

# Minutes of Winston Parish Council Meeting 5 October 2016

## 7:30pm at Winston Schoolroom

Present: Cllr Phil Tempest – Chair, Cllr Roger Guthrie – Finance, Cllr Clinton Summers.  
Three members of the public all Winston residents.

County Councillor Matthew Hicks, District Councillor Kathie Guthrie.

Minutes taken by District Councillor KG as Parish Clerk, A. Payne has resigned.

1. **Apologies** from Lucy McKenzie, Will Haag.
2. **Minutes** from previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were approved.
3. **Suffolk County Councillor Matthew Hicks's Report** included Suffolk's present position regarding Devolution with Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. Cambridgeshire has said no. Norfolk may not approve so where that leaves Suffolk is unsure. The Bid was to allow government funding directly for the Region so this could now be in doubt. One of biggest stumbling blocks; a directly Elected Mayor.
4. **Traffic Calming/Speeding:** Cllr Hicks updated and summarised again as to where Winston Parish Council are with the Speeding and Traffic Calming issues. The Council has put in a huge amount of work and involvement has been going on for many years. In the last few years, The Chairman has had roadside visits to locations in the parish, meetings with Matthew Hicks, Suffolk Highways, Suffolk Police, local MP, etc., combined with numerous and lengthy emails with these authorities. With the assistance of Matthew Hicks, a Highways survey was carried out for the parish, and some progress was made in the last year with locations for a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) approved in Winston Green. However, a VAS scheme for Fenn Street is not possible as the road does not meet the mandatory criteria for 'line of sight' and equipment installer safety. Matthew will review again with Suffolk Highways experts, but it appears the last remaining option would be to increase the width of the white line road markings along each side giving the impression of the road narrowing which results in higher driver awareness for the road and other users and a reduced speed. This is a tried and tested method recommended by Suffolk County Highways and other traffic authorities for slowing traffic and increasing road safety. The Parish Council will write to Fenn Street residents to request their comments on this proposal.
5. **Fenn Street resident** Mr L Stock who was present, expressed his dismay and wished for it to be minuted that a serious accident will occur if this road marking alteration is done. He also requested the Parish Council relay his comment to Suffolk County Council that the speed and safety along this road is just waiting for a serious accident and possible mortality.
6. **District Councillors Kathie Guthrie report** reviewed main points about the Devolution bid and also the moving of the MSDC Offices to Endeavour House in Ipswich which would free up the land at Needham Market for development, and make financial savings and with the increasing dependency on the internet more services would be available on line. It is intended to have 'HUBs' in the form of smaller offices in the district but the locations of such offices are yet to be decided.

7. **Grass Cutting for the Green** - The Parish Council had difficulty locating a contractor prepared to cut/bale/remove the grass on the Green, consequently the grass was only cut and shredded late in the season by Mr. Dave Sillett. His bill for £96 incl. VAT was approved. He will be contacted early 2017 to ask him to cut the Green, bale for hay, and remove.
8. **A resident** has asked that the group of willow trees on the Green be investigated for pruning and/or felling as they are in poor condition and dropping branches into the road. It was agreed that a professional tree surgeon would be contacted for a quote. As recommended by Suffolk Wildlife Trust it was also agreed to remove the chestnut trees (on the Green along Baker's Lane) which are not suited to the conditions.
9. **Roger Guthrie** presented the finances of the Council. The annual insurance premium £174.70 was approved for payment. The council insurance is mid-term on a fixed price five-year agreement.
10. **The Audit** has been completed satisfactorily and the Parish Council has adopted a policy on Reserves which was advised by the auditor
11. **Parish Website:** It is now a legal requirement to have a Website to publish Council documents. Roger Guthrie has undertaken to have the appropriate training and to be the 'Webmaster'. The Website is currently in draft format and not yet launched. Residents will be asked for contributions and ideas to enhance the Website for the community. Cllr Matthew Hicks agreed to fund the initial £60 per annum to Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) for Website hosting.
12. **A resident asked** if the Shepherd huts located along Fenn Street needed planning permission. What provisions apply for collection and disposal of waste water and sewage? Could these be discharged into the River Deben? District Councillor agreed to follow this up as it had previously been raised as a complaint.
13. **Poppy Wreath** – Approved for payment from the Parish Council. The wreath has been ordered and an invoice will be provided.
14. **Winston Fete** - On behalf of the church Parochial Council, Sandra thanked the Parish Council for its special contribution to the fete to commemorate the Queen's birthday and reign.
15. **Date of next meeting** 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2017 at Winston Schoolroom, 7:30pm.