



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 11th June 2026 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

Present: Cllr Sycamore, Cllr Scott, Cllr Little, Cllr Grantham, Cllr Phare, Cllr Hutter, Cllr Jones, Cllr James, Cllr Fernbank

In Attendance: D Bird, Parish Clerk
District Councillor Andrea Glover
County Councillor Simon Clist

Minutes

1106/01 The Vice-Chair, Cllr Sycamore, led the Parish Council in remembering Barry Warren, the Parish Council Chair, who passed away on the 21st May 2026. Any memorial proposals will be discussed with the family first. Some ideas were suggested such as a memorial bench, planting a tree and naming a road on a new development. Ideas to be brought back to Council in September. The Clerk advised that it is a legal requirement to elect a new Chair and this should be done as soon as possible whilst respecting the passing of the late Chair and would therefore be the first item on the July agenda. Cllr Little proposed that the election of a new Chair should be deferred until after the Summer as he felt this would give newer Councillors time to consider the future shape of the Parish Council before making a decision, the proposal was seconded by Cllr Fernbank, 2 voted in favour, 6 against, 1 abstained and the motion therefore fell with the majority of Councillors opting for the election to take place in July. Councillors can nominate someone in advance or at the meeting but must be present at the meeting itself for this to count as a proposal. The wooden board in the Village Hall with the names of Parish Council Chairs will be updated once a new Chair is elected. The notice of the Councillor vacancy created by Barry's passing has been received from Mid-Devon and will be published after this meeting.

1106/02 **Apologies**
It was **noted** that apologies had been received from Cllr Turner.

1106/03 **Declarations of Interest**
Declarations taken in the relevant item.

- 1106/04 Public Question Time**
There were no members of the public present for this item.
- 1106/05 Order of Business**
There were no changes to the order of business.
- 1106/06** It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th May 2026, proposed by Cllr Scott seconded by Cllr Jones. Unanimously agreed.
- 1106/07 Chair and Clerk's Announcements**
- A new Editor has come forward for the magazine. The Clerk and a former editor are assisting her with production of the next edition.
- 1106/08 County and District Councillor Reports.**
- County Councillor Clist was in attendance – the County's budget was underspent for 2025-26 by £9.6 million. Therefore, an additional £4.6 million is being allocated to Highways for road repairs and maintenance, £2 million to libraries and no libraries will close, £1 million allocated to the new social worker scheme. Work is also ongoing to improve Broadband in Devon. The County leadership are looking at how they can hold South West Water to account over water pollution and sewage. Work on local Government re-organisation going on behind the scenes and significant reserves will have to be used to fund the costs of the re-organisation. Cllr Clist provided the Chair with several copies of the Pothole Handbook and advised that the Road Warden Scheme will be coming back online at some point.
 - Cllr Sycamore welcomed Cllr Glover to the meeting. Cllr Glover will send through the monthly report to the Clerk for circulation. She advised that she has been reappointed Chair of Mid Devon Homes Policy Development Group and updated the meeting on the work of the group. There is a £1.6 million shortfall in the Housing budget following the Government's recalculation of funding to local authorities. David Wulff is the new Leader of MDDC and Committee Chairs are currently being reappointed. The Somerlea properties will shortly be advertised on Devon Home Choice.
- 1106/09 Accounts Due for Payment and Receipts to include:**
- a) It was **resolved** to note the Summary of Receipts and Payments and approve the Bank Reconciliation up to the 31st May 2026. Cllr Hutter proposed, Cllr James seconded. Unanimously agreed.
 - b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices as set out in List A of the payments report, and to **ratify the** additional payments made since the previous meeting as set out in List B. Cllr Phare proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed.
 - c) The Reserves Balances Report up to the 31st May 2026 was **noted**.

- 1106/10** **Bank Accounts:**
a) It was **resolved** to add Cllr Scott as a signatory to the Lloyds Bank accounts. Cllr Jones proposed, Cllr Phare seconded. Unanimously agreed.
b) It was **resolved** to add Cllr Sycamore as a signatory to the Nationwide Business Savings account. Cllr Jones proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- 1106/11** The Emergency Plan was reviewed. The Clerk had already made the necessary amendments to the Councillor contact details. The current landlord details for the Halfway House are incorrect and have now been removed but the pub remains on the list of suitable building for use in an emergency and the Clerk will contact the new landlords once they in place. An agenda item to be brought to a future meeting as to role of the Parish Council in the event of a significant emergency.
- 1106/12** Cllr Little gave an update on the initial remit of the working group and how the future of its operation may change depending on how the Council moves forward under a new Chair. The group is still going ahead with the traffic and footpath work already agreed.
- 1106/13** It was **resolved** to submit expressions of interest to Mid Devon District Council to acquire the freeholds of the Gables Lea side of Jubilee Field and the Orchard Way play and recreation area. Cllr Grantham proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- 1106/14** Following the current contractor stepping away from the contract, it was **resolved** to appoint Inside Out Maintenance as the contractor for responsive repairs and general maintenance (formerly called the Handyman). Cllr Little proposed, Cllr Jones seconded, unanimously agreed.
- 1106/15** It was **resolved** to comment as follows on the Mid Devon Local Plan “Plan Mid Devon” Scoping Consultation - express concern that local plan consultation is going to be principally electronic and that provision needs to be made for those who do not have online access and this needs to be publicised appropriately. The length and timing of the consultation was raised with the timeframe considered too short and not the best time of year. Proposed by Cllr Hutter, seconded by Cllr Little. Unanimously agreed.
- 1106/16** The draft minutes of the Biodiversity Group were circulated prior to the meeting. It was **resolved** to accept the following recommendations:
Recommendation#1: Look into options for a Village ‘Wildlife Garden’ for visitors to visit
Recommendation#2: Follow up with a local business who are due to be planting a woodland as part of their new planning development
Recommendation#3: Publish a wildlife Column in the Parish Magazine
Recommendation#4: Organise and host a local Community Biodiversity event
Recommendation#5: Community Pollinator Patches: to create and manage for specific species
Cllr Scott proposed, Cllr Hutter Seconded. Unanimously agreed.

1106/17 Cllr Hutter circulated some options to improve the Parish Council's engagement with the local community prior to the meeting and it was **resolved** to use social media to increase awareness of the role of Councillors and the work of the Parish Council and to improve community engagement, through "Get to Know your Councillor profiles", videos on places, events and groups in the community and Facebook polls where appropriate. Cllr Hutter to take the lead on organising the posts and videos and publish some information in the magazine. Proposed by Cllr Hutter, seconded by Cllr Jones. Unanimously agreed.

1106/18 **Mid Devon District Council – Planning Applications** [MDDC Planning Public Access Portal](#)

Mid Devon District Council, the determining Authority, has asked for comments from this Parish Council on the following planning applications:

a) Reference: 24/01847/MFUL

Proposal: Continued operation of existing anaerobic digester plant without previous limitations on power output, feedstocks and tonnages, provision of new covers to AD silage clamps and digestate storage tank and extension to CHP unit building to provide improved office and facilities space and improved parking.

Location: Land at NGR 299621 112764 (Red Linhay) Crown Hill Halberton Devon.
HALBERTON PARISH

It was **resolved** to re-iterate the previous comments made on this application. Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.

It was **resolved** to ratify the following planning application submissions made since the last Full Council meeting. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

- i. No observations on application number 26/00274/HOUSE, Erection of replacement front boundary wall, including increase in height and installation of a gate, Ashbrooke House Silver Street Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2RG.
- ii. No observations on application number 26/00498/MFUL, Change of use of existing Class E use to outdoor educational facility (Use Class F1(a)), formation of ancillary structures and associated works, The Bear Trail Westcott Cullompton Devon EX15 1RZ. Neighbouring Parish Consultation.
- iii. No observations on application number 26/00159/MFUL, Construction of an earth-banked slurry lagoon, two silage clamps with associated retaining wall, yard extension, fencing and drainage, Land at NGR 298043 107664 (Honey Park Farm) Butterleigh Devon. Neighbouring Parish Consultation.

1106/19 **Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions**

It was **noted** that Mid Devon District Council, the determining Authority, has made the following planning decisions.

Reference: 26/00537/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to reduce the height of a mixed species boundary hedge by 4-5m within the Conservation Area

Location: Land at NGR 303550 110360 Rowes Orchard Willand Devon
DECISION: Mid Devon District Council has no objection to the works described

Reference: 26/00329/FULL
Proposal: Retention of studio cabin for use as hairdressing salon (Use Class E(a))
Location: 3 Maple Close Willand Cullompton Devon
DECISION: Permission Granted

1106/20

Councillor Reports:

- Cllr Scott reported that the VAS is recording speeds but not flashing and he will see if he can fix this.
- Cllr Hutter has applied to change the category of Meadow Park Road.
- Cllr Little mentioned no parking signs in front of a property adjacent to the post office, which had been removed but there is now a white line, which was approved by Devon County Council based on disability although it is currently being used as a holiday let.
- Cllr James reported that Willand Brownies went on a nature trail and undertook a litter pick in the woods off Silver Street. Cllr Glover advised that Mid Devon have bags and Hi-vis they can use in the future.
- Cllr Grantham updated the group on the recent Joint Traffic meeting, draft minutes had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Grantham mentioned how Uffculme's VAS records excess speed over the posted limit of 20 mph, the possibility of purchasing no footpath/pedestrians in the road warning signs to use in Old Village and the faded markings, traffic and speed on the B3181.
- Cllr Jones mentioned an email trail from a member of the public with the late Cllr Warren that she will forward to the Clerk.
- Cllr Jones advised that a member of the public had contacted her regarding the lack of public transport through Willand. A future agenda item to be added.
- Cllr Jones raised concerns about overgrown vegetation and footpaths. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the process for reporting these issues to Devon County Council.
- Cllr Fernbank reported that a member of the public had reported water drainage issues on the Foxmill Gardens Estate. Cllr Hutter advised that these should be reported to the Management Company. If there is potential planning breach this should be reported to Mid Devon Planning Enforcement. Cllr Fernbank advised that the same resident had also reported that police were regularly attending the affordable housing properties on the estate, however this assertion is not supported by the police crime data circulated monthly and Cllr Hutter was not aware of any issues.

1106/21

The meeting closed at 21.09. p.m.