

## **Minutes of Winston Parish Council Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

Held in the Winston Schoolroom

Present: Councillors - Phil Tempest, Lucy McKenzie, Clinton Summers, Roger Guthrie  
Parish Clerk: Absent.

Also Present: Kathie Guthrie, Mid-Suffolk District Councillor

1. Apologies from Will Haag and Winston Parish Secretary, Alison Payne. Also, Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Councillor was unable to attend.

2. Minutes from previous meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 were approved by the Council. It was noted that this was the first Meeting of Council following the Election. Lucy McKenzie was welcomed onto the Council. Grateful thanks were made to Kathie Guthrie for her hard work and contribution during all of her previous years as a Parish Councillor.

3. The monthly reports issued to all Councillors from County Councillor, Matthew Hicks were noted.

Matthew Hicks would be asked once again if the rumble strips in Fenn Street could be elevated to create a more effective means of slowing traffic.

There was also a discussion about who was responsible for maintaining hedgerows which were masking roadside warning signs. Efforts personally by Parish Councillors were deemed unsafe and had met with some abuse by local landowners. Matthew Hicks would be contacted on this issue also to ensure that SCC maintained clear views of road signage.

4. The District Councillors Report was read by Kathie Guthrie and discussed.

It was noted that Mid-Suffolk had a Locality Award Fund that could be applied for by the Parish Council for one-off projects.

The availability of a new Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach facility was noted. Also approval for the Post Office to be re-sited in the Coop with much improved opening hours.

5. There was no Police Report nor any member of Suffolk Constabulary present. It was noted that the Suffolk Police Commissioner had issued a notice stating that, due to financial cut-backs, no routine report or attendance at Parish Councils would be possible in the future. It would be still possible for the Council to contact the Safer Neighbourhood team on an exceptional basis.

There was a report of a burglary on Grange Road, Winston from the Suffolk Police website. No further information available.

6. There was a general discussion concerning the maintenance of the Churchyard and also the Green, both of which are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

It was agreed that Bill James would be paid £200 for cutting the grass on the Green for the previous two years. How this was to be done in the future was to be discussed with Bill James.

Regarding the Churchyard it was decided that a meeting with members of the Parochial Council would clarify responsibilities and scope of the regular maintenance. To assist in this objective, it was decided to invite Suffolk Wildlife Trust to provide advice on good practice and to enhance the provision of wildlife in the area.

The area around and to the rear of the Village Sign still needed to be severely cut-back to improve visibility.

7. Approval of Insurance Premium payment was made of £166.15. This is under a 5 year fixed premium commitment.

8. Winston Community Website – The name and associated email addresses are now registered and paid for under a 2 year agreement. Kathie Guthrie agreed to liaise with our advisors, ATEC, to assist with the establishment of the website and use by Councillors of the email addresses.

9. It was agreed to investigate the use of solar powered speed awareness flashing signs on the roads in Winston Parish. Funding could possibly be applied for under the Mid-Suffolk Locality Budget. The Chairman would follow this up with SCC.

10. The Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer, Roger Guthrie. The Auditors had raised concerns about the build up of reserves in the accounts. It was agreed that the Council would construct a budget spending plan to utilise and reduce these reserves. A Notice of the conclusion of the Audit to be placed on the village noticeboard.

11. It was agreed that the Parish Council Bank Account should remain with Lloyds for convenience. Clinton Summers and Will Haag to be added as new signatories to the account.

12. It was suggested that a donation of a sum circa £20 could be made to Royal British Legion in lieu of a wreath and the plastic wreath from previous years re-used.

13. Date of next Meeting to be 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016,