



WINSCOMBE & SANDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**The Annual Parish Assembly was held on Monday 1st April 2019
at Sandford Village Hall, 7.30pm.**

Confirmed minutes of the annual meeting of Winscombe & Sandford Parish

Present: Mr M Williamson (Parish Council Chairman)
Approximately 25 parishioners and guest speakers
11 other Parish & Ward Councillors

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

Apologies for absence were received from Winscombe Cricket and Tennis Clubs, Parish Councillors I Kilpatrick, G Paterson and V Slater

Mr M Williamson, Chairman of the Parish Council presided.

1. **The minutes of the 2018 Annual Assembly.** The minutes of the 2018 Annual Assembly held on 14th May 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Mr G Lloyd, seconded by Mr J Westlake. All present at the last meeting were in favour
2. **The Chairman's Report.** Mr Williamson addressed the Assembly and the full text of this report is attached. As a meeting for all parishioners rather than that of the Parish Council, the Parish Council Chairman welcomed all speakers. The Chairman gave a summary only of Parish Council works. Tribute was paid to a long standing Parish Councillor and past Parish Council Chairman, Margret Ballard who had passed away in 2018, she was sadly missed by all. With Parish Council elections in May 2019 for all 15 Parish Councillor places, the Chairman thanked the current Councillors for their time and support over the past four-year period. Details of Parish Council committee and working group activities had been circulated in the form of written reports.
3. **Community Policing.** With the police not being in attendance, there was no report available.
4. **Youth Club Update.** The Chairman read a report from the club to the meeting. Winscombe Youth Club had suffered a period of decline in 2018, but after some publicity and encouragement managed to remain open and numbers were again thriving. The Parish Council were thanked for their continued financial support, without which the Youth Club would be unable to continue.
It was expressed at the meeting that the Youth Club was considered to be a valuable community asset and gratitude to the volunteer helpers expressed.
5. **To hear news from local village traders: "Use or lose your local shops"**
As a relatively new trader in the parish, Idesign Kitchens had been welcomed and received support from traders and the community, a sentiment that had also been echoed by other businesses. On behalf of local traders, it was reported on the success of the 2018 December Christmas shopping evening and a repeat event was planned for Tuesday evening, 3rd December 2019.
6. **Axe and Cheddar Valley Sea Cadets**
The group was going from strength to strength, now with over 30 cadets in the junior and senior sections. Cadets were achieving an impressive range of qualifications from activities including sailing, rowing, boating and windsurfing. A full report is attached to the minutes, but a plea was made, that due to the success of the group more volunteer staff are needed to help run the unit.
7. **Sandford Paths and the Environment.** There was no report available.
8. **Churchill and Langford Minibus Society**
The Society Chairman advised that the minibus society had been established in 1974 and operated one bus until 2015 when grant funding allowed the purchase of a second bus. From 2015, the area covered by the society expanded to include neighbouring parishes including Winscombe and Sandford. The society runs a number of



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regular shopping trips as well as non-scheduled trips. The society was grateful for the financial support received from this and other parishes but made a plea for more volunteer drivers.

9. Winscombe Sporting Clubs – updates from various clubs

Winscombe Ladies Hockey Club

The Club Chairman advised that the hockey club had returned to play in the parish using the Sidcot School All-Weather pitch. The pitch was considered to be one of the best pitches in the southwest, although changing and hospitality facilities were considered to be sadly lacking at the recreation ground. A dedicated team of volunteers ran the club that now had 120 adult and 80 junior members.

In response to questions, it was advised that:

- a) the school had entered into a pitch maintenance contract and the life expectancy of this was anticipated to be 12 -15 years.
- b) Post match refreshments were being served in the school pavilion, as the cricket clubhouse was not open when hockey was played.
- c) There were no changing facilities suitable for ladies teams at the recreation ground

Winscombe Football Club

The Club Chairman congratulated the other sporting clubs as they were all playing at an exceptional level for their sports, this however had prompted rapid growth of all clubs and it was now proving a challenge to find enough pitch space to accommodate all those wishing to participate. Winscombe was proudly home to some of the best and well-run clubs in the country with the football club having over 350 junior and adult members playing for their teams on a weekly basis. Planning permission was currently being sought to upgrade football floodlighting and grant funding had been submitted for these, and the replacement of the pitch barriers. The club had recently renewed its FA Charter status and was considered to be in the top 1% in the country for community clubs. Other activities included the annual football exchange programme with Wolkersdorf, Germany, and a fund raising masked ball that would give back part of funds raised to other community groups. In response to a question, it was confirmed that at this time there are no dedicated girls and ladies teams due to lack of pitch and changing facilities.

Winscombe Rugby Club

The Club Chairman advised that part of the club was set-up as a registered charity and club membership totalled almost 500, playing from age 5 upwards. New homes in the parish would ensure that the club continued to grow. Challenges associated with this included car parking, and the cricket clubhouse not being large enough to accommodate all sporting clubs. The Girls and Ladies rugby teams continued to play at a high level with the Under 15 and 18's teams being National Champions in 2018. Changing facilities for ladies teams was again highlighted as an area of concern with it being hoped that working with other clubs and the Parish Council that a sports hub could be created to cater for all clubs and gender.

Apologies for their absence had been received from both Winscombe Cricket and Tennis Clubs

10. WinSpace – to receive an update on plans for a new Winscombe Community Centre (WCC)

Following consultation with NSC Planning Department, concern had been expressed for the proposed location of a larger community centre, close to residential properties, loss of open green space and loss of a historic building should the current community centre be demolished/converted.

A recent meeting open to all members of the parish (attended by around 50 people) had considered a number of options with the preferred plan for the WCC to remain in its current location. The centre should be refurbished and new buildings, constructed of bricks and mortar erected on the site of the Youth Club House, Art Shed and former Nursery School. Finance continued to be an issue with the possibility of the old Head-Master's House (Parish Council Offices) being sold on as a residential dwelling to partly finance the new build.

To celebrate to 40th anniversary of the WCC, a festival Sunday would be held on 7th July. This would celebrate the past, present and future of the WCC and would be open, free of charge to all members of the parish.

In response to comments and questions from the floor it was confirmed that without a Parish Vicar, the Church could not consider or progress plans at this time to merge St James Hall with the WCC. Both WinSpace and Winscombe Sporting Clubs were mindful of the others plans.



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11. NSC Ward Councillor and Liaison Officer Update: What do your district Councillors get up to – a chance to ask them questions.

Whilst mindful of the period of purdah, a Ward Member reported on the activities of North Somerset Council rather than the activities of individual Councillors. Topics included planning issues, road maintenance, the Weston Hospital A&E department and waste collections. The Sandford Neighbourhood Group and Parish were wished the best of luck in the Aurora Planning Appeal commencing on 2nd April. A full report of the address is attached to the minutes.

The NSC Parish Liaison Officer spoke on staffing changes and challenging circumstances within NSC and reported that a new Chief Executive Officer was now in post. A meeting with the sports clubs was offered as the Liaison Officer had previous experience working with sporting clubs in securing funding to improve sports facilities.

A parishioner expressed gratitude to a NSC Waste Minimisation Officer for the excellent service provided in promptly removing fly-tipping when reported.

12. Other questions or statements from the floor.

- A resident of Woodborough Drive spoke on parking issues and the need for more car parks. Issues had recently been made worse with a Utility Company working in the area taking over a number of car parking spaces for their works compound. A review of car parking in the parish should be carried out on completion of the Utility Company works.
- Improved bus services to the centre of Winscombe would ease parking issues.
- Following adoption by NSC of the Climate Emergency Motion, the new Council would decide on initiatives to encourage and support other carbon neutral initiatives.
- Parish Council Elections. In response to a question, the criteria for being a Parish Councillor was explained as well as the circumstances in which a ballot to fill those places would be held.

Until the next annual assembly in 2020, reports from the following Parish Council committees & working groups along with other reports listed would be available to parishioners on request from the parish council office:

- The Parish Council Chairman's address
- Award Land Working Group
- Cemetery & Allotments Working Group
- Employment, Finance & Policies Committee
- Environment Working Group
- A Report on Local Planning in the Year
- Play Area & Skate Park Working Group
- War Memorial Recreation Ground Advisory Committee
- Axe and District Sea Cadets
- Churchill and Langford Mini-Bus Society
- NSC Ward Councillors
- Youth Club Report

With no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 9.15 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.