

Winkleigh Parish Council

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR WINKLEIGH

Held at Winkleigh Community Centre on

WEDNESDAY 2ND MAY 2018 at 7.30pm

The Annual Parish Assembly was opened to the public by Cllr Alice Turner (Chair) and authorised to discuss all Parish affairs. All members of the public present were informed they may express an opinion, make a statement or ask a question, however, only Local Government electors for the Parish will be entitled to vote on any issue raised at the Meeting.

Voting on a question is done by a majority of electors present at the meeting and the decision of the person chairing the meeting as to the decision is final unless a poll is demanded LGA 1972 ss 18(2).

No votes taken at this meeting are binding on the Parish Council, although they may be considered at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

- 1.18 Minutes of the last Annual Meeting** – 3rd May 2017 were approved as a true and accurate record
- 2.18 Matters arising from foresaid minutes** - The bench by the Kings Arms in The Square damaged by a non-stop road traffic collision has been removed for safety and a replacement bench is awaiting fitment
- 3.18 Guest Speaker: Mike Johnson, Head Teacher Chulmleigh** Summary of progress at Chulmleigh Community College 2017-2018
I am pleased to report the following to Winkleigh Parish Council.

Ofsted Report on Chulmleigh Community College: We consider the recent 'Good' Ofsted grade as being inaccurate and have explained why to Ofsted and the Schools Minister. The results and the behaviour are better than most outstanding secondary schools in Devon and we feel disappointed that Ofsted did not recognise this. We do, however, recognise that Ofsted make mistakes and that schools do not exist to answer to them. Ofsted did their best. I hope the behaviour of our pupils speaks for itself. The college were third in the County for the progress our children make between Year 7 and Year 11, and we are projecting better scores for 2018.

Enrichment at Chulmleigh Community College: Youngsters continue to be given a full programme of enrichment.

Outdoor Education: 50 pupils are on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme; 14 pupils will be representing the college for 10 Tors.

Music: Participation has been enhanced. We now have more than 25% of the college population directly involved in musical activity outside the classroom. I am delighted to report that the musical links between your two community schools (Chulmleigh and Winkleigh) are getting stronger. Only last week, our Head of music was running workshops for children at the Primary School. Year 6 pupils at Winkleigh Primary School also participate in our music academy.

Sport: A full programme of fixtures continues. I am particularly pleased to report that the college is taking part in the national badminton finals at Milton Keynes on Sunday 29th April.

Drama: We were very proud of the performance of our pupils in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream at

Exeter Phoenix in the Autumn term. We hear we will feature in the national programme for Shakespeare in Schools this year.

Writing Competition: We were delighted to take part in this and I would like to thank you for giving us another opportunity to show what our pupils can do.

Our Community: I am very grateful for the support given to us over the year. It does take a whole community to educate a child, not least because we need your positive support to move forward.

The challenge: After getting so much helpful support from the Parish Council regarding our funding, I am sad to report that over the last few weeks, very serious costs have been put on to all school budgets and I feel certain that you will hear more about this in coming months. Staff are working very hard to sustain the schools and make sure standards remain high.

Presentation Josh Watkins (12) – I have lived in Winkleigh all my life, I am currently coming to the end of year 8, which is my 2nd year at Chulmleigh College. There has been a lot of changes in the school recently, for instance we have got a new building which is for the new art, drama, ICT and Tech Department, there is also greater challenge in our lessons and preparing us for our GCSEs, which doesn't start until year 10 but it keeps us on our toes. I really like the inter-house activities and sports which happen each term, they are quite competitive and fun at the same time. Reading in the school is very encouraged and I recently found out about the Carnegie shadowing group which led me on to read the book 'Salt of the Sea' which has been my favourite book of all time, reading has also helped progress my reading age. What I really like in school is Peer parliament, it lets you have a say on what happens in the school and you can ask questions and see what is going to happen and what is happening inside the school.

Presentation Kera Thurlow 4th year student, near the GCSE point scale. A lot has changed for me at the school, the main change happened about a year and half ago when I first started the boxing club. I really felt that this matured me and gave me confidence within my subjects except I wasn't particularly good at English and knew I had to work harder to get good results, so I asked my teachers for extra work and got a tutor outside of school. I am happy that it has paid off and I am really thankful to the teachers who were really good and gave me the extra work and supported me really well.

4.18 The Chair presented her annual report

Another year has flown by and it is once again time for me to give my annual report, I have every intention of keeping it short but if anyone has any questions about the workings of the council either in general or specific please do contact either myself or our Clerk Mrs Melanie Bickell.

Finance:

Grant Applications for the 2018/19 financial year were paid in April 2018 as follows:

C.A.B - £250 towards volunteer advisers including training.

O.D.C.T.G - £400 towards continuation of their current services including the Ring and Ride bus service, voluntary car service and wheelchair accessible transport.

Other donations & grants during 2017/18 were:

The Council donated £75 to the Royal British Legion for a wreath to commemorate Remembrance Day.

The Parish Council budgeted to keep precept the same for 2018/19 as 2017/18 and therefore avoided any increase to residents Council Tax other than those outside our control.

The internal and external audit for 2016/17 were very positive and no issues were raised.

Neighbourhood Plan:

This year has seen the council move forward with the production of its Neighbourhood plan. This could not have been achieved without the help of the Neighbourhood Plan group, the hard work and dedication of its members has been of enormous value to the council at a time when some of us are feeling a little out of our depth when it comes to creating a neighbourhood plan. The group will be on hand at the monthly market to answer any questions or take feedback on the work so far, so please do pay them a visit.

If any member of the public would like to know more about joining the group then please contact, Cllr Adrian Mercer, myself or the Clerk who will be happy to help.

General data protection regulations(GDPR):

The new data protection regulations which come into force on the 25th of May have heralded some changes to the way the Council functions. Along with several new policies which we hope to be able to adopt and ratify at our Annual Parish Council meeting on the 23rd of May, all Cllrs have been issued with a new email address, and a personal device (tablet) solely for Parish Council duties, this is to ensure than any personal data that we have to handle in the course of our duties on the parish council is not compromised and is kept safe and secure.

New contact details for Cllrs will be made available in due course.

This highlights just a few of the topics that have been brought before the council, but as I promised I would keep this report short I won't list any others.

I would like to conclude with my personal thanks to all Cllrs who have served during this past year for giving up their time to help keep the Parish Council functioning, to our Clerk Melanie Bickell for all her hard work behind the scenes, especially setting up 11 new devices to enable Cllrs to become compliant with GDPR.

Thank you to County Cllr Andrew Saywell, for championing the roads around Winkleigh and Hollocombe, amongst other projects.

Finally thank you to District Cllr Betty Boundy for her support and I hope that she is soon on the mend from her recent health issues.

5.18 County Councillor Andrew Saywell Presented his annual report.

Thank You to parishioners and the Parish Council for their support and kindness shown to me since I was elected, I have striven to do my best for this and 17 other parishes I represent, I regard it as a great honour and privilege to represent the Parishes and I have never forgotten this is my basic duties as your County Councillor.

My priorities when elected were to help kickstart and revitalise Torrington's' economy, in particular to have 24-hour cash machines put back into the town. I wanted to ensure our main public roads were maintained and fight for fair funding for Devon schools and oppose any downgrading to Local Health Services, particularly at North Devon Hospital. I can report progress on all of those items;

Firstly, regarding cash machines, Duffies hardware store now has a 24-hour cash machine along with another cash machine at the telephone box in the carpark. There is also an additional cash machine in the M&S Shop;

I have been working with Torridge's Chief regeneration officer to secure a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The LEP is the successor to the old Regional Development Agencies and we were able to have the meeting in Torrington, and whilst there, took him to the old derelict creamery site to see first-hand the problems we have there, we have had a subsequent meeting along with all of the Devon County Cllrs for the Torrington area, we will now have to engage with developer there to try and get something up and running;

Main roads, one of the worst sections of the A386 was just before Merton and this has been resurfaced and also one of the worst section of the A3124 outside Rosemoor gardens is current being resurfaced. That little bit on its own cost ¼ million pounds to do, however, the state of that road enroute to one of our premier tourist attractions was getting disgraceful.

Schools, Devon County Council secured an additional 7.5 million pounds funding from Central Government, although there is much more to do and some way to go to before we get parity with the national average. Devon schools are underfunded by approximately £200 less per pupil but it is still a considerable improvement on 8 years ago when Devon was the second poorest funded County in the Country and pupils were funded by more than £400 less than the national average;

Finally, with regards to the NHS, the Health Authorities announced in the Autumn that they were not going to have any downgrades to acute services at North Devon District hospital.

Regarding my work on the County Council, I sit on the Councils Corporate infrastructure and Regulatory Service Scrutiny committee, which has oversight of Highways, amongst many other things, the children's scrutiny committee and the audit committee.

The majority of my caseload over the past year has been related to highways issue, the more reports made to Highways, (using the online reporting system), the more likely the powers that be at County Hall will allocate a road

for resurfacing. In January I was pleased that my proposal to prioritise more resources for improving drainage on the highways network was accepted by the Councils corporate scrutiny committee and subsequently adopted by the Councils cabinet and DCC itself and that equated to an extra 6.5 million pounds which will be used specifically to fund improvements to drainage as well as some additional patching and pothole repairs, that budget increase was agreed before the 'beast from the east' arrived and the Government has allocated DCC a further 4.5 million to fix highways issues resulting from recent storm damage. Devon has normally 200-250 potholes reported every day, at the moment it is between 600-700 per day. The highways contractor, Scansca, have put on extra gangs but their backlog is huge, and they are having to prioritise A and B roads, followed by the larger C roads, therefore rural areas and unclassified roads it will take longer for the repairs to be done.

DCC budget went up by 4.99% with 2% specifically allocated for adult social care, this rise does help fund an increase of 6.1% which is 13 million pounds in the adult social care and health budget. To give perspective, 13 million pounds is larger than the entire revenue budget for Torridge District Council. It also funded an additional 5.5% increase, which is also 6.5 million in children services budget and help fund the previously mentioned highways budget increase.

Children's Services help look after some of our most vulnerable children in the county. Children Services in Devon commission a range of services from Community Health services to children centres through to foster care. They work in partnership with health and neighbouring authorities to join the resources together, currently the team are commissioning health and care services, with the 2 clinical commissioning groups in Devon and this includes services currently provided by Virgin Care. The types of services contracts covered are mental health nursing and services for disabled children, this contract will be awarded to begin in April 2019. I want to stress that all tenders for commissioning services undergo robust service and contracts that are let are then subject to rigorous contract monitoring, I know as far as Children's Services Contracts are concerned, DCC does not commission on base of cost and price alone but puts more on the quality of the service and ethos of the providers are providing.

During my first year in office, I have been privileged to spend time with our children social workers, and I have seen them working 'in the field' and dealing with cases of children with severe mental health problems through to cases of potential child sexual exploitation, over 700 children in care in Devon and I do consider it our first and most important duty to look after these vulnerable children we have in the County, it is also a very expensive service and this is why sometimes it takes longer for the potholes to be repaired or roads to be done on the Highways.

On top of the £10,000 yearly locality budget I have a further £10,000 for capital community projects and I hope that a scheme from Winkleigh will benefit from this budget.

I have very much enjoyed serving as your councillor, which I regard as an honour and a privilege, I have striven to do the best I can for Winkleigh and the 17 other Parishes I represent.

My priority areas for the next 12 months are to continue to do what I am doing with Torrington, work more closely with District Councils to try and get a more coherent economic vision for this District and to continue with my current aims

6.18 WPC Grant recipients during 2017-18 Report on expenditure

CAB (email)

Our volunteer advisers are highly trained to give the best quality advice and information to the public. This high standard ensures that we maintain the credible Citizens Advice name and provide the local community with accurate and helpful advice to help them move forward with their lives.

This training comes at a large cost to us and we receive no financial support from our National Body who require us to meet certain standards. We asked for a grant from Winkleigh Parish Council to contribute towards the training costs associated with continually developing our volunteers. This includes training courses on debt, which is consistently high enquiry area in the District of Torridge. It also includes Universal Credit training and updates on the continuous changes to the Welfare system.

All residents of Winkleigh are able to access our face to face advice from our Bideford, Torrington and Okehampton offices. We write to all of the Parish Councils in Torridge to ask for financial assistance. We have also set up a fundraising group which has been undertaking various fundraising activities, such as supermarket collections, in order to raise funds locally

Winkleigh Football Club - Stuart Dallyn - Secretary (email)

On behalf of Winkleigh Football Club we would like to thank you for the grant you awarded us last year. We can confirm that this has been put to good use to improve the facilities at the Pavilion, so we are able to serve refreshments to help raise additional funds. We have also installed a fence the length of the field to provide a boundary to the pitch and enable further advertising signs to be installed. The general feeling is that this has massively improved the look of the playing field.

We thank you for your continued support and hope to be able to grow the club to provide further opportunities for local people to take part in sport and support the village.

OCDTG £500 – Sue Wonnacott

Thank you for the invitation to speak and for the grant cheque. We have been servicing the Community for 28 years now and cover an area of 240 Sq miles. We have several services, ring and ride take people from their home, door to door service, in to Okehampton for shopping, we come to Winkleigh on a Tuesday. We have low cost fairs and last year we actually put up the fairs for the first time in 9 years, by £1 a journey so now £5 return trip. We have a paid driver for this with a Devon County Council bus on lease and because we do the ring and ride which is obviously not viable, they sweeten it at the moment by giving us a school's contract.

We use voluntary drivers to run our car scheme, with priority being given to medical appointments, we charge the clients £0.50p per mile from their home and return, plus £2 booking fee and a little extra for 'dead mileage' as the client will only pay mileage for when they are in the car, OCDTG pay to get the driver to them and if we don't have a driver close to them it can be quite expensive for us. Local journeys, i.e. medical appointments/Okehampton is a flat £4 fee (no booking fee). We don't charge extra for friend or relative, and we are getting more and more weekend and evening requests as hospitals are working weekends and evenings now. We have 2 wheelchair accessible vehicles, and 8 seater and a 3 seater, for which we use volunteer drivers for. We are currently fund raising to replace the older of the 2 vehicles as it is starting to cost a lot in maintenance, a new one will cost around £30,000 including the insurance as a specialist team will have to convert the vehicle. We currently have about £6000 plus our vehicle in part exchange. Last year we successfully applied to the Department for Transport for a Grant, and we had a 15-seater minibus which we use as our Community bus, we do life style trips at weekends and on weekdays and have been increasing the choice of destinations and are open to suggestions. We also hire out this bus to communities. These social trips are really important to us, although we give priority to medical visits, it improves health and social wellbeing, reduces social isolation and loneliness which is a real issue.

We apply for grants from Parish Councils and a small grant from Devon County and West Devon which are under threat due to cuts in their own funding, there has been no increase in grant funding for 10 years. We also receive goods from people who do not have the cash to donate but can offer us goods which we can sell.

Church Clock - Collin Gibson

As the treasurer of All Saints Parochial Church I am passing on the gratitude for the contribution of £500 by WPC in April last year to the work to the repair and restoration of our historic church clock. Article in Sept Distinctly Winkleigh which acknowledged all individuals and Community Groups who contributed to the work, it truly was a community effort. The work was carried out April 2018 by Smiths of Derby, Specialists in church clock repairs, the cost was just under £4000 plus other unrelated repairs. We Asked the Community if they favoured the clock being silenced at night and not one positive response to that possibility was received so clock continues to chime 24 hrs a day. Some reliability issues over Christmas but everything working very satisfactory, testimony to hard work and dedication of Tim Rhodes, unofficial village time keeper

7.18 Presentations/guest speakers:

Winkleigh Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Adrian Mercer

The heart of the Neighbourhood Development Plan builds on the Community Plan and Village Design Statement and the huge enthusiasm and engagement of local people, groups and community activities. As a neighbourhood planning group, we are trying to work with local groups, societies and individuals. In the past year since I have been Chairing the group, we have developed a draft plan, we have undertaken a village wide consultation exercise with over 200 responses, been attending the local markets on a very regular basis, reporting back to the Parish Council every month. We held a traffic survey evening with over 70 people attending, and we have met with TDC re their Local Plan because the work we do has to synchronise with that. We also meet monthly to review our progress and plan the next stages. Over next few weeks and months our main aspirations are to gain a better understanding of the plans of local farmers and landowners who are planning on putting in planning applications for housing as we need to work with them and not see them as part of the Problem. We also need to try and understand the priorities of other groups, such as landlords for example, as they are key players in any future housing developments as well as the students and pupils of local schools who are the future recipients of our work in the future. We need to clarify some of the financial opportunities and how some of the money from new housing developments will be allocated to help the community.

I would like to specifically thank people from the volunteer neighbourhood plan group for giving up their time and doing all the work and would welcome expressions of interest to join the group from other people who would like to get involved. I would also like to thank everyone on the parish council for their support and it is great to know the parish council is fully behind us in this work. In summary, The Neighbourhood Development Plan gives a good opportunity to shape the future, geography and culture of the village, dependent upon Government policy in Whitehall. It is important that we take this one-off opportunity and put our best efforts into shaping this plan to have an influence to shape the village in the way we want it to be shaped. Once finalised the Neighbourhood Development Plan will be a Statutory Planning Document whereas the Community Plan and Village Design Statement are not.

Sports Centre – Cllr Tom Radcliffe

I have been the Secretary for 3 years, I learnt so much about it in terms of its history and how it stands with its component parts. The Sports Centre is based on the Winkleigh War Memorial Recreation Field, was established soon after the 2nd World War as a Charitable Trust, and its purpose is to provide facilities to create recreation, sport and education residence for the Local Community. Its running costs are not met in anyway by the community, or indeed by any Local Authority, they are met by the efforts of the committee of management, usually by special fund-raising grants, donations and the users of the Sports Centre. The committee is posed of representatives of all of the various activities that take place and the funding itself is under the auspices of 4 trustees, who are charged with, amongst other things, the financial security fund and the continued success of its activities which is quite a challenge in the current climate. The Sports Centre is a unique environment and as such can offer unique opportunities, has facilities that are very vibrant and supported, the allotments are well supported, the bio-diversity area is well supported, and smaller groups such as the tennis, youth club and Winkleigh football are forging a stronger relationship with the Sports Centre. The snooker room is always full, there are children community facilities through action for children, indoor bowls is incredibly popular, and we have an outdoor play area that is maintained and looked after and used weather dependent. We are trying to develop the centre which has such great potential, the firework display has returned, we are trying to make it a better venue for music, antique fairs occur, and we are developing the old outdoor bowling green and generally anything that serves the needs of the community. The centre relies on the voluntary support of its committee members who work tirelessly for the benefit of the community and as you can imagine the finances are pretty precarious, however, the installation of the telemast has boosted the finances greatly. The committee ensure there is a proper ongoing maintenance programme which is very expensive, Alan Jacobs recently kindly put a new roof on the outside toilet block, and it is all of these individual contributions that allow the Centre to thrive. Our future priorities are to improve the grounds, we have just changed the indoor lighting, the outdoor toilet block to be put back into commission, and we are also proud to report that with the support of the Parish Council we are able to establish the night landing site for the Devon air ambulance which was due entirely to the generosity of the people of the community to fund. We always try to act on every bit of information received on social media, the sports centre is such a great facility which shouldn't be taken for granted and we hope to meet the needs of our community for many years to come.

The Old bowling green has been landscaped, which will not be used for outdoor bowling, and the intention is to hire it out, it has floodlights and is also used as a playground.

8.18 Questions and Public Period

To receive questions from the public concerning matters over which the Parish Council has control or some influence

- There is currently one vacancy on Winkleigh Parish Council for co-option, the next elections for Parish Councillors will be held in May 2019 (Statutory elections). Thank you to all of the applicants who have come forward to act as Councillor for the Parish. All Winkleigh Parish Councillors will stand down in May 2019 and will have the opportunity to stand again during the election process.
- The Old bus shelter Exeter Road Demolition has started and the replacement shelter to be built imminently
- Winkleigh Parish Council will be 125-years old on 4th December 2019 and the Parish Council welcome any ideas how the occasion may be marked during 2019. Ideas to be submitted to the Parish Council by 20th October 2018 to allow for budgeting to be considered

21.03pm Meeting closed