



# Winterbourne

## PARISH COUNCIL

The Greenfield Centre, Park Avenue, Winterbourne, BS36 1NJ  
Tel: 01454 776922 [clerk@winterbournepc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@winterbournepc.co.uk)

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

28<sup>th</sup> April 2025

P Kembery in the Chair

P Kembery	(P)	F Arkley	(A)	D Marriott	(P)	P Bruce	(A)
L Fogg Rogers	(A)	P Sykes	(P)	J Kinsey	(P)	C Watkins	(A)
A Collins	(P)	D Eldridge	(P)	J Amos	(A)	S Hancock	(P)
M Goodman	(A)	N Labuschagne	(P)	J Lloyd	(P)	N Beebee	(P)

Also in attendance: One member of the public.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Amos, Watkins and Arkley and SGC Cllr Jones.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were confirmed as a true record.

#### **Winterbourne Charities: Cllr Marriott**

Winterbourne Charitable Trust is a registered charity formed by the amalgamation of historical legacies to the church.

Consistent with the wishes of the original donors, the aims of the charity are to relieve poverty and help with education. The criteria for a grant is residency within the civil parish of Winterbourne, which includes Winterbourne, Winterbourne Down, Hambrook and Frenchay.

The last AGM of the Winterbourne Charity was on 12th March 2025. It was attended by the Rector, 2 Church Wardens and 2 representatives from Winterbourne Parish Council. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2024 were agreed.

Four Primary Schools have been contacted offering grants. Frenchay has not responded, St Michaels and Hambrook have presented their cheques. Elm Park has still to present their cheque.

The current financial position was presented. There is approximately £1,000.00 in the current account. The Charity is awaiting an up to date bank statement.

As at 31.12.24 The Charities Deposit Account was £845.45. As at 30.09.2024 The Charities Investment Account was £8,371.15.

No requests for grants have been received. It was agreed to contact the four primary schools offering grants of £150.00 to support a child attending summer camp or similar activity.

No donations have been received during the last year and without these the long term sustainability of The Trust is in doubt. It would be possible to wind up the trust either by spending the capital or merging with another charity. This charity would have to be in line with the terms of the trust, i.e. for education, the relief of poverty and covering the Winterbourne Civil Parish. The situation is to be kept under review. All donations were gratefully received.

**Response from Councillors:** Suggested that the charity could be promoted to increase donations, to ask local businesses for support and the possibility of a lottery. Cllrs to contact the charity with suggestions and the Clerk to help promote on social media.

### **Chairman's Report: Cllr Kembery**

Winterbourne Parish Council is the elected body that represents the interests of the parishioners who live in Winterbourne, Winterbourne Down, Hambrook and Frenchay. We operate Committees for Planning, Finance and Climate & Nature. Planning is 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 as well as The Climate & Nature Committee. There may be changes to timings and dates of Agendas, these will be posted on public notice boards around the Parish and on the Council website as before. Our website, which is regularly updated, is an excellent source of information. We continue to expand the information available to parishioners and have recently added a Parish diary which shows lots of local events. Our Facebook page is also a great way to see the latest items within the parish.

Winterbourne Parish Council has continued to invest in our community. The Recreation Pavilion that we own needs major work to be done to upgrade and improve the building to meet the required sports standards. We also wanted to make this available for community events, alongside sports for all ages in cricket and football. We have recently signed a contract with contractors called CGW, and we have appointed WBC to manage the project on our behalf. We have made some reserves for the Pavilion refurbishment and we will aim to get as many grants as possible. We have always been very keen to promote sports for all ages within the parish and we continue to do this with all the sports associations that we support.

The open spaces, woodlands and ponds are important parish assets that so many residents regularly use. We get many compliments on how well maintained they look. My thanks go to the work that all Winterbourne Parish Councillors' do and I feel that we all work well as a team.

The Greenfield Centre has offices where the administration is run along with various rooms and the main hall that are used for community events and various classes. The solar panels we installed years ago on the roof of the Greenfield Centre which continue to provide an income for us as well as producing green energy. I would like to thank Sarah and Kim in the office for all the hard work they do. Sarah often comes in on her days off and we all appreciate her dedication to this important role. The other members of staff they manage and all the many volunteers within our community I would like to thank as well.

Winterbourne Parish Council continues to provide excellent value for money to parishioners in the precept payments we receive.

### **Planning Report: Cllr Collins**

Cllr Collins thanked all members of the planning committee for the time they have taken looking into each planning application. They are not always straightforward to understand, especially the larger developments. The Parish Council will continue to invite companies to planning meetings to explain their plans and any changes.

The committee always try to include adequate comments to be added to all applications so that conditions can often be added to decisions. We continue to

encourage developers to consider sustainability, biodiversity and the environmental impact and stress the importance of designing a sustainable building.

148 planning applications were considered across the Parish.

Members of the public often attend planning meetings to approve or disagree with applications which we continue to encourage in the community.

A breakdown of planning figures can be seen in Appendix A

### **Finance & General Purposes Committee Report - Including Grants: Cllr Beebee**

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.

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.

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 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. The Parish Council agreed that there would be a rise in the total precept that will be charged to Parishioners for the forthcoming year. Local reporting confirmed that the lowest overall B and D bill in the area is for residents of Winterbourne parish.

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

2024/2025 saw the start of the Recreation Ground Pavilion Upgrade project. We hired architects to design the upgrade and submitted a planning application. We also went out to tender for the upgrade and signed contracts in April. We have also had to spend money on the Greenfield Centre plumbing and roofing repairs. The new car park in Frenchay has cost money to sort out the drainage system and to make the area safer by cutting down the hedges and installing barriers. We have spent money on Community Engagement, including Youth Activities.

Next year we will be investing in the Greenfield Centre with new Windows for one side of the building which have become rotten and letting in damp.

We have put extra funds in the budget this year for Youth Activities which will go towards providing a Youth Club for young people in the Parish.

In line with the *Local Government Act*, we have provided over £15,000.00 in local grants. See Appendix B 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.

### **Climate and Nature Committee Report: Cllr Collins**

Our climate and nature team, backed up by our superb parish clerk and assistant clerk, have been extremely busy during the last year and a considerable programme is planned for 2025 across the Parish. Right now a lot of the planting and maintenance work was focussed on having everything ready for spring and we have highlighted local events where volunteers of all ages can help us and learn about our Climate and Nature priorities. These are gaining increasing interest and the seed bomb/sunflower planting morning in February was an outstanding success.

One key element of our C&N plan, when it was adopted by WPC in November 2022, was to explore local partnerships with all local support groups and organisations, which has gone incredibly well. We have benefited from WECA pollinator grants through their Bee-Bold Pollinator scheme along the Frome Valley and for Tuckett Field in Frenchay, had superb support and benefits in kind through One Planet Matters and Forest of Avon Trust, benefitted from neighbouring Parish initiatives and central training schemes through SGC Environment team and had plenty of engagement with local farmers, land owners, NHS establishments and residents. ►

This has effectively saved or benefited the Parish to the tune of over £3 per household this last year as we have been able to hook into so many environmental grants and initiatives. It is quite amazing what can be procured with a lot of hard work and imagination, our team of Parish Councillors Adrian, Laura, Sharon and David who run the C&N brief for the Parish are becoming quite adept at spotting and enabling these opportunities for our residents.

Another vital part of our operation is the volunteer support and expertise on the ground, through our partnerships with Winterbourne Environmental Group, Frenchay Residents Association and Frenchay Preservation Society. These groups and many more are helping to drive our vision and objectives, whilst volunteers of all ages enjoy and learn so much about our Parish environment and how to maintain and recover what we might otherwise take for granted.

Over 70 new trees have been planted across the Parish since our last AGM and the Winterbourne High Street 'planters' have been a great success with public and retailers appreciating the benefits of plants and flowers in our shopping areas. We would like to thank retailers who have supported us with this campaign in addition to facing challenging trading and economic conditions.

We also commend SCG for their tree planting campaign which has led to dozens of new more mature trees being planted and maintained in key locations across our parish.

One of the most exciting examples from all the projects this year will be the WPC poster and pollinator pathway maps and online information tools. These are truly innovative and exciting to explore. Watch out for these in our social media and on bus stops, we welcome all of your feedback and participation as we roll out a year of events to attend and voluntary work opportunities to help our initiatives.

We will also continue our public 'open forum' evenings as part of our climate and nature community engagement strategies. To have more time to cover the important stuff in our meetings we will be moving these to the third Wednesday each month from 7pm. The public forums will be 7pm on 18th June, 17th September and 17th December.

## **AOB**

- member of the public asked if Flaxpits Lane could have zebra crossing at the shops and the library. **Clerk will find out the process and advise.**

**The meeting concluded at 7.28pm.**

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## **APPENDIX A**

- WPC Consulted on 148 Applications
  - 33 are still awaiting a decision
  - 6 were withdrawn
  - 4 was a WPC Application (no comment made as no members of the public came to the meeting)
  - 5 we did not comment on insufficient details given in application
  - 2 Spilt Decisions
  - 86 % SGC agreed with WPC (previous year was 82.4%)
  - 14% SGC did not agree with SGC (previous year was 17.6%)

Row Labels	Count of Parish Council comments
<b>F</b>	<b>42</b>
No Objection	31
Objection.	6
Split Decision.	2
WPC Application	3
<b>FC</b>	<b>1</b>
No Objection	1
<b>H</b>	<b>39</b>
No comment due to the volume of new documentation	1
No Objection	28
Objection.	10
<b>HS</b>	<b>4</b>
No Comment due to the lack of clarity over the changes.	2
No comment due to the volume of new documentation	1
Objection.	1
<b>SG</b>	<b>6</b>
No comment due to the volume of new documentation	1
No Objection	2
Objection.	3
<b>W</b>	<b>56</b>
No Objection	47
Objection.	8
WPC Application	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>148</b>

APPENDIX B

