



## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

**Present:** Cllr Warren, Cllr Grantham, Cllr Leach, Cllr Little, Cllr James, Cllr Jones, Cllr Hughes (arrived at 19.32), Cllr Scott, Cllr Glover

**In Attendance:** D Bird, Parish Clerk  
District Councillor John Poynton, left at 19.46  
County Councillor Ray Radford (arrived at 19.24 p.m., left at 20.16)  
Simon Andrews, the Devon & Cornwall Police Neighbourhood Team Lead, left at 19.46

### Minutes

**0802/01 To receive and accept apologies**

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Phare and the reason for absence was approved unanimously.

**0802/02 Declarations of Interest**

Declarations taken in the relevant item.

**0802/03 Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**0802/04 Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**0802/05**

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 as a correct record, Cllr Little proposed and Cllr Grantham seconded. Unanimously agreed by those present at the January meeting.

**0802/06 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

- Skate Park Mini-Ramp – Section 106 funds received. Awaiting confirmation of start date, which is likely to be in May. The contractor has been asked to quote to tarmac the areas between the Skate Park and the pump track and between the skate park and the footpath to mitigate damage to grass and tracking of mud on both areas.

- Thank you card received from Anne Hawkins for the flowers sent on her retirement as Willand School Headteacher.
- Jaycroft works to clear vegetation to be undertaken through the Community Payback Scheme, email already forwarded to Councillors.
- Litter Picker has seen and spoken to a man sleeping rough in the wooded area between Tamarind & Meadow Park. The Clerk has made Mid-Devon Homelessness team aware.
- Revised drawings and supporting information received for the erection of a dwelling at Silverstones in Silver Street too late for this meeting agenda, email forwarded to Councillors along with the Parishes comments made in December. Deadline 21<sup>st</sup> February, additional comments to be agreed by email. Also revised plans and additional information received re the Battery Energy Storage System at J27 (Burlcombe), the Parish made no observations when last consulted in October – emailed to Councillors who are to advise the Clerk if they feel any further comment is appropriate.

**0802/07**

An update was received from the Devon & Cornwall Police Neighbourhood Team Lead, Sergeant Simon Andrews, on crime and anti-social behaviour in Willand. 3 PCs and 3 PCSOs based at Cullompton working under Simon. Nature of issues have changed since COVID. Speeding, parking and anti-social behaviour key issues raised by the public. Since June 2023, 208 occurrences recorded, breakdown of those reported by the public: 4 burglaries (2 domestic, 2 residential), 3 fraud, 5 damage, 6 drugs, 6 sexual assault, 10 thefts, 12 others, 54 violence (inc Domestic Violence) and only 3 Anti-social behaviour. The remaining occurrences were generated by the police themselves and were often welfare related. Simon can arrange for stats to be generated if required as still no national reporting. Cllr Jones suggested that a physical presence would reassure the public. **Clerk to diarise to invite Simon to a Council meeting annually. Clerk to circulate Simon's email address to Councillors** to enable a direct line of dialogue with the team to respond to any issues raised by Councillors.

**0802/08**

It was **resolved** to approve a proposal from Councillor Glover to email Devon County Council in support of the request from the Chair of Halberton Parish Council asking for a re-evaluation of the safety of the Uffculme Road, between Willand and Uffculme, and a reduction in the speed limit following the recent incident. Proposed by Cllr Glover and seconded by Cllr James. Unanimously agreed. **Clerk to action**

**0802/09**

**Reports from County and District Councillors.**

County Councillor Radford had forwarded his report earlier in the day, which had been circulated to Councillors. Budget to be agreed by February Full Council. Councillor Radford is meeting the new Neighbourhood Highways Officer on the 13<sup>th</sup> February to discuss several local issues.

Parish Councillors raised the recurring flooding problems at Spearings and at the entrance to Gables Road. Cllr Hughes also raised the potholes at Five Bridges on the way to and from Cullompton.

District Councillor Poynton had forwarded the results of the survey relating to the Uffculme Straight earlier in the day, which had been circulated to Councillors, and reiterated the issues and concerns for pedestrians and cyclists. There is a joint Traffic meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss this and other local traffic issues, representatives of Uffculme, Willand, Halberton and Sampford Peverell are attending.

Cllr Glover advised that she had been to a meeting with Hillhead Quarry and Broadpath Landfill. There is an investigation into over landfilling with concerns of potential flooding in the wider area.

The District budget was passed by Cabinet, will now go to Council for final approval.

Standards Committee is looking at the way the District's Committees work and how to realign to make them more accessible and relevant to the public.

**0802/10** It was **resolved** to approve the final Neighbourhood Plan documents and that submission of the plan and associated documents to Mid-Devon District Council be delegated to the Parish Clerk in consultation with the Chair, subject to any further amendments being confined to grammar and formatting. Cllr Little proposed, Cllr Scott seconded. Unanimously agreed. **Clerk to action in consultation with the Chair.** Councillors wished to extend their thanks to the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

**0802/11** **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 as at the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Cllr James proposed, Cllr Little seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices received between the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, and to minute **ratification** of salary and other additional payments made since the previous meeting. Cllr Scott proposed & Cllr Leach seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- c) It was **resolved** to note The Reserves Balances Report.
- d) It was **resolved** to approve a transfer of £30,000 from the Lloyds Treasurers Account to the Lloyds Instant Savings account to maximise interest on Parish Council funds in the short term. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

**0802/12** A paper was presented to Council on play areas inspections with various options, following Mid-Devon's decision to increase inspection fees significantly, and it was **resolved** to write to Mid-Devon District Council to alter the frequency of inspections to bi-monthly as per the charges agreed by Cabinet in January, to include the annual RoSPA inspection. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed. **Clerk to action.** Cllr Glover declared an interest as a District Councillor & didn't vote.

**0802/13** It was **resolved** to note the 3-year Play Area Capital Programme which is a living document to be updated as and when necessary. To date play equipment that will require replacing over the next 3 financial years has been identified with indicative costs.

- 0802/14** It was **resolved** to approve the Council’s Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2023-2024. Proposed by Cllr Scott and seconded by Cllr Little. **Clerk and Chair to sign.**
- 0802/15** It was **resolved** to purchase a training defibrillator and a Manikin Set to train residents in the use of the defibrillator and to administer Chest Compressions, to be funded from the Community Facilities Reserve, proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Hughes. Unanimously agreed. **Clerk to action.**
- 0802/16** A paper on the reinstatement or replacement of the CCTV at the Village Hall was considered and due to the complexity surrounding this issue it was **resolved** to defer until a future meeting pending further investigation, proposed by Cllr Glover and seconded by Cllr Leach. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Grantham did not vote having declared an interest as a trustee of the Village Hall. **The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hughes and the Chair of the Village Hall to develop a proposal to be brought back to a future meeting.**
- 0802/17** It was **agreed** that Councillors Little will represent the Parish Council at the Mid-Devon State of the District Debate on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at Phoenix House. **Clerk to advise MDDC.**
- 0802/18** **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: 24/00027/HOUSE  
Proposal: Erection of an attached garage  
Location: Land at Thatch Cottage, Silver Street Willand EX15 2RG  
It was **resolved** to object to this application and submit the draft proposed comments circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Little, seconded by Cllr Jones. 8 Councillors for, 1 abstention.
- b) Reference: 24/00039/FULL  
Proposal: Erection of 7 affordable dwellings with car parking, landscaping and other minor works following demolition of existing garages  
Location: Land at NGR 303611 111116 Somerlea Willand  
It was **resolved** to object to the application and submit the draft proposed comments circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Scott. 7 Councillors for, 2 abstentions.

c) Reference: DCC/4341/2023  
Proposal: Provision of access and hardstanding for additional parking areas at Willand Bio-gas  
Location: Willand Biogas LLP, Hide Market Road, Willand, EX15 2FP  
COUNTY PLANNING MATTER  
It was **resolved** to offer no observations. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

d) Reference: DCC/4342/2023  
Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 of DCC/4153/2019 to amend approved drawings  
Location: Willand Biogas LLP, Hide Market Road, Willand, EX15 2FP  
COUNTY PLANNING MATTER  
It was **resolved** to offer no observations. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

It was **resolved** to ratify the following planning application submissions agreed since the January Full Council meeting:

- i. Offer no objection to Planning Application 24/00021/FULL Change of Use existing B1/B2/B8 (sui generis) building and associated land to Class E4, Willand Road Business Park Willand Cullompton EX15 2RF, Halberton Parish.

#### **0802/19 Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions**

It was **resolved** to note Mid Devon District Council, the determining Authority, has made the following planning decisions.

Reference: 23/0173/HOUSE  
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and conservatory to side  
Location: 3 Hillcrest, Willand Old Village  
DECISION: Permission Granted

Reference: 23/01859/HOUSE & 23/01860/LBC  
Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 22/02209/HOUSE & 22/02210/LBC (Conversion of an outbuilding to annex) to allow for substitute plans relating to change in materials  
Location: Land and Buildings at NGR 303719 110353 (Dye House) Willand Old Village Willand Devon  
DECISION: Permission Granted & Listed Building Consent

**0802/20** Correspondence noted.

#### **0802/21 Councillor Reports.**

Cllr Scott mentioned the VAS reports previously circulated and added to the website.

Cllr Jones met with a member of the public to walk the village and consider biodiversity options. She will send some proposals to the Clerk.

Cllr Hughes asked if there was any pressure the Parish Council could bring to bear on the development of a footpath/ cycle path on Uffculme Straight. This had been discussed earlier in the meeting, before Councillor Hughes arrived, and a joint Parish Traffic meeting is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**0802/22**

**Close at 20.58.**