

## WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council extra-ordinary meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm in Winkleigh Community Centre:

**Cllrs Present:** Cllrs; Phillips (Chair), Whitehead, Turner, Jacobs, Naylor, Findlay, Bayley, Hodgson

*The Chair informed the room that an audit recording was in progress to aid with the minutes and would be deleted once draft minutes were issued.*

#### **Public Session:**

##### **A) Members of the Public**

- Several members of the public expressed concern over the lack of provision of footpaths on the worksite currently in operation on Townsend Hill, and asked when this might be resolved. The Chair responded that there was a deadline in place for when this would be resolved.
- A member of the public submitted the following questions to the Council for consideration: “How many paid employees did the WPC have as of 31/12/21?”, and “Did the council consider the suggestion made by County Councillor Saywell at the 27/10/21 meeting regarding concerns expressed as to the lack of full minutes for the 22/09/21 meeting. If so, when, and why was it decided not to follow-up on the suggestion? I appreciate that at least six members were not present at that meeting. The member also observed several mistakes in the 15/12/21 minutes which were duly corrected. The member also observed that the minutes of the 01/12/21 minutes made no mention of the Chair’s response to several questions that were put to him by member of the public pertaining to the LGRC report on the cemetery incident.
- A member of the public expressed serious concern over the number of public complaints made against the standards Lockfleet Ltd and urged the Councillors to take note of them in view of that company’s role in the building of new houses in the parish. No commitment by the Council was made.

#### **Agenda**

##### *E1.1.22 Welcome:*

The Chair formally opened the Council Meeting.

##### *E2.1.22 Apologies for Absence to be received and considered for approval (Chair)*

Chair reported that apologies from Cllrs. Goldsworthy, and Maddocks had been received.

##### *E3.1.22 Declaration of Interest (Chair)*

None.

*E4.1.22 Minutes of previous meetings to be considered for approval (Chair)*

Councillors considered minutes for meetings on 24/11/21, 1/12/21, and 15/12/21 for approval with the corrections regarding the latter two as prompted by the member of the public. Cllr Bayley proposed they be approved as a true and accurate record, seconded Cllr Naylor. 8-0 in favour.

*E5.1.22 Update on arrangements for NAMM Inspection 24/01/22 (Cllr Hodgson)*

Cllr Hodgson gave report on who is to inspect the headstones and when on 24/01/22 at Winkleigh Parish Cemetery (Peter Hayman, 8.30), with stonemason S. Stevens to assist. Cllr Findlay noted that the time this process is taking is unacceptable, and discussion was prompted on whether this would require there to be separate blessings at the cemetery as some headstones might not be ready in time for the scheduled blessing by Revd. Helen Blaine. The Council decided to authorise the affixing of a notice to the cemetery entrance, village notice board, website, and social media, alerting the public as to this inspection and assuring them that where possible the next of kin would be found if a gravestone is causing an immediate problem. Cllr Turner proposed that this report be accepted as a true and accurate record, and that the notice be affixed with a minimum of three days before the allotted date, seconded by Cllr Findlay, 8-0 in favour. See Appendix A for full details.

*E6.1.22 2-22-2-23 Budget discussion*

Discussion prompted the rejection of an initial precept raise of 29.53%, which was suggested in order to cover various potential costs incurred by third parties against the Council. District Councillor Newton was invited to give his advice, which was to the effect that such a precept raise was highly inadvisable. Further discussion was deferred to pt. 2 of the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

*E7.1.22 Cllrs Verbal reports not requiring discussion or resolution and future agenda items*  
None.

*E8.1.22 Next meeting – Wednesday 26/01/22 at 7.30pm, in Winkleigh Community Centre*  
Approved.

*E9.1.22 Confidential matters (PART II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2)*

Cllr Bayley proposed the Council move into pt. 2 of the meeting, Cllr Hodgson seconded, approved unanimously, 8-0.

After confidential discussion the Chair invited the public back in to hear the following resolutions:

- a) Resolution to extend the meeting by 15 minutes proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Bayley, 8-0 in favour.
- b) Resolution proposed by Cllr Phillips (Chair) to grant redacted documents to a parishioner as per FOI request, seconded Cllr Bayley, 8-0 in favour.
- c) Resolution to increase precept for budget spending by 11.44% proposed by Cllr Whitehead and seconded by Cllr Bayley, 7 in favour with 1 abstention.
- d) Resolution to change the email of the Clerk for use of the Locum Clerk proposed by Cllr Phillips, seconded by Cllr Findlay, 8-0 in favour.
- e) Resolution to appoint S. Scown LLP to represent the Council's legal interests proposed by Cllr Phillips, seconded by Cllr Turner, 8-0 in favour.

With no further business to attend to the Chair closed the meeting.

***Appendix A: Report of Cllr Hodgson pertaining to headstone inspection 24/01/22***

I have spoken to Peter Hayman and he will be at Winkleigh at about 8.30 am on the 24<sup>th</sup> (Weather permitting) Simon Stevens from F.J. Stevens monumental masons will be there as well to assist. Whilst Mr Hayman cannot with 100% certainty say it, he does not expect to have to lay any stones down, I have impressed upon him, and he understands that if an unacceptably dangerous headstone is encountered then an alternative means of making temporarily making safe should be implemented (i.e., staking). He is a qualified trainer for the NAMM and fully understands the sensitivity of the situation.