

Minutes of a Winston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present: Will Haag (chair), Lizzie Taurozevicius, Julie Nightingale, Tina Denny and Lucy Mckenzie, Parish Councillors, Roger Guthrie (Clerk), Matthew Hicks, County Councillor and three members of the Parish.

1. Apologies had been received from Julie Nightingale (Parish Councillor) and Kathie Guthrie (District Councillor).
2. Declarations of interest - None
3. The minutes of the meetings of 5 October 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 presented his latest monthly report as attached to these minutes and as filed on the Parish website. The contents were noted. In response to a query about funding for improvements to the condition of the Village Green, Matthew suggested that this would be eligible for consideration out of his County Council locality budget and the Clerk agreed to pursue this further.
6. The Clerk presented Kathie Guthrie's monthly report as attached to these minutes and as filed on the Parish website. The contents were noted.
7. Village Green – The Clerk reported that there had been a successful day spreading wild flower seeds on the Green and that it was planned to continue with the improved management of the site in 2023.
8. Village Facebook Page – In Julie Nightingale's absence the Clerk asked Parish Councillors to re-confirm their support for a Village Facebook page. Members were fully supportive and also consented to the posting of the photographs taken at the time of the wild flower seeding on the Green.
9. 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.
10. Budget and Precept for 2023/24 – The attached budget was reviewed and the increased costs accepted as unavoidable so it was agreed to increase the Precept from £850 to £1,250 for the forthcoming year. This would increase the annual cost for a band D Council Tax payer from approximately £12 to £18 but would still be less than that for surrounding Parishes.
11. Risk Register - The Risk Register was reviewed and it was agreed that no changes were required.
12. Litter Pick – This is to be held on 11 March at 10.00 and Lucy Mackensie agreed to liaise with Joy to make use of the equipment held by Debenham PC.
13. Council Elections in May – The existing members of the Council all agreed to re-stand for election. It was confirmed that Leonora Faggionato would take over as Parish Clerk after the May Parish Council Meeting with Roger Guthrie continuing as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).
14. Other Business – The Clerk agreed to circulate a questionnaire from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Sandra advised that in excess for £400 had been raised from the Poppy Appeal and £200 from the Carol Service. The next quiz evening is to be held on 17 March and the date for the Village Fete will be agreed shortly (likely to be 24th June).

The next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 7.30 in The School Room.

