



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 11th January 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 Phare, Cllr Hughes

In Attendance: D Bird, Parish Clerk
District Councillors Cathy Connor arrived 7.08 p.m.
County Councillor Ray Radford, left at 19.58

Minutes

1101/01 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Scott and Cllr Glover and the reasons for absence were approved unanimously.

1101/02 Declarations of Interest

Declarations taken in relevant the item.

1101/03 Public Question Time

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

1101/04 Order of Business

Item 8 removed from the agenda and an item will be added to February Council.

1101/05 Parish Council Minutes –

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held on the 7th December 2023 as a correct record, Cllr Grantham proposed and Cllr Hughes seconded, and the Full Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 14th December 2023, as a correct record, Cllr Grantham proposed and Cllr Leach seconded. Unanimously agreed.

1101/06 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

- On the Mid-Devon Cabinet agenda for the 9th January there was an item on charges for 2024/25, including a change to Play Area inspection fees, which showed a significant increase in the annual cost to the Parish. The Chair asked several questions at the meeting including why Parishes had not been consulted. An agenda item has been added to February agenda to consider possible options going forward.

- Three planning applications received too late for the agenda, extensions of time granted for two until after the February meeting – 7 affordable homes at Somerlea and Thatch Cottage Garage. The third application is a change of use of one area from light industrial to leisure and recreation at Willand Road Business Park in Halberton Parish, a possible response will be circulated by email.
- S106 funding application for the Skate Park – the Director of Place has confirmed that funding has been approved, formal confirmation is awaited from Planning before the Contract award letter can be issued, this has been chased by Cllr Glover and Cllr Connor will also chase.
- Victoria Close Play Area – response received from Mid-Devon previously circulated to Councillors confirming that there is no Public Space Protection Order on the whole park . The fence will remain for now, but the orders are to be reviewed at the end of 2024 and they have suggested the possibility of the whole park being a dogs on leads area, the Parish will comment at the time as necessary.
- County Councillor Radford’s response re additional Government funding for road repairs was circulated to Councillors. Willand is not on the list of identified parishes and if members have specific concerns these need to be reported to Cllr Radford.
- Vacancies – both can now be filled by co-option. Advertised on the website, Facebook and noticeboards and in the next magazine issue. One person has expressed an interest and information supplied.
- The Clerk has emailed District Councillors to ask them to chase progress on the fence enforcement at Church Lea.
- The VAS report for December was circulated prior to the meeting, the report is only up to 28th Dec as the Handyman was away on holiday and the battery ran flat - Handyman has now been asked to change the battery over after 2 weeks, instead of monthly. Website updated with report and raw data. The figures show an increase as expected - usually higher at the allotment end of the village, and the road works affected November’s data. **The Clerk to ask Cllr Scott the speed the VAS is set at.**
- The Chair met with Cllr Radford and the new Neighbourhood Highways Officer earlier in the day; a key area discussed was local flooding.

1101/07 Reports from County and District Councillors.

Report emailed earlier from County Cllr Radford. Parish Councillors can contact Cllr Radford with any questions they have on this. The new Neighbourhood Highways Officer is Kyle Walker, who starts on the 22nd January. Cllr Radford is meeting the new Head of Willand School on the 24th January re the available Section 106 monies and has asked if the Parish Council Chair can attend the meeting.

District Cllr Connor – The District Council is looking at increasing access to Pheonix House during normal working hours. Cllr Connor also attended the open evening on the proposals for the new motorway junction and relief road – A Devon County Council officer told her at the meeting that the relief road may have to close at times for flooding but no clarity about when and how often.

The Chair recommended that members read the enforcement report going to Scrutiny on the 15th January, as there are problems relating to enforcement and a lack of staff.

1101/08 Item removed from agenda and to be added to February meeting.

1101/09 Accounts

- a) It was **resolved** to note the Summary of Receipts and Payments and approve the Bank Reconciliation as at the 31st December 2023. Cllr James proposed, Cllr Phare seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices received between the 7th December 2023 and 6th January 2024, and to minute **ratification** of salary and other additional payments made since the previous meeting. Cllr Leach proposed & Cllr Phare seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- c) It was **resolved** to note The Reserves Balances Report.

1101/10 Financial Year 2024/25:

- a) Councillors considered the 25% increase in membership fees for 2024/25 being proposed by the Devon Association of Local Councils and it was **resolved** to cancel the Parish membership. Proposed by Cllr Little and seconded by Cllr Hughes. Unanimously agreed.
- b) It was **resolved** to set the Precept for 2024/25 at £76,555. Cllr Phare Proposed and Cllr Litte seconded. It was agreed to rename the Village Projects Cost Code to Village Services
- c) It was **resolved** to approve the transfer of the underspend predicted for 2023/24 to the Operational Reserve to increase the balance to half the Precept with effect from the 1st April 2024. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- d) It was **resolved** to approve the amalgamation of the Jubilee Field Earmarked Reserves to one earmarked reserve titled Jubilee Field Development, with effect from the new Financial Year 2024/25. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- e) The Clerk provided a verbal update on progress with the preparation of the 3-year Capital Programme for Play Areas. It is intended to bring a draft to February Council for consideration. The Chair asked for members ideas for the available Section 106 monies for teen facilities, including potentially supporting the youth club.

1101/11 It was **resolved** to invite Mid-Devon Mobility to a future Parish Council meeting. Proposed by Cllr Little and seconded by Cllr Hughes. 7 Councillors agreed, 1 abstention.

1101/12 It was **resolved** to approve the purchase of a training defibrillator at a cost of £395 plus VAT and a Manikin Set at a cost of £525 plus VAT, to train residents in the use of the defibrillator and to administer CPR, and to approve funding the overall cost of £920 plus VAT from the Community Facilities Reserve subject to exploring the availability of other more cost-effective options. **The Clerk to explore.**

1101/13 The Asset Register was reviewed and noted.

1101/14 **Mid Devon District Council – Planning Applications** [MDDC Planning Public Access Portal](#)

a) Reference: 23/01919/HOUSE
Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension and single storey rear extension
Location: 24 Park Street Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2PT
Extension of time granted until Monday 15th January
It was **resolved** to submit the draft proposed comments circulated prior to the meeting. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

b) Reference: 24/00015/TPO
Proposal: Application to reduce the crown of 1 Oak by up to 2m tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 97/00008/TPO
Location: 6 Blenheim Court Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2TE
It was **resolved** to submit the draft proposed comments circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Little proposed, Cllr James seconded. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Leach declared an interest but stayed in the room and took no part in the debate or decision.

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

- i. Application Number 23/01859/HOUSE & 23/01860/LBC (Conversion of an outbuilding to annex) - Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 22/02209/HOUSE & 22/02210/LBC, to allow for substitute plans relating to change in materials, Land and Buildings at NGR 303719 110353 (Dye House) Willand Old Village Willand – draft comments circulated and agreed prior to the meeting.
- ii. Application Number 23/01866/FULL – Expansion of Compound, Land at NGR 305194 112185 (GXO) Hitchcocks Business Park Uffculme. It was agreed to comment that Willand Parish Council has no observations to make on this application.

1101/15 **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: 23/01828/NMA
Proposal: Non-Material Amendment for 22/01393/FULL – erection of a dwelling with garage and access to Harpitt Close, to allow the addition of air source heat pump
Location: Apple Tree House 17B Harpitt Close Willand
DECISION: Permission Granted

Reference: 23/01734/TPO
Proposal: Application to fell 1 Ash tree (T1) protected by Tree Preservation Order No. 97/00008/TPO

Location: Barnwell Jaycroft Willand Cullompton
DECISION: Refusal

1101/16 Correspondence noted. Decision made not to provide a Parish response to the Rural Services Survey. Proposed by Cllr Little and seconded by Cllr Phare.

1101/17 Councillor Reports

Cllr Little – with the Neighbourhood Planning item deferred until February, Councillors may contact him if they have any questions they would like answered in advance.

Cllr Jones received a cheque from Bellway for the Pantry Christmas hampers for £300. She raised concerns about Bellway's costs in making the donation.

Cllr Leach asked who to report overflowing rubbish bins to and was advised it is Mid-Devon District Council.

Cllr James asked if anyone knows who is responsible for the path from the churchyard going down towards Jaycroft. It was suggested that Devon County Council be contacted in the first instance.

Cllr Hughes asked who is responsible for the footpath from the Fry Station to the industrial estate as there are problems with leaves and an overgrown hedge, he was advised to report this to Devon County Council.

Cllr Grantham advised of the issue at the Health & Community Centre (WH&CC) re insufficient power for the new kitchens. National Grid have come up with a programme and price to increase ampage to the site. WH&CC require permission from the pre-school as per their agreement with them. Cllr Grantham has asked that the decision comes to the Parish Council as the building owners as per the lease with the pre-school concerning alterations to the building. The Clerk is already dealing with an email from one of the pre-school directors. **The Clerk was asked to email copy of the lease to all Councillors.**

Cllr Phare advised that the play park signs need cleaning. **The Clerk to instruct the Handyman.**

Cllr Jones is concerned about the large puddles outside Spearings with water flowing across the footpath, forcing pedestrians into the road. **Cllr Jones to send the Clerk photos and the Clerk to raise with Devon County Council.**

Cllr Hughes asked if there was an update on the CCTV at the Village Hall. The Clerk has chased twice and is due to chase again next week.

1101/18 Meeting Closed at 20.24 p.m.