

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

11th April 2022

P Kembery in the Chair

P Kembery	(P)	T Jones	(P)	D Marriott	(P)	J Amos	(A)
T Bowles	(P)	M Newport	(A)	J Brain	(P)	C Watkins	(A)
A Collins	(P)	H Whatley	(P)	B Serjent	(P)	S Jenkins	(A)
M Goodman	(P)	N Labuschagne	(A)	R Climmer	(P)	P Dyer	(A)

Evacuation Procedure: Leave via the fire door and assemble outside in the car park – Noted

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Amos, Watkins, Newport, Dyer, Jenkins and Labuschagne

Also in attendance: Two members of the public

The Chairman thanked all Members and the public for attending.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2019 have been published and circulated and were confirmed as a true record. Cllr Goodman – proposed, Cllr Brian - seconded

Winterbourne Charities Report by Diane Marriott.

Winterbourne Charitable Trust is a registered charity formed by the amalgamation of historical legacies to the church. The aims of the charity are to relieve poverty and help with education. The criteria is residency within the parish of Winterbourne which includes Winterbourne Down, Hambrook and Frenchay.

Finances: As at 31st March 2022: Figures are estimates pending receipt of end of year statements.

Income

£1,568.13 - In Bank

£763.10 - COIF Charities Deposit -

30th September 2021 – COIF Charities Investment £8025.25

Expenditure

£800 - £200 to four schools; Hambrook, St Michaels, Frenchay and Elm Park. Five local pre-school groups have been approached with no response.

AGM is scheduled for 18th May 2022

Paul Kembery thanked Diane for her work with Charities and help to the Clerk over the year.

Chairman's Report Report by Paul Kembery

Winterbourne Parish Council is the elected body that represents the interests of the

parishioners who live in Winterbourne, Hambrook and Frenchay.

We continue to operate two standing Committees. The Planning Committee meets on the first and third Monday of each month with occasional additional meetings being called should the need arise. The Finance and General Purposes Committee meet on the third Monday of each month.

Agenda's for all our meetings are posted on public notice boards within the Parish and on our website and posted on social media. We have expanded the information base on our new website and have had positive comments from Parishioner's on the layout of the website. I would encourage everyone to look at the website as it's a valuable source of information. Councillors continue to represent Winterbourne Parish Council on outside bodies.

The last Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday, 8th of April and has not been held during the past 2 years due to covid restrictions so am pleased that this meeting is able to go ahead. Covid-19 has changed the way we all live, work and communicate. Many Parishioner's have been able to use our nature reserves and open spaces for exercise and mental well being in the past 2 difficult years for many of us.

We recorded the sad loss of Councillor Paul Hemmings who had been the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Paul was a well respected member of the community and volunteered with other organizations and will be sadly missed. We welcomed Councillor Brian Serjent as the latest elected member of the Parish Council.

The Greenfield Centre is owned and managed by the Parish Council where the Parish Council office is based. The Greenfield Centre is well used within the community and hosts a number of classes, associations and meetings of diverse groups and I am pleased to see them flourishing again after the covid restrictions were lifted. The Police also have a base here and provides good engagement with the community, the drop-in meeting dates can be viewed on our website.

I am pleased to report that Winterbourne Parish Council has managed our finances well and have not increased the precept for this financial year. It also helped that we had a fixed contract for our energy needs and continue to receive income from our solar panels on the roof.

We continue to make funds available to help the excellent work local organisations do within the Parish. Please contact the Parish Office for a grant application form and guidance on eligibility. A grant application form is also available to download from our website with guidance criteria as well.

I would like to thank all Parishioner's who are kind enough to volunteer in our community. Examples are litter picking, maintenance in the nature reserves, raising of the flags opposite the Co-op, volunteering with sports organisations and various local events and committees to name but a few. These all help make our Parish a better place to live in and we are all grateful to our volunteers.

We have been updating our Bye-Laws and also produced a Local Nature Action Plan and I am grateful for all the work that members have put into this.

I would also like to thank Sally and Sarah in the office and all our staff. The running of Zoom meetings worked very well during the pandemic and am grateful that working from home and the office that has kept the day to day running of the Parish Council. I have had a kind message from Dr Rowse within our parish who would like me to thank Sally for her help with historical records and papers relating to the Tuckett Field in Frenchay as he is unable to attend the meeting this evening.

I would also like to express my thanks to Tim who has gone above and beyond in standing in for me whilst I have been in hospital. Also to the Chair's and Vice-Chair's of the Committees and also to Hugh who has stood in for planning meetings. I also wish to thank all Councillor's who kindly give up their time at meetings and within the community to help keep our Parish the special place it is.

Planning Report Report by Adrian Collins

Adrian Collins gave the planning report on behalf of himself as Deputy Chairman and Jon Amos (Chairman) who is away on a long term work project at present.

Thanks were recorded to the outstanding work and dedication of the planning committee team, their work at 'ground level' aims to ensure that a fair and objective review of the planning applications in WPC's catchment area is undertaken fortnightly, using their local knowledge for the overall benefit of WPC Parishioners. This is backed up by the SGC Councillors who attend our meetings or are available to support us in our respective locations. Pre Covid in 2019-20 we considered 151 applications, they rose by over 25% to 207 in 2020-21 and 200 in 2021-22. The year just completed continues to show a significant lifestyle shift as a result of Covid and a large increase in residents working from home or changing entirely their work/life balance. This has led to a greater need to improve or change their residence for work reasons, or simply as a result of spending more time at home to consider improvements and home alterations.

With some applications being considered, the recommendation by WPC to object has not been followed by SGC and this has occurred in 20% of the WPC objections raised over the last year. However, half of those applications in being approved contrary to our objection, had conditions attached that reflected WPC concerns, so our comments are always carefully considered. This is important as our role is to reflect local issues and be fair to the whole process when considering local planning applications.

The WPC planning committee has placed a great emphasis upon energy efficient and climate friendly issues with applications being considered, this is in response to the SGC 'climate emergency' declared two years ago. These observations have included writing to SGC asking why such issues are not more of a priority with new builds or made the subject of mandatory conditions as a statement of intent for all house builders? It is an obvious area where important changes could benefit our environment.

Planning committee members have taken the opportunity to join online training courses with the SGC planning and enforcement teams to increase their relevant knowledge and understand how these departments work. This has enabled team work and a greater understanding of the SGC planning roles, something that complements their work with our local knowledge and understanding of local needs. SGC are under considerable pressure due to recent Covid and resource issues combined with that 25% increase in applications over the last two years, so our committee's time and expertise is vital in assisting their challenging task.

The committee will work hard going forward to ensure that they continue to support our local community to the best of their ability.

Finance & General Purpose Committee Report by Tim Bowles

I would like to open my report by paying tribute to Councillor Paul Hemmings who sadly passed away in June 2021. As Paul Kembery mentioned, Paul Hemmings was the Chair of the Finance & General Purpose committee for many years, working extremely hard for all our Parishioners. He is greatly missed as an excellent Councillor and a good friend.

The Finance and General Purpose Committee meets on the third working Monday of each month at the Greenfield Centre.

The Committee consists of eight Councillors – two from the Frenchay ward and six from the Winterbourne, Winterbourne Down & Hambrook ward.

Agendas for each meeting are published on the Parish noticeboards and the Parish Council website. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings to observe.

The main functions of the committee are The management of the finances of the Council; Setting the annual budget and precept; Monitoring all income and expenditure and ensuring compliance with financial regulations and good practice.

The Committee's responsibilities include the Council's staff; The Greenfield Centre and all other Parish Council assets; Parish wide recreation, leisure and sport facilities and Environmental issues

Finance & Projects

Parish Councillors take their responsibility for managing Parishioners council tax very seriously. We are responsible for ensuring an adequate and effective system of internal controls and publish agreed Financial Regulations that apply to how we manage our finances. We prepare an Annual Governance and Accountability Return that is audited each year.

Each year the Council agrees a budget that sets the annual charge to Parishioners known as the Precept.

We have an excellent reputation for careful management of our finances and providing some of the best value for money in South Gloucestershire and we heard from Paul, the Council agreed that there would be no rise in the total precept that will be charged to Parishioners for the forthcoming year.

Due to the careful management of the Parish Council finances we have continued to create Reserves that allow us to invest in new projects without the need for imposing large rises in the Parish Precept.

Whilst the challenges of the Covid pandemic slowed some of our projects I am pleased that we are now making progress on a large number of projects across the Parish.

Without the creation of our Reserves, we would not have had the free cash to undertake the unexpected and un-budgeted recent repairs to the Flaxpits Lane Duckpond or to act quickly to address the enormous damage that we saw at the end of last year in Monks Pool.

By saving significant sums of money through our reserves we can afford to plan and deliver high value works such as the Repairs to the walls on Frenchay Common near the village hall; To plan the much-needed renovation of the Pavilion at the Winterbourne Rec; The renovation of the two kitchens that serve The Greenfield Centre and for the Periodic maintenance work to manage the flooring here in the Greenfield Centre Main Hall.

In addition to these projects, we are working to identify and install new leisure/ play facilities at the Winterbourne Rec and on Whiteshill Common and to invest in the upkeep of our Nature Reserves and public open spaces.

As Paul has mentioned, we recently agreed to create a Parish wide Local Nature Action Plan in support of South Gloucestershire's Biodiversity Action Plan and see this as another important aspect of how the Parish Council has been committed for many years to managing our Environment assets. We have been working closely with the North Bristol NHS Trust regarding the transfer of the public open space areas of the old Frenchay Hospital site to the Parish Council.

An important part of our work to improve our environment will hopefully soon be enhanced as we finalise and formalise the transfer of the Frenchay Parklands site which will be a culmination of many years work by current and past Parish Councillors.

The new Frenchay Parklands will be a great addition to the superb open spaces we enjoy and will add to the Parish Council's allotments, leisure facilities and nature reserves.

To close, may I add my thanks to our excellent hard-working staff and to my fellow councillors who all work so hard to make our Parish such a wonderful place to live.

Projects – report by Paul Kembery

As you have heard in the Finance and General Purposes report we are planning over the next year, amongst other things to –

- . Refurbish the kitchen area off this main hall and another in the Greenfield Centre
- . Repair sections of walls in Frenchay
- . The updating and renovate the Pavilion on the Recreation Field in Winterbourne
- . New play and leisure facilities at the Recreation Field in Winterbourne and Whiteshill Common at Hambrook

. To complete the land transfer of Frenchay Parklands from North Bristol Trust. We are also looking to provide an outdoor table tennis table near the play area and we are also looking at the possible location of one at the Recreation Field in Winterbourne.

. To manage the Winterbourne Duckpond silt levels by a practical and financially prudent way

The meeting concluded at 7.28pm.