

Wickersley Parish Council

Minutes of the Winthrop Gardens Committee Meeting held at 9am on Friday 9th February 2024 at Winthrop Library

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

In attendance: Anna Chester (Winthrop Organiser); Glenna Briggs; Mick Briggs; Elenore Fisher;

472 Apologies for absence

Cllr P Whitworth – family issues, Tony Sarjeant

473 Declaration of Interest

None

474 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 the Winthrop Development item

475 Winthrop Development

Update from Cllr Barber

The Parish have approved the Winthrop Business Case but a number of issues were raised in the discussion of this matter which need addressing

475.1 Organiser costs – when the Winthrop Organiser was employed she became a member of the Clerking Team and employment costs were covered from a central budget as the rest of the Clerks. As the Winthrop operation has expanded additional Organiser hours have been covered from the Winthrop surplus – a weekly addition of 5 hrs and additional hours for events organised over and above the routine operation – a performance related element. At the Parish meeting it was felt that to provide clarity in future all the Winthrop Organiser hours should be covered by the Winthrop surplus. Having looked at declared surpluses and staffing costs – in all of the recent years – with the exception of the Covid year – Winthrop would still have made a surplus had all the Organiser staffing costs been covered within the surplus..

Resolved – Members were in agreement that in future, for clarity, all Winthrop staffing costs should be covered from the Winthrop surplus.

475.2 Risk management arrangements – concerns remain at Parish level around succession planning – Organiser, volunteer leadership, sustainability of the volunteer model

Resolved - Winthrop Committee to address these issues

475.3 Future Organiser hours and Job description – the Organiser job description has never been reviewed and needs addressing alongside hours in preparation in advance of the appointment of a replacement Organiser.

Resolved – Members were in agreement that work need to be done on a review of the Organiser Job description and assessment of hours

475.4 Reserves and Surpluses – since the purchase of Winthrop it was clear that funds would need to be spent to replace ageing buildings. At a Winthrop level volunteers have worked hard to generate surpluses with

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the clear understanding that money raised at Winthrop would be spent / saved to be spent at Winthrop. Winthrop is now in the fortunate position of having obtained grant funding to make a significant contribution to the redevelopment with Winthrop having sufficient in surpluses to cover the remaining costs. The Winthrop Committee will now need to move to a position where it has clear needs-based plans for the spending of surpluses generated in the future.

475.5 Business Plan The Winthrop Committee is now in the fortunate position of being able to plan for the spending of future surpluses on other areas and aspects of the Winthrop operation which are in need of attention eg Atrium roof, external Car park, garden paths, garden fences, repairs to the workshop roof and floor, purchase of a new greenhouse etc

Resolved – the Winthrop Committee to develop a Business Plan for the next 3 years and identify how it would propose future surpluses be spent.

475.6 Future Operating model – this was raised in discussion at the Parish and has been a mater on the agenda of the Winthrop Committee once there was the security / confidence of the new development and a new Organiser in place. Cllr Barber identified some possible options :-

- Remain as present – fully under the auspices of the Parish Council
- Develop an Arms length model – similar to WCCA or a charitable trust
- Retain ownership of the building but franchise out the operation
- Sell

Resolved – the Winthrop Committee will consider the options and develop a proposal

475.7 Membership of the Tender Evaluation Panel

Resolved : Cllr Barber, Cllr Grimes, Amy Naylor and Anna Chester

476 Winthrop response to Parish Blue Sky Thinking document

Members considered the document presented summarising previous discussions

Resolved – To submit the response to feed into the Parish collation of views of Committees and to organise meetings with volunteers to enable a bottom up approach to future planning and contributions to Winthrop's 3 year Business Plan .

471 Dates of future meetings

Members agreed to continue with the historic formula for the meetings on the first Friday morning in March, June, September and December and so the dates for 2024 will be as follows:-

Friday 1st March 2024

Friday 7th June 2024

Friday 6th September 2024

Friday 6th December 2024