



WINSHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Winshill Parish Council held at the Neighbourhood Resource Centre
6.30 pm on Wednesday 15th July 2026.

Present:

Councillors J Batten, S Bullock, M Metcalfe, J Muir, I North, K Smith (also a Borough Councillor)
and C Wileman (also the County Councillor).

Also present:

S Taylor (Clerk) and Mrs Samra (Resident of Highfield Drive).

Apologies:

There were apologies from Councillor Lawrence.

MATTERS RAISED IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs Samra referred to the planning applications below for No. 5 Highfield Drive. She had no objections to the proposed fence but considered that it's height should be reduced close to the proposed vehicular access in the interests of pedestrian safety on the adjacent public footpath. There is a lime tree protected by a TPO along this boundary which needs to be safeguarded, and the gates should be set back to avoid causing an obstruction on the public highway or to the neighbour's access. Also, she believed that no stopping up order had been granted for the work that has already commenced to enclose part of the public highway. She was going to send her points to the Planning Authority.

PART I

101/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Smith declared an interest with regards to the Resource Centre Charity and Planning.

102/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th June 2026 were signed as a correct record.

103/26 TO ELECT A NEW CHAIR AND TO CONSIDER THE 3 CASUAL VACANCIES

Following the resignation of the previous Chair it was agreed unanimously to elect the Vice-Chair, Councillor John Batten, as the new chair and Councillor Ian North as the new Vice-Chair. It was also agreed to advertise the 3 Casual Vacancies in the usual way by first contacting the Borough Council.

104/26 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no new correspondence to report.

105/26 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Members considered the following application:

P/2026/00665 – Change of use of public highway to garden land at 5 Highfield Drive and erection of a 2.4 m high boundary fence.

P/2026/00674 – Group of Lombardy poplars to be reduced by 2.5 m at 5 Adelaide Crescent

P/2026/00685 – Limited crown reduction of Copper Beach tree at 136 Scalpcliffe Rd

P/2026/00686 – Removal of canopy of deadwood on Copper Beach tree at 136 Scalpcliffe Rd

P/2026/00713 – Construction of double garage & workshop at 203 Ashby Road.

P/2026/00736 – Erection of detached car port at 141A Ashby Road

Resolved:

With regards to P/2026/00665 at 5 Highfield Drive :

Winshill Parish Council raises objections based on the loss of amenity land and the resultant narrowing of the public footpath and the risk of damage to the nearby lime tree which is the subject of a TPO.

106/26 **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORT**

A survey will be conducted as part of preparing the new local plan up to 2043.

107/26 **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The overspend on home and school transport is to be written off.

108/26 **THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS TO REORGANISE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.**

There is to be an announcement on the shape of new unitary authorities for Staffordshire in the next few days.

109/26 **THE ENVIRONMENT, PLANTING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

The “In Your Neighbourhood” judging took place on 2nd July followed by the main judging for Heart of England in Bloom on 14th July. This leaves the gardening competitions to be judged next week. Disappointment was expressed that Winshill and Tower View School had not planted up their tubs, and the Clerk was asked to write to them.

Councillor Batten agreed to meet up with A&M Gardening to discuss progress and report back to the next meeting.

Volunteers were sought for a working party to root out some Himalayan Balsom at Newton Road Park on the morning of Saturday 25th July 2026.

110/26 **WEBSITE/FACEBOOK**

Councillor Smith agreed to putting information up on the notice board outside the Centre, whilst Councillor Bullock agreed to do the one at Newton Road and Councillor Batten the one outside the Anglesey Arms and at the Peace Wood.

111/26 **APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING**

No new applications had been received.

112/26 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Members reviewed and agreed the Final Accounts for the Period ending 15th July 2026.

113/26 **REPORT ON ACCOUNTS PAID**

		£	cheque no	minute no
C Stewart .	Internal Audit	220.00	1675	212/24
Planters .	Plants	511.16	1676	212/24
ESBC	June 2026 Salary Charges	1,262.87	1677	212/24
Community Heartbeat	Defibrillator Charge	33.00	1678	212/24
SPCA/NALC	Annual Subscription	1,120.56	1679	212/24
A &M Gardening	Grounds Maintenance 2 of 3	3,500.00	1680	212/24

Resolved:

That payment of the above accounts is confirmed.

114/26 **CLERK AND MEMBERS' REPORTS**

The Chair, John Batten, paid tribute to Councillors Margaret Fletcher and Dennis Flether who had recently resigned after years of service to the community as well as thanking Roger Cope who continued to host the website following his resignation from the Parish Council.

The Clerk agreed to put the Climate Change Emergency on the next meetings agenda as well as an updated Standing Orders.

PART II

There were no matters of a confidential nature.

115/26 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Resolved:

That the next Parish Council Meeting be brought forward to Wednesday 12th August at 7.30 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.35 pm.

Tribute to Dennis and Margaret Fletcher

We pay tribute to Councillor Dennis Fletcher, our long-serving Chairman of Winshill Parish Council, who has resigned after 22 years of dedicated and excellent service.

For over two decades, Dennis gave his time, energy and leadership to the people of Winshill. Through every challenge and every success, he led with fairness, commitment, and a deep love for our community. His 22 years of service represent not just a length of time, but a lifetime of meetings, projects, events, and countless hours spent making Winshill a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Under Dennis's chairmanship, we've seen real progress in our village — from improvements to local facilities, to supporting community groups, to being a steady and respected voice for residents. His work ethic and integrity set the standard for public service.

We also recognise and thank Dennis's wife, Margaret, who served for many years alongside him as a Parish Councillor. Her commitment, support, and contribution to the council and to the community has been invaluable. Together, they have given extraordinary service to Winshill especially in the realms of the RHS 'in bloom' projects for which Winshill and Burton have won major accolades over the years.

While we will miss Dennis's leadership in the chair, we thank him and his wife for everything they have done. Their legacy is written into the heart of our parish.

On behalf of the Parish Council and all residents of Winshill, we offer our sincere gratitude for 22 years of excellence, and our very best wishes for the future.

Thank you, Dennis and Margaret.

Councillor J Batten on behalf of Winshill Parish Council