion project team progress update.**  
North Somerset Council have plans for a 900 school-place expansion of Winterstoke Hundred Academy just outside Weston-super-Mare. The expanded school facilities, which along with the Banwell Bypass would be funded through Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund, would help to increase intake so that growing families from across the area could access local schooling. It is hoped that the modern classrooms and teaching facilities would have a positive impact on pupils' attainment and works on the new school were expected to be completed by July 2022.
6. **NSC Liaison Officer Update and what do your District Councillors get up to – a chance to ask questions. To include an update on home to school transport for Churchill Academy.**  
NSC Parish Liaison Officer gave an update about current COVID infection rates in North Somerset and how cases had been dealt with by local hospitals.



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Ward Cllr Haverson spoke on home to school transport issues for Churchill Academy from the parish as well as the Banwell Bypass and highway modifications to the Church Road triangle with its junction with Woodborough Road. She continued to take an interest in 20mph speed limits/zones for the parish.

### 7. The Speed of Traffic in the Parish

#### a. **20's Plenty for Us, – a Sandford village group**

'20's Plenty for Sandford' had been set up due to the speed of traffic despite a number of vehicle activated signs on the A368 through the village. Concern was expressed that the Banwell Bypass would only lead to increased traffic through the parish.

#### b. **Greener Church Road Group**

'The Greener Church Road Group' was an environment group serving the residents of Church Road and Winscombe Hill. Working within NSC and national policy, they had been campaigning for over 13 months for 20 mph speed limits and had more recently extended this area across the parish.

#### c. **Parish Council consultation regarding the principle of a 20mph scheme for the parish. Cllrs Mark Boddy, Jack Taviner and Tom Nicholson**

Whilst concern from local residents regarding speeding traffic needed to be addressed, due to conflicting opinions on how solutions to the issue should be achieved from some local groups, the Parish Council was in the process of carrying out an independent and unbiased survey of residents' opinion. Results from this would be assessed by the Environment Group and Parish Council when meetings recommenced when COVID guidance permitted.

### 8. What can I do about damage to the climate and the environment?– Greener Church Road Group

Alysun spoke on the topic of global warming along with suggestions for ways that we could all act to reduce our impact on this. Whilst investment in ground source and air source heat pumps, solar panels and electric cars required initial investment, it was advised this would be recouped over a number of years. Concern was expressed for the amount of plastic waste produced and those at the meeting were encouraged to try to cut back by not buying pre-packaged veg and also reusing plastic containers. The GCR Group had made pledges to stop using pesticides in gardens and on allotments, giving a positive impact on the bee and bird population. Gardens could be made a place for insects and wildlife to thrive. Growing wildflowers in verges and leaving part of garden to nature all helped towards the environment. Through the initial COVID lockdown period, new social media groups were created amongst the neighbours offering each other assistance and support. This led to an increased spirit of community in the Church Road area and the groups are now reusing and recycling unwanted items as well as holding plant swaps.

### 9. Churchill and Langford Minibus Society News

Whilst the mini-buses operated for a limited number of weeks over the past year, volunteers and drivers took on another role during lock-down periods as part of the mutual aid responses around the villages delivering meals to the elderly, along with food and medicine supplies to those self-isolating. More latterly they had been assisting with medical and vaccine appointments.

*Thanks were expressed to the Society for the assistance they had provided to this parish, especially with parish medical transport groups unable to operate due to COVID insurance requirements.*

### 10. The Future of Churchill Sports Centre

Local community support for the centre had been shown in over 1,900 responses to the recent on-line survey. 97% of those responding supported the swimming pool being retained and refurbished. NSC, as owners of the centre was now considering positive options for the future of Churchill Sports Centre and finding solutions to secure the future of this. Executive members were currently considering options for private investment and funding. Thanks were expressed to all those that had taken time to respond to the survey.

### 11. To hear news from Winscombe Sports Clubs – how they have fared over the past 12 months and to hear of their future plans:

- #### a. **Winscombe Football Club.**
- With the club nearing 100 years of age and team sports being encouraged for fitness and health, the club continued to go from strength to strength with an increase in the number of teams and players aged from 3 – 63. With gradual lifting of COVID restrictions children were enjoying a return to organised sport and it was hoped that the 1<sup>st</sup> men's' team would secure promotion to a higher



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league at the end of the season. Financial investment into the pitches and training area continued with new floodlighting installed (more eco-friendly and less light pollution for close neighbours) and the replacement of barriers enclosing the 1<sup>st</sup> team pitch. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their contribution towards this.

- b. **Winscombe Cricket Club.** With only 7 cricket matches played since August 2019, the club were delighted with the lifting of COVID restrictions allowing cricket matches to resume with effect 13<sup>th</sup> April. Grounds had been prepared in readiness for the restart of matches. The enforced closure of the clubhouse over the previous 12-month period had resulted in a loss of income for the club and thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for their temporary assistance through that difficult period. Maintenance and refurbishment work to the clubhouse had taken place during the period of enforced enclosure with members being hopeful that this would re-open on 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- c. **Winscombe Tennis Club.** The meeting was advised of the previous location of the club before this moved to land adjacent to the Recreation Ground in 1989. The club had a healthy membership of 150 ranging from players aged from just four years old to those in their nineties! COVID lockdown restrictions had allowed the club time to launch a new website and booking system. The message to the community was to 'pay and play'.
- d. **Winscombe Bowling Club – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and celebration plans.** Like other clubs, COVID had totally decimated the planned schedule for 2020. The club had originated 100 years previously in 1921 at a location on Sidcot Lane before moving to the current site on the corner of Well Close and Sandford Road. To celebrate the club's centenary anniversary a full programme of events had been scheduled for 2021. Whilst the club was thriving, new membership was still being encouraged.

12. **Winscombe and Sandford Tree Wardens.** The works of the tree wardens with NSC and local schools was outlined. Tree Wardens were originally established nationally by the Tree Council of Great Britain, and North Somerset has a number of groups who operate in their own parishes in association with the Parish and North Somerset Councils. Our Parish Tree Wardens are active in keeping the community orchard productive as well as planting new trees in the parish – most recently in the Sandford Winnowing End Play Area. However, the huge challenge that threatens to engulf the parish is ash dieback. The National Trust has a battle to remove danger from infected ash adjacent to highways and major paths. In a few years experts are confident that the many treescapes of ash we now enjoy will be a thing of the past – just as elms virtually disappeared in the 1970s. A few ash trees will survive and breeding from these will be a hope for the future. It is best not to clear/fell ashes as a precaution. You might unknowingly destroy trees with valuable resistance. However, once dieback is confirmed then trees should be removed as soon as possible.

13. **An update from Sandford Community Centre**

Whilst land was not currently available for a new centre at this time, a charity had been set-up that concentrated on small projects for the benefit of the local community. Works in the previous 12-months included the provision of two seats and a children's picnic bench at the Winnowing End play-area. It was hoped that the Sandford Community Centre Charity would benefit from any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments due to new approved planning developments in the village.

14. **To receive an update on plans for a new Winscombe Community Centre**

Extensive consultation with residents had taken place that included attendance at parish fairs and events as well as presentations to Parish Assemblies and Parish Council meetings over the last five-year period. A planning application for a new centre had now been submitted to NSC for consideration that invited further public comment on the plans. The centre had been designed to blend with the surrounding landscape and to respect the eco planning requirements. The current centre would be dedicated to the youth of the parish and the former Headmasters House (current Parish Council Office) be redesignated for residential use.

15. **Further questions from 'Zoom Chat'**

The Parish Council Chairman thanked speakers and parishioners for attending the meeting.

- The Parish Council Occasional Newsletter Editor encouraged local organisations to submit articles for inclusion in forthcoming editions.



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- It was confirmed that the fingerpost sign on The Church Road Triangle junction with Woodborough Road had been taken away for refurbishment and repair.
- Comment was made on a daily manoeuvre made by the school bus when turning to re-enter Church Road from Woodborough Road.

***Written reports from the following Parish Council Committees and Working Group would be available on the PC website from 12<sup>th</sup> April:***

***Cemetery & Allotment Working Group***

***Employment, Finance & Policies Committee***

***Environment and Award Land Working Group***

***Planning Committee***

***Play Area Working Group***

***War Memorial Recreation Ground Advisory Committee***

With no further questions from parishioners, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date .....

*Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council acknowledge the general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (age, race, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marital status, religion & belief, pregnancy & maternity and disability) Crime and Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.*