

Wynyard Parish Council

A.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Wynyard Church of England Primary School, on Tuesday, 20th May, 2025

Present	Cllr Allan Fletcher (Chair)	Cllr Val Bailey	Cllr Andy Dennis
	Cllr Tony Taylor	Cllr Robin Woolley	Barry Flux (Clerk)
Apologies	Cllr George Arizmendi	Cllr Valda Goodfellow	
Attendance	2 members of public		
Public questions / speaking			

Agenda Item

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received from Cllr George Arizmendi and Cllr Valda Goodfellow.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st May, 2024 were approved as a true record.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman presented his annual report as attached as appendix A

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following points were reported.

It was noted that following meetings concerning the internal audit that recommendations would be forthcoming in respect of financial reporting at ordinary meetings of the council.

It was reported that the amount of money held by Wynyard Parish Council was healthy at approximately £75,000 and that the Council needed to implement a strategy of projects to allocate spending upon.

It was agreed to amend the reserves policy to state that 'The level of General Reserve is a matter of judgment and so this policy does not attempt to prescribe an overall level'. It was also agreed that reserves policy needed to receive continued monitoring and the update the policy as the council looks to implement new policies and spending initiatives.

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REPORTS

Cllr Dennis gave a report from activities from Wynyard Residents Association. He reported that there is a regular update and a running spreadsheet about planning matters.

The meeting expressed that they felt the carol service and VE Day commemoration events were excellent.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public stated that a local council can be held to account if they agree to a pedestrian crossing and subsequently a pedestrian is injured or killed.

It was suggested that the Parish Council wrote a piece concerning safety on the A689 and that a request goes out for members of the public to get in contact so a log of any near miss incidents on the road could be kept.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next annual parish council meeting was agreed as Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 6:30pm.

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Date:

CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT – APPENDIX A

I rejoined the Parish Council by co-option in an Extraordinary Meeting held on 6th June last year in the Wynyard Care Home. At the same time as my co-option, Andy Dennis and Keith Flounders were co-opted, bringing the council up to its full complement of 7 councillors, with Cllr Stewart Renfrew as Chairman, along with Cllrs Val Bailey, Tony Taylor and Kerry Tempest (Clerk: Keith Murray-Hetherington).

Following a 'heated' July meeting of the council, the Clerk resigned on 24th July, followed the next day by the resignation of Cllr Kerry Tempest. The Chairman then resigned on 3rd August. We held an Extraordinary Meeting on 15th August at which I was elected as Chairman, and Cllr Dennis as Vice Chairman. Cllrs Bailey and Dennis became the first two members of the HR Committee, subsequently joined by Cllr Taylor in the next meeting on 5th September. We had received an email from Kirk Thompson (then the Managing Director of Cameron Hall Developments Ltd) stating that there would be no more meetings between Wynyard Parish Council and WES (himself and Mark Antonopoulos), and that Wynyard Hall was no longer available to us for our parish council meetings. This was a setback because a meeting had been booked in the Hall for 19th September. This featured a Youth Council Event which had been organised by Cllr Bailey, involving a considerable amount of time and effort. However, we eventually managed to persuade Messrs Thompson and Antonopoulos to allow us to go ahead with our meeting in the Hall, which was well attended and successful. Following a great deal of follow-up work by Cllr Bailey, we are currently in the process of asking young residents to volunteer to form our Youth Council.

We recruited a temporary Locum Clerk, Lesley Hanson, on 4th October, 2024, who handed over to our permanent Clerk, Barry Flux, on 9th December. Thanks to the HR Committee, and Cllr Taylor in particular, for the work involved in advertising, interviewing and recruiting Lesley and Barry.

An important aspect of the Parish Council's work this year has been involved with planning, and

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acting in concert with WRAAG, who formed in April, 2023 in opposition to planning application 23/0261/OUT. It has been suggested, by WES and others, that being a member of both WRAAG and the parish council, is a 'conflict of interest'. I am a member of both, and I see no conflict - both organisations are acting in the best interests of Wynyard residents. 23/0261/OUT has been 'dormant' on the SBC Planning Portal since the 'consultation' with residents was held at Wynyard Hall on 30th November, 2023. During this time, several disturbing features of the 13/0342/EIS (Wynyard Village Extension) application have come to light. This led to the refusal of planning permission for 22/2579/FUL (135 houses) which has been the subject of an Appeal since early October last year. In its comment submitted to the Appeal Inspector last November, Wynyard Parish Council asked him to consider holding an Inquiry/Public Hearing, rather than just investigating the Appeal on the basis of written submissions. We feel that Wynyard residents should be given the opportunity to listen to the facts, make their own presentations, and have the opportunity to cross examine any evidence presented by SBC Planning Officers or appellants/applicants/developers. But for the refusal of 22/2579/FUL, the land upon which 13/0342/EIS is located would now have planning permission for 767 houses - the maximum in the planning permission is 500!

If this process was repeated for 23/0261/OUT (700 houses or 800 according to which part of the application form you read) we could end up with 1000 - 1200 houses.

Another disturbing feature of 13/0342/EIS is the 'vanishing' infrastructure promised to Wynyard residents within the Section 106 Deed attached to its approval - the Community Facilities, Local Shop, and, crucially, the pedestrian bridge over the A689, should have all been put in place as part of the 13/0342/EIS build out.

In our November meeting, a Cleveland police officer and PCSO attended to give us a report on their investigations into the spate of burglaries in which the criminals had gained access to several houses via the golf course. We also received a reply to our email from the golf course

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manager. We contacted WES and Mr Antonopoulos, asking for a WES representative to attend our meeting - we received no acknowledgement or reply to our email. I attended the November meeting of the SBC Planning Committee to deliver a comment from the Parish Council on the Local Centre planning application (24/0430/REM) within 20/2408/OUT (130 houses - part of the 267 houses in excess of the 500 maximum permitted within 13/0342/EIS - see above). The Local Centre application was deferred pending the applicants addressing two recommendations by the Planning Committee. It was brought back to the Planning Committee the following month, accompanied by a written statement from Mr Antonopoulos, in which he accused the Parish Council of making "misleading statements" on planning. We replied in writing, sending our reply to all members of the Planning Committee, and to Mr Antonopoulos himself, asking him to quote any of our claimed "misleading statements". We never received a reply.

We are in close contact with our MP, Chris McDonald, and his Stockton Constituency Office manager, Louise Meek. His main focus is on the failure to provide necessary infrastructure at Wynyard - we have asked him to work with Jonathan Brash, the Hartlepool MP, to promote schools provision (the overdue primary school within the Hartlepool area of Wynyard, and a secondary school).

The saga of the Nordic Walking Poles ended in December. The 15 sets of poles were sold for £350 to a Nordic walking trainer who suffers from parkinsonism, and who trains parkinsonian patients. The proceeds are being donated to the Butterwick Hospice.

Finally, the Parish Council is now back to its full complement of seven members - Robin Woolley joined us in September last year, followed by George Arizmendi in February, and Valda Goodyear in March.

Signed

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