

Minutes of Winston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 4 October 2017
At Winston School Room

Present: Roger Guthrie – Finance, Lizzie Taurozevicius - Clerk
Lucy McKenzie, Clinton Summers

Also attending: Matthew Hicks – Suffolk County Councillor
Kathie Guthrie – District Councillor
Members of Winston Parish

1. Apologies from Phil Tempest and Will Haag. In the absence of The Chair, Roger Guthrie led the meeting.
2. The Minutes from the Parish Council AGM held on 10 May 2017 were agreed.
3. Lizzie Taurozevicius has now become the Parish Clerk. The trees on The Green have been felled, at a cost of £300 + VAT.
4. Matthew Hicks reported that education levels in Suffolk have greatly improved during the past year. He asked that people try to make sure only suitable items are put into the re cycling bins to avoid problems at the processing centre. Highways Dept. will soon have a central phone number, to report any issues and hopefully improve their systems. This will become even more important as 95,000 new homes are projected to be built across the County in the next 25 – 30 years, which will impact on infrastructure.
5. Kathie Guthrie gave her report. She said the District Council are proposing a reduction in number of Councillors from 40 to 34, for Mid Suffolk. This would mean making Winston part of a large area, so we would become a two member ward. The Boundary Commission's proposal for this can be viewed either at consultation.lgbce.org.uk or www.lgbce.org.uk Details relating to the Council's move from Needham Market are on the website www.midsuffolk.gov.uk Kathie has a small Locality Budget and hopes it might be possible to use some of it to help with maintenance of the School Room.
6. Roger Guthrie presented The Annual Return, including the Auditors' Certificate. This was approved and accepted by the Parish Council. It was then proposed and agreed, that the Parish Clerk would become the Responsible Financial Officer. Roger informed us that financial regulations mean we will now have to look at Parish finances at every meeting. He then went through the finances in detail. In particular he explained that we receive Wayleaves from the Electricity board because of the pylon on The Green and that we maintain a Reserve equal to 9 months worth of possible expenditure, plus £1,000 in case we need to seek legal advice. Clinton Summers said he might know of someone who would be willing to cut The Green, if they could then keep the grass for hay, but he didn't think they would want to pay us for it. There was a question over why the felled trees don't appear to have been treated to stop re-growth, and so are sprouting, but this was a query only the Chair may have the answer for, so it was deferred to the next meeting.

7. The quote for £177.00 for the Parish Insurance for the next year was agreed and authorised for payment.
8. The Draft Local Plan has been produced by the County and they have asked for Parish Councils to respond to it, on behalf of their residents. Roger explained how the county has been divided up. Winston Green is classed as a Hamlet but Fenn Street has so few houses that it isn't included – but that doesn't mean it won't have houses built there. In considering how the plan would affect us, it would seem that our 'share' of additional housing could be as low as 7 additional dwellings, over 18 years and might just amount to 'infill'. There was discussion about how expansion in Debenham would affect us and Roger reminded those present that they could go on line and have their opinions included. The general feeling of the meeting was agreement that the proposed expansion would be acceptable but that it should include affordable housing, a mix of house sizes (not just 4 and 5 bed) and bungalows for older residents. There was also a desire that they should not be 'second homes' but Kathie said it was not possible to prevent this.
9. It was suggested that we should have a Litter Pick in the Spring, possibly combined with an Easter Egg Hunt, details to be finalised at the next meeting.
Sandra Baker asked if the Parish Council would be willing to pay for a Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday? This was agreed and payment given to Sandra who kindly agreed to liaise with the British Legion on our behalf.

The date for the next meeting was agreed, but has subsequently been amended, and will now be on **Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 7.30 pm in The School Room.**