



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

Present: Cllr Sycamore, Cllr Scott, Cllr Grantham, Cllr Phare, Cllr Hutter, Cllr Jones, Cllr Turner, Cllr Glover

In Attendance: D Bird, Parish Clerk
One member of the public

Minutes

- 0907/01** Cllr Sycamore invited nominations for the role of Chair following the passing of Barry Warren. Cllr Sycamore was nominated by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Hutter and was unanimously elected. Cllr Sycamore then signed the declaration of office.
- 0907/02** As this created a vacancy for Vice-Chair, Cllr Sycamore invited nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Cllr Scott was nominated by the Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Phare. Cllr Scott accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected.
- 0907/03** It was **resolved** to co-opt Andrea Glover as a Councillor to fill a vacancy on the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Hutter, seconded by Cllr Turner, 5 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention. Acceptance form and electronic communication form both signed and Register of Interest form provided for completion and return to the Clerk.
- 0907/04** **Apologies**
It was **noted** that apologies had been received from Cllr Fernbank, Cllr James and Cllr Little.
- 0907/05** **Declarations of Interest**
Declarations taken in the relevant item.
- 0907/06** **Public Question Time**
There was one member of the public present specifically for the biodiversity item 15.
- 0907/07** **Order of Business**
There were no changes to the order of business.
- 0907/08** It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th June 2026, Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

0907/09

Chair and Clerk's Announcements

- The Clerk reminded Council that there is no meeting in August.
- The Clerk provided an update on the potential new development of 170 dwellings off the B3181. There are still outstanding issues on the application relating to archaeology and drainage to be resolved before the officer can decide on her recommendation. Cllr Glover advised that an archaeological dig is currently taking place. The application will go to Committee once the outstanding issues have been addressed. Highways comments should result in improved site access and footpath provision to Willand and Hitchcocks. The wording in the S106 around allotments and open space to allow for flexibility to meet identified need. The difficulty will be finding available land. The Planning Officer will also liaise with the officer drawing up the S106 for the development of the 130 houses off Silver St to ensure the wording is similar in both. Councillor Grantham advised that the family of the late Cllr Warren would like a street named after him on that proposed development, an item will be added to the September agenda.
- There have been incidents of criminal damage in the Jubilee Field plus one incident at Chestnut Drive. Repairs are being undertaken as required. The Clerk has been liaising with the village hall re available CCTV, and also with the police.
- The Open and Space and Recreation Group are looking at whether any play and recreation equipment needs to be replaced/updated. Any proposals will be brought to Council.
- The Clerk had forwarded an email to Councillors from a local business looking to support local projects/community initiatives. This could be something for the working groups to consider when developing projects. One suggestion has been for a defibrillator in the Willand Moor Road area of the village – further work to be done on this proposal. If Councillors are aware of appropriate projects/initiatives being organised by others in the community please advise the Clerk, who can pass on the information.
- Due to legislative changes new Register of Interest forms must be completed by all Councillors. The Clerk handed them out at the meeting and will send to any Councillor not present. Instructions on completion and return already sent by email.

0907/10

County and District Councillor Reports.

- Apologies received from County Councillor Clist.
- A written report was received from District Councillor Connor and circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Glover in her capacity as District Councillor advised that the Cullompton relief road is slightly behind on funding levels. Somerlea Zed Pod houses currently being let. On going graffiti issues in the subway under the M5 – Cllr Glover has cleaned up some of the graffiti. Cllr Glover has reported various potholes and undertaken pothole training and is hoping to set up a local group in Willand, she will bring a proposal to a future Parish Council meeting as a Parish Councillor. The scouts will be helping Cllr Glover seed the area opposite the One Stop with wildflower seeds.

- 0907/11** **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 30th June 2026. Moved by the Chair, 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. Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.
 - c) The Reserves Balances Report up to the 30th June 2026 was **noted**.
- 0907/12** Cllr Scott has advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Advisory Group is proceeding with the 20-mph survey in Old Village.
- 0907/13** It was **resolved** to approve the revised Health & Safety Policy. Cllr Jones proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- 0907/14** It was **resolved** to approve the revised General Data Protection Policy. Cllr Hutter proposed, Cllr Turner seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- 0907/15** Barbara Bodkin, a local resident and member of the Biodiversity Group gave an update on the work of the group. She provided a recap on the recommendations approved by Council in June and gave an update on progress. The group will bring some costings to Council for approval at a future meeting and are also looking at outside funding opportunities. The group will work with the Clerk to approach businesses/other bodies about establishing pollinator patches.
- 0907/16** It was **resolved** to accept a donation from a local resident specifically for the provision of a composite bench on land in front of the tennis courts with the written permission of the village hall as the landowners and with the Parish Council taking on ownership of the bench on behalf of the village. Cllr Phare proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed. The Clerk to check which direction the bench will face.
- 0907/17** **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:

Cllr Glover declared an interest as a District Councillor and did not vote.

Reference: 26/00826/TPO

Proposal: Application to reduce the crown of 1 Ash tree (T22) by approximately 4-5m, reduce selected limbs by 1-2m and undertake light crown thinning and lifting, protected by Tree Preservation Order 94/00009/TPO

Location: 1 Harpitt Close Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2RX

It was **resolved** to comment as follows: Willand Parish Council will support the decision and recommendations of Mid Devon District Council. Any approved work should take place, where possible, outside bird nesting season and with as little impact

as possible on wildlife, although it is recognised that there has been a previous limb failure and that some work may be required earlier for safety reasons. Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.

Reference: 26/00842/TPO

Proposal: Application to re-pollard 1 Common Lime tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 97/00012/TPO

Location: Playing Field at NGR 303582 11012 Willand

It was **resolved** to comment as follows: Willand Parish Council leases this side of the playing field from Mid Devon District Council with the District Council retaining responsibility for the boundary, including the trees. The Parish Council supports the re-pollarding of the lime tree for safety reasons as there is a risk of further limb failures following the recent failure, to protect the public in a recreation area well used by the members of the community and visitors including young people and children. Work, where possible, to take place outside the bird nesting season. Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed

0907/18

Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions

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

Reference: 26/00557/CLP

Proposal: Certificate of proposed use of dwelling as Children's home

Location: 6 Blenheim Court Willand Cullompton

DECISION: Certificate of Lawful Use Granted

Reference: 26/00538/FULL

Proposal: Erection of a 7.9m high lighting column with 4 150 watt LED floodlights

Location: Land at NGR 303654 111158 Former Durban Works South View Road Willand

DECISION: Permission Granted

Reference: 26/00274/HOUSE

Proposal: Erection of replacement front boundary wall, including increase in height and installation of a gate

Location: Ashbrooke House Silver Street Willand Cullompton

DECISION: Permission Granted

0907/19

Councillor Reports:

- In light of further planned development, Cllr Jones raised the issue of poor public transport services in the village.
- Cllr Grantham advised that he had received a complaint about the village entry signs being dirty. The Clerk will ask the contractor to clean these.
- Cllr Scott is investigating the installation of a new defibrillator for the Willand Moor Road end of the village. An item to be added to the September agenda.

- Cllr Hutter advised that youngsters have been throwing stones picked up from the French drains at the pump track. It was reported to the Police on the last occasion by a member of the public. This is an ongoing problem. The Council's contractor is looking at different fittings to secure the wire mesh over the drains to make it more difficult to remove and gain access to the stones.

0907/20

The meeting closed at 20.12 p.m.

DRAFT