**Winford Parish**

**Annual Parish Meeting**

**17 May 2017**

Venue: Felton Village Hall, Felton Time: 7.30 pm

**Attendees:** Nine parishioners, nine Parish Councillors, the Parish Council Responsible Finance Officer and the Parish Council Clerk. Chair – Peter Etheridge, Vice Chair of Winford Parish Council.

* + - 1. **Apologies** PC Martin Faithfull, Brian Hawkins and Parish Councillors Paul Hatherell, Alan Sage, Maggie Murphy and Simon Banks.
      2. **Minutes of previous meeting, matters arising**

These were made available to those present and noted. There were no matters arising.

* + - 1. **Crime and Disorder**

The Vice Chair gave a brief overview of crime in the Parish over the last year. Whilst this was generally very low, people were warned that there had been a recent increase in burglaries and that they should be aware of any unusual activity.

* + - 1. **Parish Council Annual Report**

Reports were given on the activities of the various Parish Council Working Parties.

**Road safety improvements Winford – Hugh Gregor**

The 20mph zone in the centre of Winford village and chicane on Barrow Lane had been completed and appeared to be serving their purpose in slowing down traffic.

Q. Would the new housing development at the Old Coach Station have an effect on traffic behaviour?

A. The Parish Council would take this into account when commenting on the expected reserved matters application.

Q. Why was there so much signage, and why was it so large in comparison with that in Bathnes schemes? Was this actually required by regulations?

A. North Somerset Council (NSC) had said that they would look at reducing the size of signage wherever possible, within the original budget.

Q. Why weren’t Church Road and Chapel Lanes covered?

A. The Parish Council were forced at the last minute by NSC to accept a reduced scheme area, as the alternative was to have nothing at all.

**Winford School Crossing Patrol – Alison Clark**

The traffic calming measures had made a difference but a crossing patrol was still very much needed. The school governors and the Parish Council had agreed to join fund a patrol but there had been serious delays on NSC’s part in filling the post. An interview had now been held and the Parish Council would continue to put pressure on NSC until a crossing patrol was in place.

**Allotments** **– Peter Etheridge**

2016/17 had been another successful year. Felton allotment had only two plots available and Winford was fully let with one person on the waiting list. The conservation area originally had been much improved; the pond area cleared with an owl box and a bug hotel. In recognition of the allotment holders’ excellent work they had been selected for a Wessex Watermark award, which included a grant of £200 towards their costs.

Thanks were given to Alan Parker, Chair of the Allotment and Composting Working Party, for all his hard work.

**Compost site - Hugh Gregor**

The compost site continued to be a great success, operating at a profit. Thanks were given to Bridget Smith and Alan Parker for their assistance with the sale of compost. A planning application had been made to replace the fencing with a higher wooden one, to improve the appearance of the site and to prevent dumping of material, particularly by contractors.

Q. Why change the fence, the metal one was fine.

A. A higher fence and gates would prevent people from throwing material into the site over the fence when the site was closed. This was likely to be an increasing problem with the changed opening hours of the NSC recycling centres.

**Felton Common – Karen Bye**

Felton Common Working Party met around twelve times a year to put into practice the ten year management plan. The long term aim was to restore grazing to the Common as the best way to improve and maintain the ecology. The working party also looked to enforce the bylaws, within reason. Volunteers to help with litter picking and pulling ragwort, or to sit on the working party were always welcome. New way markers for the bridle paths were being installed, which should help to prevent conflict between dog walkers and horse riders. It was planned to introduce interpretation boards informing the public about the features of the Common.

Q. Who owned the boundary wall?

A. There was an agreement with the Airport to share responsibility for joint boundaries.

**Footpaths – Jim Webster.**

The Footpaths Working Party had been working with the much appreciated co-operation of North Somerset Council, The Ramblers and Bathnes Council to clear paths, install waymarkers and fingerposts and replace stiles with more accessible and longer lasting metal gates. This had been hugely aided by a budget provided by the Parish Council.

Q. What had happened to the walks programme?

A. General usage of the footpaths had increased due to their improved condition, and the Working Party was hoping to encourage people to lead their own walks

**Airport – Gill Patch.**

From the Airport’s point of view they had had a very successful year. The construction of the first phase of the multi-storey was expected to be complete by May/June 2018 and the Weston Flyer (A3) had come into operation. The Airport was looking at transport options, although any major improvements were likely to take many years. The increase in passenger numbers had activated a requirement that the Airport provide funding for local bus infrastructure, and the Airport had agreed to look again at bus routes through local villages, including Winford and Felton. There would be a refresh of the Master Plan during 2018, covering a twenty year period.

Winford Parish had done well out of the Airport Local Community Fund, succeeding in obtaining more grant than any other parish. The fund continued to grow as passenger numbers increased and people were encouraged to apply for funding towards any eligible project.

**Play areas – Glenis Shiner.**

The Parish Council had concentrated that year on maintaining the facilities; suggestions for further improvements were welcome. If anyone saw anyone damaging the equipment please could they report it to the Parish Council or the police.

The Parish noticeboards were being refurbished, with the one at High Winford outstanding as it needed doors to be made.

Thanks were given to Emma Strong for the tremendous contribution she had made to the village by creating the Winford Book Box in the old telephone kiosk. Any donations of suitable books should be given to her. The Parish Council was also looking at doing something similar in the Felton telephone kiosk, as well as moving the defibrillator there.

Q. What public liability insurance did the Parish Council have in the event of an accident in the play areas?

A. The Parish Council was adequately insured.

* + - 1. **Financial Report**

Paul Roberts distributed a set of accounts to those present. The Parish Council was slowly increasing the precept as it was expected that increases would be limited by the government in the future. Reserves were high, but it was reasonable to keep some funding in reserve if possible.

Q. How much did the Parish Council have available for projects?

A. Around £40-50,000 once earmarked funds were taken into account.

Q. Could the Parish Council fund the hedge around the Common, a footpath from Long Cross or a community pub/shop if needed?

A. What the Parish Council could spend money on was highly constrained by law, but the Parish had access to other sources of funding including the Airport Local Community Fund.

Q. Could the Parish Council build a new children’s play area at the Ricklands?

A. The land was owned by English Rural Housing, but the Parish Council would look into the possibility.

* + - 1. **Open Forum**

Q. The empty property at Hillview Gardens was an eyesore, what was being done about it?

A. NSC had served a notice on the owner requiring them to remedy its condition within four months; otherwise the local authority could undertake the work and recover the cost.

Q. What could be done about the problems with the community bus when the regular driver was ill?

A. This was a matter for the Parish Council to take up with NSC, who managed the contract with the company who provided the drivers.

Q. Had the Parish Council heard anything about when the activation of faster broadband in Felton would be completed?

A. No.

Q. Has there been any progress with addressing the dangerous bend by the junction of Chew Road with Regil Lane?

A. NSC had been asked to regularly cut the vegetation down to improve visibility. Improvement remained on NSC’s works programme and their intention was to undertake the implementation of a scheme during the latter half of the financial year or 2018/2019 financial year.

Q. Would it be possible to provide welcome packs to the recently sold properties in Felton?

A. Packs were only delivered once properties had been occupied, but stocks were available for both Felton and Winford.

Q. The website was not kept up to date, would it be possible for one of the Councillors to take on responsibility for this, maybe including social events that could bring people together? The Parish Council could find ways of encouraging greater community cohesion.

A. The website provider was not providing updates or support and there was limited functionality. A new provider would be sought, but whilst it was a useful source of information a Parish Council website was not suitable for dynamic information such as one off events. The Parish Council and village Facebook pages were more suited to this purpose and were being regularly updated and well used, typically attracting a younger, female audience.

1. **Meeting Close**

The meeting thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the community.