



## WINSCOMBE & SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### The Annual Parish Assembly was held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Winscombe Community Centre at 7.30 p.m.

#### Confirmed minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of Winscombe & Sandford Parish

**Present:** Archie Forbes (Chair)  
Approximately 20 parishioners and guest speakers  
including 6 Parish & Ward Councillors

**Clerk:** Lynne Rampton  
**Deputy Clerk:** Catherine McGrath

**Apologies for absence:** Parish Cllrs Adams, Lloyd, Kilpatrick, Nicholson, and Van Haaren

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

1. **The minutes of the 2021 Annual Assembly** held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
2. **The Chair's Report of Parish Council activities: What has your Parish Council and Parish Councillors been doing in the last 12 months** The Chair welcomed all Parishioners, guest speakers and Councillors to the meeting. A full text of this report is attached.
3. **Community Policing: Voice from the Villages Police Beat Team – a report on policing issues for the parish)** A report was read to the meeting
4. **What do your District Councillors get up to – a chance to ask questions**  
Cllrs Haverson and Harley both spoke on current public consultations for the Banwell Bypass and Highways Improvements, along with the Local Plan to 2038. With the member representing a number of villages, each having different needs, Cllr Haverson found it difficult to support all parish council requests. The Cllr considered that Winscombe & Sandford had fared well in local plan proposals but would end up with additional traffic from the bypass. Cllr Harley was working with NSC to improve their communication with communities, especially for those without IT skills or the internet. The member was also encouraging officers to share more information with the parish councils.  
A question was answered about the formerly proposed Churchill Garden Village as part of the rejected Joint Spatial Plans.
5. **Community Working in the parish from a Co-op Pioneer.** The representative explained the role created to promote village activities and a report is attached.
6. **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and parish celebrations including a Grand Festival at the Recreation Ground.** An enthusiastic presentation was delivered on parish activities taking place in 2022. A report is attached.
7. **To receive a presentation on the Toads of Winscombe Hill & the Toad Patrol**  
An informative and entertaining presentation was given by a toad patrol volunteer. Fun facts about the diet and migration habits of a toad were relayed to the meeting along with the more serious problem of toads meeting a sorry end under the wheels of a passing vehicle when crossing roads to get back to ponds for breeding. Many amphibians came out of hibernation and set off for their mating grounds from February to April each year, with Winscombe Hill being a particularly favourite hot spot for the migratory hop. There has been a drastic decline in many of the UK's once-common native species, including amphibians and so, what started as an unofficial group of volunteers assisting toads across the road 10 years ago has now become part of the Reptile & Amphibian Group for Somerset with over 100 volunteers that will turn out to assist the toads when weather conditions suggest large numbers of toads are likely to be at risk.
8. **To receive an update on plans for a new Winscombe Community Centre**  
Developing ideas for a new centre to meet the demands of a growing parish were submitted as a planning application that gained approval earlier in 2022. Plans for the new centre would replace the old annex buildings with a new multi-functional building, whilst still retaining the current centre for youth activities. NSC Planners



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considered that the design of the new centre was sympathetic with good connections to the centre of the village including cycling access along the Strawberry Line. Construction of the low-carbon footprint design would increase biodiversity in the area. Plans were in place to improve the surrounding grassland and habitat. Whilst there still was a long way to go with obtaining funding before building works started, WinSpace had set themselves a target of 8 months to now approach local businesses and grant organisations to reach 75% of the £2.2m needed to fund the project. The Parish Council was thanked for their support for the plan to date, and it was hoped that final negotiations for a loan and grant towards the new centre would soon commence.

A further public meeting and drop-in event to hear community views had been arranged for 27<sup>th</sup> April

Questions were answered in relation to eco measures and grant applications made to date.

### 7. Winscombe & Sandford Fairtrade

The meeting was advised that signs were installed in 2009 demonstrating that the parish had achieved Fairtrade status, with the parish promoting fair products to support farmers in developing countries to improve the amount of crop they produce and its quality which were important for sustainable livelihoods. It meant that farmers could earn more from what they produced to become more economically stable and more reliable suppliers. It would hopefully enable them to afford medical care along with educational costs for their children – as well as food to feed the family. It was disappointing to note that some large multi-national companies were moving away from the use of Fairtrade products at this time. A good selection of Fairtrade products was sold at the Thursday Winscombe Market (more volunteers needed please), as well as in village supermarkets.

Questions were answered about the criteria for becoming a fairtrade village along with the percentage of parishioners buying fairtrade products.

### 8. Responses to questions from the floor. There were no further questions from the meeting.

**Reports from the following Parish Council committees & working groups along with other reports listed would be available to view on the parish council website or in hard copy on request from the parish office:**

***Coop Pioneer***

***Parish Jubilee celebrations from the Flags & Festivals Group***

***Parish Council Chair's address***

***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***

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.

Signed ..... (Parish Council Chair)

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.*