

**Minutes of Winston Parish Council Meeting  
Held on 12 January 2022 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Will Haag– Chair, Lizzie Taurozevicius, Julie Nightingale, Lucy McKenzie (Parish Councillors), Roger Guthrie (Clerk) and four members of the Parish.

- Apologies had been received from Tina Denny (Parish Councillor), Matthew Hicks (County Councillor) and Kathie Guthrie (District Councillor).
- Declarations of interest - None
- The minutes of the meetings of 6 October 2021 were approved.
- Matters arising – The Clerk advised the following:
- The number plate recognition speed monitors would not be available for Winston as they could only operate in 30 mph speed limit areas.
- The County Council had been approached about the discontinuance of bus services through Winston Green. In response it had been explained that the routes are under the control of the bus companies and their approach is to prioritise routes that best meet the needs of most people and were most likely to meet their timetables so the County Council had limited influence and despite Debenham PC also raising objections it was unlikely that any change would be forthcoming.
- The condition of the road verges in Fenn St had been reported by the Parish Council and residents and some repairs had recently been undertaken. In response to a query to the piecemeal nature of the work the Clerk explained that contractors were only obliged to repair potholes and other damage if they failed to meet standard agreed parameters and would generally only undertake the minimum necessary to meet those standards.
- The issue of Fenn St speeding had been raised with Matthew Hicks, County Councillor and he had explained that there was no longer an available budget for the speed calming measures which had in any case previously been opposed by residents. In response to ongoing concerns by Fenn St residents the Clerk explained that all options for Fenn St speed control measures had been considered at length in recent years and no other alternatives had been available.
- Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Councillor had sent his apologies. His December report was summarised by the Clerk and the report has been placed on the Parish website.
- Kathie Guthrie, Mid Suffolk District Councillor had sent her apologies. Her December report was summarised by the Clerk and the report has been placed on the Parish website.
- Village Green – The Clerk reported that normal work cutting the Green had been extended this year to extra hedge maintenance and the thinning of the old willow tree stump growth at a total cost of £645. The meeting with the representative of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust had not yet taken place as there had been a change of personnel at the Trust and would now be delayed until the Spring. At that stage it was planned to review options for different maintenance regimes for different segments of the Green as reported in the October meeting minutes.
- The Parish finance report for 2020/21 was reviewed and noted that the additional cost of the maintenance of the Green had resulted in a £271 overspend compared to budget. This was partly compensated by an anticipated recovery of VAT paid leaving a projected net deficit of £34 for the year.
- The draft budget for 2022/23 was presented for discussion. It was assumed that expenditure on the Green would likely continue at a higher level than historically and it was agreed to budget £550 for this and also an additional £100 for possible support of the Queen's jubilee celebrations. In order to achieve a balanced budget this would require an increase in the precept from £650 to £850. While it was acknowledged that this was a significant percentage increase the clerk pointed out that the annual cost per band D council tax payer was currently £9 per annum, among the lowest of any Parish in the district and would increase to £12 per annum so a small increase in absolute terms. It was also pointed out that the precept had remained little changed for many years. It was agreed to approve the budget and increase the precept to £850 as proposed.
- Litter pick – It was agreed to organise a litter pick Sunday 3 April from 2.00 pm. Julie Nightingale agreed to prepare a flyer and the Clerk agreed to book the Schoolroom and organise collection of litter collected.
- Queens Jubilee – The proposal to support the Jubilee alongside the Village fete was shelved as the fete is now expected to be delayed until later in the year. The Clerk was asked to investigate the option of a tree planting instead with any further suggestions to be considered.
- Other business - None
- The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 25 May at 7.30 in The School Room.