Winkleigh Parish Council – Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 30th September 2026 at 7.00pm at Winkleigh Community Centre

Present:

Clerk to the Council, Jane Mills (BA Hons) FSLCC

County Councillor Cottle-Hunkin, District Councillor, Middleton,

Two members of the public.

The Chair gave a brief report at the start of the meeting addressing a number of issues

26/09/79 Apologies

Cllrs Wonnacott, Wensley and Keys.

26/09/80 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

26/09/81 To agree the Agenda between Part A and Part B

It was **resolved** to agree the Agenda between Part A and Part B.

Proposed: Cllr Jacobs, Seconded: Cllr Leahy (majority in favour, with three

abstentions)

26/09/82 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 22nd July 2026

It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 22nd July 2026.

Proposed: Cllr Jacobs, Seconded: Cllr Odulinski (5 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 2 abstentions)

26/09/83 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Cottle-Hunkin reported that she had been undertaking considerable work in connection with BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) and the proposed Data Centre. She had been inundated with representations from people opposed to it and advised that there would be a huge impact on the whole region. There had been a number of Freedom of Information requests on the pre-application.

She spoke about the impact of Bluetongue disease in the area. There had been no contact from DEFRA. The direct impacts included death, illness and fertility problems, which were ongoing, and there had been zero support.

She then spoke about maternity services at North Devon Hospital. It had been intimated that services would resume on 29th September 2026, but no date had been confirmed. She had been involved with correspondence to the Health Secretary in her capacity as Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs. The NHS were unable to recruit.

She went on to speak about Local Government Reorganisation and the time and money that had been wasted. The Council had been instructed to stop everything and go ahead with elections next May.

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She then spoke about the roads and confirmed the problems with dealing with tarmacking prior to dealing with potholes. Some potholes had been reported a number of times. Part of the problem was related to drains. The route that had been tarmacked required a full reconstruction.

There was discussion about North Devon Council and Torridge District Council becoming a possible unitary authority, but the general feeling was that this would not work and would be unsustainable.

She advised that the Winkleigh Sports Centre money had gone through in relation to a MUGA. The anticipated cost was £360,000. Section 106 monies which had been allocated were not yet available to be passed on for the MUGA to go ahead.

The County Council had also been advised about the disabled bays in the centre of Winkleigh and had confirmed that to her knowledge there would be no more disabled bays. She agreed to investigate the matter.

26/09/84 District Councillor Report

The District Councillor gave a brief report. The majority of items had already been covered by the County Councillor.

26/09/85 Public Participation

A member of the public raised a number of issues regarding behaviour by some Councillors towards the Clerk and other female members of Council and suggested that meetings should be streamed. The member of the public also suggested that the County Councillor and District Councillor should report back to their respective Councils regarding the behaviour of some members of the current Parish Council.

26/09/86 To receive the Clerk's Report

To include bank reconciliation and list of payments.

The Clerk read out a brief explanation on the use of WhatsApp and the use of emails. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The Clerk advised that an additional payment, not on the current list supplied to members, was a payment to Torridge District Council for street cleaning.

It was **resolved** to accept the bank reconciliation and the payments.

Proposed: Cllr Phillips, Seconded: Cllr Jacobs (all in favour)

Action Point: Include use of WhatsApp and emails as an agenda item for the next meeting.

26/09/87 To consider action points

The Admin Assistant had produced a significant list of action points. Members were asked to consider them and to advise her promptly of any action points that had been cleared and any that were outstanding.

The Clerk to the Council had also produced a list of action points restricted to items on the previous minutes, and these were noted.

26/09/88 To receive and consider a report from the People Committee (C)

Update on ionos closure. This is completed.

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Feedback on Cllr training. Very positive, well presented.

Strategic priorities for 2026/27. These will be discussed at an informal meeting on 14th October 2026 to consider the operational needs of the council over the next year.

The annual Community events in terms of clubs, societies, sporting and recreational activities facilitated by the council in the form of a promotional activity in the spring. Suggested this takes place in the spring, possibly 21st March.

Staff appraisal update, Appraisals were satisfactory

Committee/working group membership:-

People Working Group, Cllr Phillips, Cllr Allen, Cllr Leahy, Cllr Squance, & Cllr Odulinski

Environment Group, Cllr Kitchen, Cllr Phillips,, Cllr Allen, Cllr Jacobs, Cllr Leahy, Cllr Squance & Cllr Odulinski

Finance and Governance Group, Cllr Roth, Cllr Odulinski & Cllr Phillips

26/09/89 To receive and consider updates from Environment Committee (VC)

Environmental activity in the parish since the last meeting:-

Highways, including the disabled bay in the Square, was updated under the County Councillor report.

Environmental activity in the parish since the last meeting. Congratulations were offered to the company Bespoake which created the bee hotel sculpture. Receipt of a dog bin will enable the new dog walk to be opened by the sports centre. Bus shelters had been cleaned and painted by Councillors. Meeting to be arranged regarding parking restrictions in the village

26/09/90 To receive and consider reports from Finance and Governance (BR)

Priorities for the precept consideration were discussed.

Emergency Planning: the Clerk to the Council was asked to find the information on the current Emergency Planning, which should be somewhere on the laptop. Risk Assessment: the Clerk to the Council will assess what is required.

Action Point: Clerk to locate the current Emergency Planning information and assess what is required for the Risk Assessment to be addressed by the next Finance group meeting.

26/09/91 To consider Infrastructure Survey Report

This was a preliminary report presented by the Admin Clerk Members discussed it briefly and this will be an agenda item next month.

There will be an interim working group of all Council members to discuss the report and bring it up to date.

Action Point: Arranged an interim working group meeting of all Council members to discuss and update the Infrastructure Survey Report.

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26/09/92 To receive and consider a report regarding the proposed transfer of responsibility of the Community Centre into the ownership of WPC.

It was **resolved** that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting, with prior discussions taking place at a previously arranged meeting on 14th October.

Proposed: Cllr Odulinski, Seconded: Cllr Phillips (all in favour)

26/09/93 To consider review of cemetery terms and conditions

The review included quotations for tree work at the cemetery.

It was **resolved** to accept the revised cemetery terms and conditions.

Proposed: Cllr Phillips, Seconded: Cllr Leahy (all in favour)

The discussion on the quotation for tree work was to wait for an additional quotation, which should be received shortly, and the best value quotation will be proceeded with.

26/09/94 To consider Planning Applications & receive decisions and confirm planning group membership

Application 1/0469/2026/FUL has been withdrawn.

Application 1/0618/2026/FUL was considered. Members raised no objections subject to the increase of the proposed extension being no more than 40%

Application 1/0698/2026/FUL was considered. Members were concerned about the proposed new access, which shows insufficient space for its provision because of a lamp post, also environmental and archaeological concerns

It was **resolved** that the Clerk will respond after further consideration and circulation to members

Proposed Cllr Phillips: seconded Cllr Odulinski, (all in favour)

Action Point: Clerk to submit the response in respect of application 1/0698/2026/FUL.

1/0700/2026/FUL Members did not put forward a comment as this application is outside the area.

Planning working group agenda next meeting.

Action Point: agenda

26/09/95 To consider a response to the Planning Enforcement Officer in respect of correspondence received.

It was **resolved** not to make a response and uphold the previous decision irrespective of the approach from a neighbouring council.

Proposed: Cllr Phillips, seconded: Cllr Jacobs (4 in favour, 2 against and 3 abstentions)

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26/09/96 To consider purchase of a VAS for Winkleigh

It was **resolved** to proceed with obtaining prices for a moveable solar VAS with smiley face reaction

Proposed Cllr Odulinski, seconded: Cllr Leahy, (5 votes in favour, 2 against, and 1 abstention)

Part B

26/09/97 It was **resolved:** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from

the Meeting.

Proposed Cllr Odulinski, seconded: Cllr Phillips (all in favour)

26/09/98 To consider staff matters

To note the salary agreement in line with the recommended increase by the unions of a salary increase for staff of 3.3 % back dated to April 2026

This was noted

26/09/99 It was **resolved** to re-admit the public and press

Proposed Cllr Odulinski, seconded: Cllr Leahy (all in favour)

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.40pm

Signed …….. Dated ……

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