



## **Minutes of Winslow Annual Town Meeting**

**Held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 in the Public Hall Winslow**

**Present:** Councillors Castle (Chairman), Bishopp, Cawte, Chambers, Chandler, Knight, Monger, Morton, Slevin, van de Poll and Wiseman

BCC Cllr. J Chilver.

The Clerk, C Loch and Deputy Clerk, S Carolan

64 members of the public. No members of the press.

**Apologies:** Cllr. L Rees, AVDC Cllr.S Renshell

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018:** Accepted as correct and signed.

### **Report of the Chairman of Winslow Town Council:**

This item was moved to later in the meeting

### **Presentation of Parochial Charity Reports and Accounts**

#### **Winslow War Memorial Institute Fund**

The Annual Report of the Winslow War Memorial Institute Fund having been circulated and there being no questions or issues raised, it will be submitted to the Charities Commission and signed as approved at the next Institute meeting.

### **Presentation of Grant Cheques:**

#### **Council Grants**

Tree House PreSchool	£1,500	(Conditional on investigating other funding)
Winslow Teens	£500	(To be paid in two tranches)
Men in Sheds	£542	( Equipment)
Winslow Big Society Group	£400	
CAAV	£2,270	
Winslow and District Community Bus	£5,000	
St Laurence PCC	£6,500	

#### **War Memorial Institute**

Winslow Baby and Toddler Group	£200	
Holiday Lunch Club	£100	
Winslow Guide Hall Committee	£500	
St Laurence PCC	£1,500	(Conditional on securing balance of funding and 3 quotes)

### **Presentation of Citizen of the Year and young Citizen of the Year:**

The Chairman named Mark Randall as Citizen of the Year for his contribution to The Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal. Mr. George Langley was invited to make the presentation. Mrs. Vron Corben then presented the Young Citizen of the Year award to Matthew Streeter who despite undergoing treatment for Leukaemia has done

much to raise funds for the Oxford Hospitals and the CLIC Sargent which supports young cancer patients and their families.

## **Report of the Chairman of Winslow Town Council:**

### **The Chairman's Report.**

The Chairman welcomed residents to the 2019 Annual Town Meeting. To create more opportunity for residents to engage with current topics, the Chairman moved the report to the last item on the agenda and instead of a formal report raised a number of current community issues which the Council was dealing with and invited comment from the audience.

The Chairman introduced current members of the Town Council.

The rise in the precept related mainly to the increased cost of providing the services now devolved from the County Council and the PWLB loan for the purchase and refurbishment of the Council offices. As alternative premises would have had to be rented the purchase of the building represented a worthwhile investment and rooms were now available for community use.

The Winslow Neighbourhood Plan was being revised and policies would be reviewed to take into account current circumstances and VALP which was yet to be adopted but would almost certainly require additional housing which would most likely be off the Great Horwood Road.

The work on the railway line and new station was being monitored and submissions were being made to ensure if possible that the best outcome for the town was achieved as well as ensuring that services such as the Furze Lane burial ground were not disrupted.

The fence around Tomkins Park and Arboretum has been removed as it was in need of serious repair and it created a more open space. The posts had been installed to create a vehicle barrier.

The Oxford Cambridge Express Way was now indicated as being established in a corridor which would place it within 7 miles of Winslow. The road would also bring very significant housing growth along the corridor and it was expected that Calvert would become a major city.

Following work by a residents steering group to establish a guide specification for a new community centre, a consultant had been engaged to review five possible sites and report on the practicalities of each. They were not asked to recommend any one site. On the basis of this work two sites, the edge of Tomkins Park adjacent to the public hall and part of the recreation ground were identified as most suitable. But all sites presented problems and providing sufficient parking to meet planning requirements was a major problem. No decisions had been taken as yet but planning discussions and a business plan to verify feasibility were in progress. It was noted that the Winslow Centre site had the potential for a joint venture with Bucks County Council but had major problems with access. The final plans for the site were yet to be released by the county.

### **Matters raised for discussion or attention**

Some residents felt that the removal of the Tomkins Park fence constituted a threat to passers by who could now be attacked more easily. There was also a concern that toddlers playing in the park could run out into the road.

Most opinion so far indicated approval of the more open space which was also in keeping with the wishes of the Tomkins family who made it possible for the community to own this space. In due course

there would be some natural growth around and in between the vehicle barrier which would help to mitigate these concerns.

It was also noted that the park had been purchased and developed with grant money and with limited resource it was still a work in progress.

Dog mess was a concern as well as keeping dogs on a lead.

The Council had given permission for the Lions to again hold the fireworks in the park. All arrangements including any temporary fencing was the responsibility of Lions.

It was asked if in fact the Council could have any say in matters such as the Expressway or East West Rail line. While outside the direct control of a town council, it was possible to join in consultations and by raising concerns help to protect those things which were important to the town. A lot of work had been done to exert as much influence as possible.

A deep depression around a drain cover following the resurfacing of Church St. was noted and BCC Cllr. Chilver would look into it.

A resident asked about plans for the sports facilities at the Winslow Centre site. BCC were looking at developing a sports facility on land at or near Redfield but had yet to finalise plans. In the meantime the existing facility would be retained and temporary changing rooms etc made available. BCC Cllr. Chilver also confirmed that there would be an access road through the new development off Furze Lane which would eliminate the need for heavy traffic along Avenue and Park Roads.

The relocations of the MUGA was raised. In the absence of a suitable alternative site this could well be put at the Combined School rather than lose it entirely to the community. The present site had proved a nightmare with no end of anti social and drug problems. There would be a meeting with BCC in the near future to finalise what could be done and if possible there would be some general community use. .

A resident asked about satellite dishes in the Conservation area and Council would look into current regulations.

The Chairman thanked Councillors and staff for their work during the year.

The meeting closed at 8.46

