

**Minutes of Winston Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on 5 October 2022 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Lizzie Taurozevicius - Chair, Julie Nightingale, Tina Denny and Lucy Mckenzie, Parish Councillors, Roger Guthrie (Clerk), Kathie Guthrie, District Councillor and five members of the Parish.

1. Apologies had been received from Will Haag (Parish Councillor) and Matthew Hicks (County Councillor). Lizzie Taurozevicius was elected Chair for the meeting.
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The minutes of the meetings of 25 May and 8 June were approved.
4. Matters arising – The Clerk reported that he had not received any further information about any potential change to Parish Boundaries.
5. Matthew Hicks, Suffolk County Councillor was unable to attend the meeting but attention was drawn to his latest monthly report which will be placed on the Parish website.
6. Kathie Guthrie, Mid Suffolk District Councillor presented her monthly report which will be placed on the Parish website.
7. Finance report – The attached Finance Report was reviewed and in particular the forecast outturn for 2022/23 was discussed. The expenditure on insurance and Village Green maintenance was higher than budgeted and as a result there was a small deficit forecast for the full year. It was agreed to contact the PCC and explain that we would defer our budgeted £70 donation to the Schoolroom until our finances were back in balance. The Clerk drew attention to the expected cost of £120 for the PC elections in 2023/24 and the ongoing level of Village Green maintenance costs and advised that we would likely need to agree to an increase in the precept for 2023/24.
8. Our existing insurers had withdrawn from the market and insurance had been re-negotiated by Community Action Suffolk on our behalf giving broadly the same level of cover but at an increased premium (£209 compared to £147 in the previous year).
9. Village Green – The Clerk reported on a meeting with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and contractors (Durie Partners) and it had been agreed that in order to restore some of the wildflower diversity on the Green it was essential to cut and collect grass on the Green. Based on an agreed cost of £660 approximately 80% of the Green had been cut accordingly with the rest left uncut to encourage wildlife. Durie Partners had also kindly agreed to let us have a few hay bales containing wildflower seeds and it was agreed to organise volunteers to help spread the seed on the Green on Saturday 15th October at 10.00.
10. Village communication - It was noted that the website was very little visited and Julie Nightingale circulated the first draft of a Winston Village Facebook page which it was agreed was more likely to be visited and interacted with. Official Parish Business would continue to be posted on the website but the Facebook page would cross refer to it. Concerns were expressed about the privacy policy of Facebook and also the risk that the page would be subject to abusive responses. It was agreed to see if it was possible to prevent responses to posts but it was nevertheless agreed to launch the page with open access and monitor how it worked out in practice. The Facebook page to be publicised on the Village notice board once updated accordingly.
11. Additional Parish Councillors and replacement Clerk - Roger Guthrie confirmed his intention to step down as Clerk after the 2023 Annual Meeting and it was agreed to seek a replacement and maybe also additional Parish Councillors in advance of the May 2023 elections.

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 7.30 in The School Room.

