**Winford Parish Council**

**Serving Felton, Regil and Winford**

**Date:** Monday 15 April 2013 **Venue:** Felton Village Hall, Felton

**Time:** 7.00 pm

**Councillors Present:**

Margaret Murphy Paul Hatherell (Chair)

Simon Banks Karen Bye

Gill Patch Alan Sage

Glenis Shiner Peter Longden

Peter Etheridge Len Curry

James Webster

**Also present:**

Cllr Hugh Gregor (NSC) Louise Davidson, English Rural Housing

Carol Pike, NSC Graham Quick (NSC)

Margaret Webster (Parishioner) PC Ray Bradley

**1.Apologies:**

Alison Clark ( Clerk) GS kindly taking minutes in Clerk’s absence.

Paul Roberts

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting, matters arising.**

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were approved with minor corrections to be made.

**3.Crime and Disorder**

PC Bradley was pleased to report that the number of crimes in the area had dropped. There had been a noticeable increase in thefts of diesel and heating oil. Parishioners were asked to be on the alert for a 4x4 vehicle , particularly loitering at night.

PC Bradley advised leaving lights on as there had been an increase in thefts during the hours of dusk when houses were obviously unoccupied.

Cllrs Murphy and Banks reported an enormous transit lorry stuck in Regil and PC Bradley left the meeting to investigate.

**4. Open Forum**

Margaret Webster reported that she had seen clumps of Spanish bluebells on the Common and recommended that they were either removed completely or at least the flowers removed to prevent them spreading as they were overtaking the native British bluebell. It should be noted that it takes 5 years from seed to flower.

**5. Affordable Housing/English Rural Report**

Prior to the meeting PH and Councillor Hugh Gregor had signed a document stating their support of the second phase of 8 affordable housing dwellings proposed by ERHA. A copy of this will head up the planning document to be presented later this year to NSC In addition there will be flood mitigation works to solve the flooding problem permanently. The current open space will be the link between the 2 developments. A public consultation is planned for the middle of May.

Carol Pike, NSC, reported that 10 applicants had been identified and there were a further 32 potentially. There will be no shared ownership properties as from the questionnaires returned there had been strong demand for rented homes. Mike Cole, Planning Officer NSC, has been involved in the planning for this development but permission to build is subject to the restraints of the core strategy and exceptional and special circumstances will have to be proved. Louise Davidson has developed a statement strongly supporting the development and Cllr Gregor will also submit a supportive statement.

**Action: Cllr Gregor & Clerk**

WPC re-iterated that they fully support this development. Information will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting planned for 24 April.

**6. Highways and Footpaths**

**a. Highways**

**Winford Safer Crossing Campaign**

JW has contacted Frankie Mann, NSC who was keen to know that WPC was supporting the campaign for safer crossings but wanted feedback from the whole community. There will be a public drop-in consultation for all members of the community at Winford Primary School on Monday 20th May from 2.30 to 7pm. Frankie Mann will be at the APM to speak about the Safer Crossing Campaign. WPC expressed their thanks to the Clerk and JW for their hard work and involvement. LC asked that the West Lane footpath be included in any considerations of providing safety for pedestrians.

**HGV Signage**

MM and SB reported an HGV stuck underneath the HGV warning sign in Regil. It was asked that the clerk send a letter to the head of the signage department at NSC to confirm that as previously agreed extra signage is to be installed in Regil to prevent occurrences such as these.

Phil Bush, Engineer, NSC to be requested to visit Winford Parish to inspect the state of the roads.

**Action: Clerk**

The Kingdown Road Closure as displayed on Parish notice boards has been confirmed for 29 April.

**b. Footpaths**

**Market Place Path Maintenance**

JW had contacted NSC re removal of brambles from footpaths and was informed that this is the responsibility of the Highways department but is not possible at the moment because it is the bird breeding season. It was agreed to recommend that a small working party of interested residents and councillors meet to trim back the brambles with secateurs. With regard to any costs already incurred by the parishioner, -  the advice from North Somerset Council is that "the Highway Authority is responsible for the surface of the path and landowners for side vegetation growing from their side of the fence." In this case "the trees are outside the bounds of the path as there is a clearly defined edge" and "as far as can be ascertained, the land is part of the agricultural landholding and as such belongs to the landowner".  
 **Action: JW & Clerk**

**Market Place Steps**

A meeting took place on Friday 12th April with the Working party for this project and Mike Herbert, Technician for Transport Policy and Programmes, NSC. The total cost of this project will be £48,000.00 including the cost of the stopping up order. The cost to WPC will be £23,000 as Bristol Airport has kindly agreed to contribute £25,000.00 from its Community Fund in support of this project. It is anticipated that the work should be completed by late August 2013. The plans will be displayed at the APM on 24 April.

**7. Planning**

13/P/0541/F and 13/P/0545/LB , Mr J Mead. Stable Range at Regilbury Court, Benches Lane, Winford, Change of use from stables at Regilbury Court. **It was agreed to support this application**.

13/P/0500/F Land at Regilbury Court, Benches Lane , Winford. Mr J Mead. Erection of a storage shed for agricultural use with construction of new vehicular access onto Benches Lane. **It was agreed to support this application.**

13/P/0496/F. Mrs Jackie Budd, 4A Felton Street, Felton, Winford, BS40 9YL.Conversion of annexe into a separate dwelling. **WPC has concerns re privacy and access if the separate dwelling is sold separately to the main house in the future**. **Agreed not to support.**

13/P/0419/F Mr J Noonan, 5 Stanshalls Lane, Felton, Winford. Erection of a detached garage to side of property.  **WPC were unanimous in their objection. WPC did not support the original planning application. WPC referred the ensuing construction to the enforcement officer. WPC do not support this retrospective planning application particularly with respect to the wall.**

13P/0459/LUP Mr S Haigh, Manor Farm Barn, lower strode, Winford, BS40 8BN. Siting a caravan within the curtilage of the dwelling house, incidental to enjoyment of the dwelling house. **WPC are concerned that this is an attempt to circumvent the enforcement order. This is a legal matter for NSC to decide. Graham Quick ( NSC) to speak with Steven Sims.**

**c. Other planning matters**

All recent updates on current enforcement cases in the parish were reported.

**8. Parish Property**

**a. Allotments**

As letters had been received from allotment holders with regard to some confusion over payment an open meeting was planned for 16th May at 7pm in Winford Primary School Community Room to which all allotment holders would be invited. Any overpayments will be refunded in the forthcoming year. **Action: Clerk**

NSC is to be reminded to include the previous application for double yellow lines at entrance to Felton allotments. The airport has expressed their support for this. **Action : Clerk**

PL will ensure that there is a link to allotment information on the WPC website.

There is to be a new system introduced to deal with compost which should be financially beneficial to WPC

**b. Vee Lane Playing Field**

GS reported that she has attempted to obtain three quotations for the development of the play area at Vee Lane. However, in order for these quotes to be comparable it was necessary to base them on the design presented by Touchwood. It had therefore been impossible to obtain comparable quotes. After much discussion and reference to the financial regulations of WPC the Council agree, in exceptional circumstances, that three quotations cannot reasonably be obtained. It was agreed that the Touchwood quotation be accepted.

**Action: GS**

It was agreed to continue with regular inspections from the Rangers for all playground equipment. Quotes would be obtained for the repairs necessary at the High Winford play area **Action: GS**

**c. Snooker club**

No further updates were reported regarding the snooker Club

**d. Felton Common**

PL has marked off the holes in order to safeguard pedestrians and horse riders. A local caving club is interested in investigating the area. It is understood that the Coal Board would be responsible for capping off the cave. KB has contacted Avon Rigs with regard to surveying the area. PL to contact Tony Parsons with regard to placing strong grids over the holes and the area to be sealed off with highly visible tape.

**Action PL, KB, Chair & a member of Common Working Party**

**Proposed Parish Council Plan for Felton Common**

The proposed plan was discussed and the key objectives were identified as managing vegetation so as to continue to ensure bio-diversity and the management of vehicle access allowing only Common residents to use the tracks. Appendices A & B to the plan are still to be circulated. The full plan will be shared at the APM by Bridget Smith. **Action: Clerk**

A request has been made to carry out a moth survey on the Common, which would necessitate driving across part of the Common to particular sites as the equipment essential to this survey is rather bulky and heavy. Permission was granted. The airport has been informed. **Action: PL**

**9.Web site**

It is planned to migrate from the current providers as support is not forthcoming. Unfortunately there would be a development cost, which was agreed. **Action: PL**

**10. Litter/Village Orderly**

It was agreed that the information gathered based on a successfully operating Village Orderly Scheme in Hutton Parish be circulated to all councillors. This would be an agenda item for the May meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

**11. Airport.**

PCAA, there was nothing new to report and GP is to attend a meeting on 1st May.

**12. Finance**

**Jubilee Grove**

The application for funding for the four year maintenance plan will be submitted to the Airport Community Fund in May. Regardless of the outcome of this application the contractor is to start the necessary work. Carni Tipton has been contacted regarding overseeing the on-going maintenance of Jubilee Grove and is happy to monitor the work alongside Bridget Smith.

**Action: Clerk**

**Winford churchyard**

Sonia Clark (Secretary of Winford Parochial Church Council) had asked WPC if it would be possible to assist with the cost of grass cutting in Winford churchyard. For the past 6 years the grass has been cut by a volunteer and WPC now need to employ someone. Whilst sympathetic to the request it was agreed that this would set a precedent with other churches in the Parish, and for this reason WPC are unable to assist.

**Action: Chair**

**Carved Angel planting**

The quote for planting was accepted. It was noted that the base needs to be treated.

**Action: Clerk**

**13. Youth Activities**

GS reported there would be an Activity Day (free of charge) on Sunday 28 April at Dundry Village Hall to which all young people in the area are invited in order to ascertain their views on what is need in the area. An open invitation was given to all members of WPC. GS to send poster to PL.

**Action: GS**

**14. Meetings**

**Past meetings**

PCAA 26th March, 7.30pm Felton Hall.

ALCA Liaison Meeting, being hosted by NSC, Tuesday 26th March, 7.00pm at the NSC Castlewood

offices in Clevedon.

AH Steering Group, Tuesday 26 March, 11.30 - 12.30pm, Town Hall, W-S-M.

Annual Litter Pick 11th April, 6pm at Felton Church.

**Future meetings**

APM Wed 24th April, 7.30pm, Felton Hall (Councillors to prepare reports)

Monday 20th May drop in session with NSC Highways for Parishioners concerned with crossing issues in the centre of Winford. To be held at Winford primary school community room from 2.30 to 6.30pm.

**15. Other Correspondence- to include**

No other correspondence was received.

**16. Information and Items for next Agenda**

Village Orderly Scheme to be discussed at next meeting – see item 10.

Items received would be distributed for councillors’ attention.

**The next council meeting will be held on**

**Monday 20th May 2013, at 7.00 pm,**

**at Felton Village Hall**