

# Wickersley Parish Council

## Minutes of the Winthrop Gardens Committee Meeting held at 9am on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at Winthrop Gardens

Members present: Cllrs:- John Barber (in the Chair); Chris Grimes; Pat Beighton; Patricia Whitworth; Marie Woodhead

In attendance: Anna Chester (Winthrop Organiser); Tony Sarjeant; Elenore Fisher

**444 Apologies for absence**

Cllr John Robinson, Glenna Briggs, Mick Briggs

**445 Declaration of Interest**

None

**446 To resolve if members of the press and public are to be excluded from any agenda items of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted. (Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1(2))**

Agreed that if any members of the public attended they should be excluded from item 10 – Winthrop Development

**447 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Resolved: The minutes were approved as a true record

**448 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Resolved: The minutes were approved as a true record

**449 Matters arising from the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 taken via the Action Log**

**Item 369.3 Commercial Dishwasher** – Suitable model sourced and plumbing / drainage issues satisfactory – now the issue of power capability which needs further investigation and potentially some work.

**Item 241 – Winthrop Development** – agenda item

**241 Second Lane** – Asylum seeker work group no longer functioning due to the end of the Support Worker post. Community Workday on 29/07/23 was very successful and another scheduled for 10/09/23. Agreed to do a short leaflet run to raise awareness on the neighbouring estates and encourage participation / ownership. Cllr C Grimes agreed to do the delivery.

Informed that RMBC have let a contract to prune the trees which must be completed by 09/10/23.

**392.4 Replacement Garden equipment (mechanical)** – Successful funding bid to Local Community Fund, equipment purchased and monitoring form completed and returned. £2.85 underspend.

**Cleaning arrangements** – the Volunteer engaged on this task, who has done a great job, wishes us to find a replacement as she now has other pressures on her time. Replacement arrangements being investigated.

**450 Gardens and Allotment Report**

A written report had been submitted by Glenna and Mick Briggs.

Signed ..... Date .....

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Key points highlighted:- Garden volunteers welcome the 'Action Force' approach to improving Second Lane, another reminder about the decaying infrastructure which garden volunteers seek to mitigate, challenges in the garden due to very diverse weather conditions – recognised as ongoing! Huge value placed on plant donations from friends and supporters particularly the 'prolific Josie Benns'! Garden volunteers – a fairly stable team but fewer hours coming from the team – various approaches underway to recruit new – and experienced – volunteer gardeners. Appreciation of the new – grant funded – mechanical equipment. Meetings are ongoing with Garden volunteers to review the gardening year, look at the operational arrangements and plan for the future.

### 451 Allotment Report

Tony Sarjeant gave an oral report. Approximately 14kg of Tayberries have been collected and turned into jam (by Anna) – this 'route' was chosen to maximise the income from this relatively uncommon fruit – the 'conserve' has proved very popular. The gooseberries and blackberries have been cropped. Both the six tayberry plants and the two blackberry bushes have been pruned and prepared for next season. At the moment raspberries are being cropped almost daily. Other allotmenters are giving very generously of their surplus produce and our 'Sentry Hut' has had a great range of freshly picked produce available for modest donations.

### 452 Organisers Report

The Organiser spoke to a previously circulated written report.

Key points:- growing private hire of the Atrium both regularly and 'one-off' from individuals / groups with a synergy with Winthrop. But not looking to actively develop this income stream give the disruption which will be caused by the new Café construction. Next Winthrop e-news is imminent and Winthrop are again sponsoring classes at Rotherham Show with the Organiser doing another session in the Demo Kitchen. The Memory Café continues to thrive and recent donations and fundraising have been very positive. We are now going to add a Carers Support Group to our repertoire of services. Some very successful events especially the Yorkshire themed Afternoon Teas to coincide with Yorkshire Day on 1<sup>st</sup> August.

We will also be introducing a support framework for 'Lonely Men' – starting with a 'Quiz, Cuppa and Soup' event on 12<sup>th</sup> October too test the water.

Wickersley Walking Festival – the Winthrop Organiser is leading on a 2024 Walking Festival on behalf of the Parish

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453 – Finance Report 01/04/23 – 17/08/23

Winthrop Gardens Committee Financial Statement	Projected budget 2023 - 2024 (net)	Actual Income / Expenditure to 17/08/23 (net)	Committed Income/ Expenditure	Forecast to 31/03/24	Difference
<b>RESERVES</b>	<b>From WPC</b>	<b>Winthrop surplus</b>			
<b>2016 / 2017</b>		£10,821.64	includes unspent grant money which has been spent out of 2019/2020 budget		
<b>2017/ 2018</b>	£10,000	£2,430.05			
<b>2018 / 2019</b>	£10,000	£6,787.42			
<b>2019/ 2020</b>	£10,000	£23,649.97			
<b>2020 / 2021 (Covid closure year)</b>		£3,168.15			
<b>2021/2022</b>		£25,909.09	02/02/22 less £2450 - first payment to TT		
<b>2022/2023</b>		£28,665.70	08/09/22 less £257.83 RMBC - pre-app enquiry fee,		
<b>2023 / 2024</b>			30/06/23 less £1080 - TC Consult - QS fees		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£30,000</b>	<b>£101,432.02</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>					
Café	£25,000.00	£14,163.86	£0.00	£25,000.00	£0.00
Plant Sales	£3,000.00	£2,052.04	£0.00	£3,000.00	£0.00
Curiosity Corner	£2,500.00	£970.37	£0.00	£2,500.00	£0.00
Donations	£4,500.00	£2,695.43	£0.00	£4,500.00	£0.00
Preserves & Crafts	£3,000.00	£1,531.10	£0.00	£3,000.00	£0.00
Allotment produce	£400.00	£230.41	£0.00	£400.00	£0.00
Room Hire	£1,500.00	£590.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	£0.00
Other	£500.00	£2,069.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£40,400.00</b>	<b>£24,302.21</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£40,400.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Café Consumables	£7,000.00	£3,823.79	£0.00	£7,000.00	£0.00
Café infrastructure	£1,500.00	£938.84	£0.00	£1,500.00	£0.00
Plants and Shrubs	£500.00	£194.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00
Garden Maintenance	£750.00	£2,166.24	£0.00	£750.00	£0.00
Water Rates	£300.00	£16.22	£0.00	£300.00	£0.00
Electricity	£2,500.00	£1,047.73	£0.00	£2,500.00	£0.00
Gas	£1,250.00	£232.74	£0.00	£1,250.00	£0.00
Travel and Subsistance	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	£0.00
Machinery & Equipment Servicing	£750.00	£215.77	£0.00	£750.00	£0.00
Building repairs + Maintenance	£2,000.00	£30.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
Refuse	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00
Cleaning	£1,000.00	£156.50	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Communications	£1,250.00	£284.04	£0.00	£1,250.00	£0.00
Volunteer costs	£500.00	£252.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00
Training and Certification	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	£0.00

Signed ..... Date .....

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Preserves & Crafts	£250.00	£203.26	£0.00	£250.00	£0.00
Allotment	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£100.00	£0.00
Other	£1,500.00	£98.11	£0.00	£1,500.00	£0.00
SumUp card fees	£50.00	£5.38	£0.00	£50.00	£0.00
Hours against surplus	£6,565.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,565.00	£0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£28,865.00</b>	<b>£9,664.62</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£28,865.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Surplus / Deficit</b>	<b>£11,535.00</b>	<b>£14,637.59</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£11,535.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

The Organiser commented on the very positive position and advised members that the whole site takings for the month of August was just a few pounds short of £7k – the best August yet – but there were real issues of volunteer capacity on some shifts.

### 454 Winthrop Development

The Chair updated members on progress to date. We are in a critical period with a number of work streams. Amy Naylor, Asst Clerk has been brought onto the team on a temporary basis with 15 hrs per month to assist with the Project Management – specifically to focus on the planning application, the development of the Business case, sourcing grant / loan funding and developing the tender.

In terms of timeline – the aim is for the Planning application too be lodged by / before 1409/23, to take the Business case to WPC at the October meeting and explore particularly a grant from the Community Ownership Fund.

### 455 Volunteering at Winthrop

The Organiser spoke to a report which was tabled at the start of the meeting. This provided background to facilitate the discussion – current numbers of volunteers across all aspects of Winthrop activity noting that while the number continue to look good the story behind is less so with volunteers off sick / with operations, the average age increasing, the workload becoming more demanding and the recruitment challenge given the highly competitive environment.

Discussion about how volunteering could be made easier in various ways, retention of volunteers, but critical issue of recruitment and, having reviewed methods already tried and successful / less successful to explore more diverse approaches and diverse ‘asks’. From a Café perspective critical to increase the size / capacity of the team by Spring 2024.

Various suggestions made for the Organiser to follow up – Rotherham Life article for the October edition, posters in various places but particularly Parish Noticeboards, explore the use of the Library screens, revisit the advertising of vacancies via the VAR portal, organise an Open Session, encourage volunteers to ‘ask’ friends / family, advertise the opportunity in as many and as varied ways as possible etc. Acknowledged that a new facility and the achievement of a Kitemark for Winthrop’s volunteering offer should also aid recruitment.

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**456 Winthrop and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day landings on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The Organiser sighted members on the issue on which the Chair had asked Winthrop to lead on behalf of the Parish. Agreed to raise awareness via the forthcoming Parish Newsletter.

**457 Wickersley Walking Festival 2024**

The Organiser briefed member on the plans to hold one in 2024 to build on / capitalise on all the work done to hold one in 2020 which had to be cancelled due to Covid. Not anticipated to take much work or cost much more than a few staff hours and a leaflet.

**458 Dates of future meetings**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

The meeting closed at 10.30am