

Talk at Community Centre 11th April

Thank you for inviting me and giving me the opportunity to explain the role of a Coop Pioneer.

My role is simple : to promote any group or activity that is going on in Winscombe, or nearby, so that as many know about them as possible.

Since starting in January, and from being at the Coop here for the last 5 years, I realise how lucky I am to live in such a strong community village. There is so much going on I thought tonight would be a good opportunity to list them so that you here may learn about a new group that may interest you or a friend.

There are the clubs of Bowls, Badminton, Cricket, Hockey, Football, Running, Rugby, Table Tennis and Tennis for the sporty.

The community Association here provides a hub for the village offering classes of Art, Aerobics and fitness. There is a Bridge club. A choir sings here as well as it being a meeting place for the U3A, Probus and Moose International.

The village has a Scout and Brownie group.

The West Mendip Orchestra practice in the Lynch Chapel.

There are the Bell Ringers, The Gardening Club, The Strawberry Line Team and the Millennium Green trust.

We have weekly coffee mornings and a Market here at the Centre on a Thursday morning.

As we have an active WI and we are a Fairtrade Village.

All of these clubs and groups have links to them from the Parish Council Website that I have found really useful in gaining contact details for each and encourage others to look there too.

I have probably missed a great deal more of what happens in the village and I hope from this evening I will learn more of what is going on for villagers to participate in.

I have not made contact with all groups mentioned above but would very much like to offer to help promote their group or activity as best I can.

Please pass on my contact details to any you think may benefit to Craig.Clarke@Coop.co.uk. I also have a Facebook and Twitter account to use for promotion.

It just leaves me to thank the club and groups organisers, secretaries, treasurers and general doers that make all these things happen and contribute to our strong community here in Winscombe –
Thank you.





Presentation to the Annual Parish Assembly

11th April 2022

- Good evening – and thank you for this opportunity to talk about the Jubilee celebrations that we are organising for our Community in Sandford and Winscombe.
- I want to take you back to the scene outside the Woodborough Inn in November 2020. Some men had just finished bringing down the Remembrance Flags and were mulling over the future. The Pandemic was causing terrible suffering for many and communities across the country were suffering. We looked to see when next the flags might fly – and we then realised that 2022 would see the country celebrating the Platinum Jubilee. Our Queen has seen extraordinary changes from Ration Books to Facebook – surely we can organise a party to recognise our wonderful Queen's achievement – and have some fun.
- During 2021 we spent time consulting the community, holding Open Meetings and then developing our plans.
- The Platinum Jubilee is a truly unique Event – no other Monarch of this country has been on the Throne for 70 years – Queen Elizabeth II has achieved that and we marked that on 6th February earlier this year with a Service of Thanksgiving in St James's Church and two ceremonial tree plantings in Sandford and Winscombe
- Quite rightly, the centre of the celebrations will be in London

➤ 2nd June 2022

➤ Queen's Birthday Parade,

➤ Trooping of the Colour & Jubilee Beacons

➤ 3rd June

➤ Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral

➤ 4th June

➤ Epsom Derby & Platinum Party at the Palace.

➤ **5th June**

➤ Big Jubilee Lunch and Pageant

➤ **However, we are bringing the Jubilee to your doorstep**

22nd May – 12^h June

Flying of Union Flags

Bunting Bonanza

Royal Scarecrows

Jubilee Exhibition in the Library

27th May (tbc)

Event – Royal Memorabilia/Stories

28th May

Concert – Winscombe Community Singers

30th May (tbc)

Event – Talk:- Back in time – the 50s'

31st May

Jubilee Coffee Morning at the Church Centre

2nd June (tbc)

Jubilee Tea Party for Retired Residents in Sandford

Lighting of Beacons in

Winscombe and Sandford

3rd June

Bowling Club Jubilee Open Day

4th June

Jubilee Grand Festival

5th June

**Services of Thanksgiving at St James's Church and All Saints Church
Street Parties across the Parish**

11th June 2022

Concert – 'Badgerset' with 'High & Dry'

More information will be found on our
website: <https://winscombeandsandfordjubilee.org.uk>
And our facebook page: celebrating the jubilee in Winscombe and
Sandford

So my challenge to you is:

Have you got your bunting ready?

Have you got your Wristband?

Have you organised your Street Party?

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Parish Council

- **You gave us permission to use the Recreation Ground for the Jubilee Grand Festival; and**
- **You gave us the first grant and this has helped us with all our subsequent fundraising**

Importantly, I am delighted to announce this evening that we have now reached OUR Funding Target thanks to a recent grant from the National Grid. Thus, we can now proceed with delivering the programme of Events.

Thank you



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – PARISH ASSEMBLY 2022

Welcome to the Parish Assembly. I am Archie Forbes and I am the Chairman of the Parish Council. Lynne Rampton, our Parish Clerk, will be taking the Minutes.

Would speakers please keep to their allotted times. Questions can also be asked after each speaker has finished.

This is the first live meeting for three years because of the Covid Pandemic. We still have Covid problems in our Parish and this still has an effect on our community. Many are still working from home and this may be the way forward in future. At least the children can go to school which is a great benefit.

The 'Home to School' bus issue, which causes such grievance, has still not been solved long term. North Somerset Council have now stated that the school buses will run until Autumn 2023. At least this is an improvement.

The Parish Council has been having live meetings since July 2021. All other Committees and working group meetings are on Zoom apart from the Cemetery and Allotment meetings which are held on-site in the open.

The Banwell Bypass is a big issue which might have an impact on our Parish. The Parish Council has a Working Group looking into all the relevant issues and they are now considering the best way forward.

The late night shopping event went ahead last December and was again, after the Covid break, very successful.

The Christmas trees, one outside the Woodborough Inn and one outside the Spar shop in Sandford looked lovely.

The Sports Clubs are once again up and running and it is good to see that the Recreation Ground is being used at full capacity. The Parish Council has had work done on the Recreation Ground entrance and the car park.

This year is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a Festival Committee (non Parish Council) has been set up to run the celebrations and Fun Day at the Rec.

Many of the footpaths have had stiles replaced with self-closing or kissing-gates. This has greatly improved access to the countryside. We live in a lovely Parish and it is very pleasing to see so many people walking, cycling and enjoying the outdoors.

Archie Forbes

Winscombe and Sandford Annual Parish Assembly April 2022

Cemetery and Allotment Report 2021-2022

Our cemetery is a beautiful and peaceful place with lovely views and quiet areas for reflection and remembrance.

The allotments continue to be popular with a substantial waiting list for plots.

The working group of six councillors supported by our Parish Clerk, our orderly Jenny Nicholas and Lindsay Lawrence of Gowers has focussed on maintaining and enhancing the beauty of the area.

This year we replaced a pergola seat and plan to buy two further seats to replace those showing wear. The allotment fence blew down in the storms. Our thanks to Peter Keenan who very promptly repaired the fence and will carry out strengthening works to avoid future damage. This work continues the with plans to improve the car park access followed by resurfacing and relining. The pergolas roofs will be replaced this year.

Careful and sustainable maintenance ensure our cemetery and allotments continue to be assets to our village.

Cllr Lynne Stephens

Chair

Cemetery and Allotments Working Group

Winscombe & Sandford Annual Parish Assembly 2022

Employment, Policy, and Finance Committee Report

On Personnel matters:

The Parish Office reopened for staff following the lifting of some of the Covid 19 restrictions but remains open to the public on an appointment only basis

All staff salaries have been reviewed except for the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk whose pay-increase for April 2021 has only recently been agreed with unions.

The work of the finance assistant has now been split between the Clerk and Deputy Clerk.

On Policy matters:

In August, the Parish Health and Safety Policy and Risk Assessments were reviewed, updated, and readopted for a further 12 months.

The Committee also reviewed, identified, and recommended updates to the Parish Council standing orders.

On Finance issues:

The Committee reviewed the budget and expenditure at each meeting.

Fees and charges were reviewed, and local grants agreed.

Winscombe Community Association requested a loan of £250,000 and a grant of £250,000 from the Parish Council to help pay for their proposed new centre. Public support for the project was overwhelming. As the money was likely to be required in the year 2022-23 it was included in the precept figure although the final decision on whether to go ahead with the funding has yet to be agreed.

A grant of £2,400 was agreed from the 2022/2023 budgets to the festival committee for the engagement of an event planner for the 2022 Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

A proposal from North Somerset Council for the local Parishes to fund the running costs of Churchill Sports Centre was rejected. The contribution from Winscombe and Sandford was for £24,000 annually and did not allow sufficient time to undertake any consultation nor understand the views of parishioners. We remain involved with the discussions over the future of the Centre.

Precept for 2021/22

The proposed expenditure for 2021/22 was thoroughly challenged and reviewed particularly in respect of the loan and grant request from Winscombe Community Association. This resulted in an increase in the precept from £155,000 to £174,000. The Local Council Element of Headline Council Tax per D Band property increased from £73.33 to £80.25 and is the equivalent to a 9.4% increase rise per 'D' band property.

Lynne Stephens, Chair of the PC Employment, Finance and Policies Committee

Environment Working Group – 2021/22 overview

Highways

The ENV have discussed a number of highway related issues. Carriageway resurfacing has been carried out on the worst affected part of Wimblestone Road. This is in addition to a number of reactive works such as pothole repairs being carried out by our NSC area officer. We continue to push NSC for resurfacing works to the remainder of Wimblestone Road (inc Small Down End and Copse End) and a formal request has been submitted for consideration in future NSC maintenance programmes. We also have a similar request in for NSC to complete carriageway and footway resurfacing to the short remaining section of Belmont Road.

The condition of Max Mill Lane has also been reported to NSC highways through our local area officer.

We also have our vehicle activated sign (VAS) which is regularly moved around the parish reminding road users of the speed limit.

The Parish Council also own around 100 of our parish's streetlights. The Parish Council is currently replacing these as they become faulty. The streetlights are then replaced with modern, energy efficient, LED lights which will continue to be on part-night timers, in line with North Somerset Council. Our streetlight maintenance contractors carry out quarterly checks of all our streetlights at night to ensure they are all working, and subsequent repairs are then made. In the last year a number of faulty lights have been replaced.

If you have any issues to report concerning the roads or footways around our Parish, such as potholes, broken kerbs or blocked gullies, please report these directly to North Somerset Council via their website.

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-or-request-services>

Award Land

A group of volunteers continue to maintain and improve the award land. In recent months we have seen some storm damage at the award land which has resulted in some dangerous/fallen trees being removed. We have also seen a Field Maple tree planted in conjunction with the AONB at the Award Land, as part of 50 trees planted to mark the 50th anniversary of the AONB in the Mendip Hills. In the coming year we have identified the need to update our Woodland Management Plan and to carry out a full tree survey of the area, this will help ensure we currently maintain the area and make the most of the Award Land.

We will soon be advertising for more volunteers to help shape the future of the award land, so please keep an eye out if you're interested or alternatively, get in touch with the Parish Office.

Thanks to Councillor John Witcher, who acts as a liaison between the group and the volunteers.

PROW's

The group has discussed a number of issues concerning the parishes PROW's in the last year which have all been reported to NSC where necessary.

Any issues with our parishes PROW's can be reported directly to NSC.

PLANNING REPORT 2022

The Planning Committee has continued to meet using Zoom. In the last 12 months we have considered 81 applications of which we have been notified: 62 approvals, 7 refusals and 9 which were withdrawn.

My thanks to Catherine, our Deputy Clerk, for her assistance and technological help. Also, to Lynne, our Clerk, who has stood in when Catherine was not available. Thanks also to Kevin, our Planning Vice-Chairman for helping with drive-by viewings and planning discussions.

In Sandford, the Strongvox site is now completed. The Aurora site next to it, although refused by the Inspection, is now a new application for fewer houses and an area for the School. This is now the Stonewood site. There is still no news of the site to the East of the Stonewood site.

In Winscombe, the Woodborough Grange site is now being constructed with many houses already being lived in. The Bridgwater Road site was refused by the Planning Inspectorate. The new Community Centre and Mooseheart applications have now been approved. The NSC Local Plan to 2038 is now in the consultation stage. The Planning Committee has responded.

The Banwell Bypass is now also at the consultation stage. The Parish Council has a dedicated Working Group to consider this.

Although these are the larger applications, the Planning Committee considers all applications with the same diligence. They are important to the individual.

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2022

Play Areas Presentation Report

Our Parish of Winscombe and Sandford is very fortunate to enjoy two very distinctive jewels in it's crown – namely, the well equipped and attractively appointed Children's' Play areas.

For anyone unfamiliar with these superb facilities, one is located by the sports fields within Winscombe's War Memorial Recreation Grounds, and the other sweetly tucked away between pastures at Winnowing End, Sandford.

These important Community infrastructures, are Parish Council owned and cared for, and of course free for all to use and enjoy,

The Play Areas provide a myriad of fun and interesting equipment, being the perfect fit for infant age+ children to assist and help develop active, healthy bodies, and stimulating young imaginations and interactions.

For older kids and active adults, the Winscombe area in particular also offers further sporting and play opportunities - including a state-of-the-art Skate Park, sports play training pitch – and even a range of fixed outdoor exercising apparatus – a veritable 'al fresco' gym!

The Parish Council is justifiably proud of it's comprehensive amenities, which are quite possibly the best equipped and professionally maintained in our region. Certainly, comments heard from visitors to the play areas from outside our parish, suggest we are the envy of many neighbouring parishes and it's easy to see why with such open, attractive settings and lovely far-reaching views!

Safety, security and efficiency are paramount considerations in any such public amenity, and W&S Parish Council certainly cut no corners in this regard. All play areas equipment, structures are comprehensively inspected and physically assessed once every month by a recognised independent professional Company, specialising in playground maintenance. A physical *weekly* Inspection and report is undertaken by an appointed Parish Councillor volunteer, to oversee the condition of the facilities, litter bins etc. Detailed reports with any relevant comments, recommendations for repairs remedial actions etc.; are then submitted to the Parish Clerk for consideration.

As a volunteer to the role of Play Area inspections in 2021, it has been a very real delight to witness first-hand during this past year, the great benefits of fresh air fuelled exercise, sheer pleasure and enjoyment that these facilities provide.

Currently, despite a wild, wet and stormy winter, with some minor exceptions the majority of equipment and grounds are in good working order. Consideration is being given to an overhaul of parts of the Skate Park, painting of the timber stanchions of the Winscombe Aerial Runway and replacement of junior swing seats at Winnowing End.

With ongoing general maintenance and lubrication, it is all systems go at our Play Areas so let the enjoyment begin - bring on the Summer!

Cllr. Larry van Haaren

Report for the WMRG working group 2021 -2022

The terms of reference can be found on the Parish council website :

Parish council-meetings and calendar-WMRG

web link:

[https://www.winscombeandsandford-pc.gov.uk/War Memorial and Rec Ground WG 34297.aspx](https://www.winscombeandsandford-pc.gov.uk/War%20Memorial%20and%20Rec%20Ground%20WG%2034297.aspx)

Meetings.

Normally there are 3 onsite meetings over the year. Due to COVID the 12th of July meeting was cancelled and the 18th of October and 22nd February were executed utilising Zoom.

Unfortunately, I was only able to participate 1 meetings , Archie Forbes took the chair for the October meeting.

Generally, it has been a difficult year for the clubs and staff with changing COVID restrictions.

Although restrictions have been removed with the club changing rooms and all showers now again in use, notices and signs remain in place encouraging social distancing and the need to use sanitiser. Regular cleaning of the changing rooms and shower/toilet facilities continue to be undertaken and hand sanitiser provided. All sports clubs using the changing facilities are taking their own precautions and following advice from their relevant body.

2021/22 budget / expenditure – current position. Expenditure for the period to end of January 2022 was examined by the committee. Annual tree works are yet to take place, but the committee anticipated reaching the end of the current financial year just under budget. Financial contributions towards running costs had been received from three sporting clubs using the grounds and changing facilities.

The annual tree inspection report was received and accepted by the council. Quotations had been received from three contractors for priority 2 tree works (to be completed in the next 12-month period).

A new memorial seat has been donated by family members in memory of a past player with close ties to both the football and cricket clubs.

Planting of a commemorative Oak Tree for the Platinum Jubilee – this had been agreed by the PC as a replacement Oak tree for the one currently in decline close to the changing rooms. The new tree had been planted on the weekend 6th February.

Themes:

Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations:

The PC has agreed to permit the Jubilee Grand Festival Committee to organise a celebratory event on the WMRG on the 4th of June. The plan is being scrutinised to ensure that all Health and Safety as well as insurance requirements have been met. The organising committee will liaise with the sports clubs to ensure minimum impact to the sporting schedule.

The Winscombe Football Club celebrates its 100 years of existence, and a stone plinth and plaque will be erected to commemorate this milestone.

Section 106 funding from the Woodborough Grange development would become available in the foreseeable future. £30k of funding had been secured for the grounds for the improvement of sports pitches and changing facilities, and a decision on how these monies would be spent would be made by the Parish Council.

The drainage on the cricket field / junior football pitches is poor and it is expected that some of this money will be spent on investigation and ,if possible, rectification.

The WMRG has been subject to a number of issues regarding antisocial behaviour resulting in consideration and a budget proposal to install additional CCTV. Due to other financial considerations however, this would not be possible in 2022/2023

Ongoing essential drainage and maintenance works have been carried out to the access roadway and the latest works were completed at the end of January. The work involved replacing a 50m stretch of collapsed rainwater drain and involved a total road and pedestrian access closure for a 2/3-week period. Thanks were expressed to our WMRG Orderly as well as some Parish Councillors who helped with these works although it was disappointing to note that some members of the public subjected the contractors to verbal abuse because the road was closed. Some individual even resorted to removing the barriers and gaining access when the work was not completed.



Mark Boddy, Chair of the WMRG Advisory Committee