



## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

**Present:** Cllr Warren, Cllr Phare, Cllr Grantham, Cllr James, Cllr Jones, Cllr Leach, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Little

**In Attendance:** D Bird, Parish Clerk  
District Councillor Cllr Cathy Connor, left at 20.28 p.m.  
4 Members of the Public present, 3 left at 19.52 p.m., remaining Member of the Public left at 20.28 p.m.

### Minutes

**0911/01 To receive and accept apologies**

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

**0911/02 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

**0911/03 Public Question Time**

There were 4 members of the public present at the meeting. The Chair agreed that the members of the public could speak in the relevant agenda items.

**0911/04 Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**0911/05 Parish Council Minutes –**

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 12 October 2023, as a correct record. Cllr Little proposed & Cllr Grantham seconded. Unanimously agreed.

**0911/06 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

- The accessible bench now fitted. The additional bin on the Pump Track signpost to be fitted shortly.
- The VAS has been reinstated. Confirmation from DCC that free Chapter 8 training is available again for up to 3 current Councillors per Parish, Cllr Scott received the training in 2021 which is valid for 5 years. The Clerk confirmed with Cllr Grantham that

he requires a refresh and will confirm with Cllr Sellick if he wishes to proceed with the training.

- Planning application 23/01691/PIP (up to seven 3 & 4 bed dwellings on the Old Garage site, adjacent to the Halfway House) received after agenda published. Deadline for comments 17<sup>th</sup> November, the Planning Officer has granted an extension of time for comments before the 7<sup>th</sup> of December. The Clerk will circulate a potential response for agreement by the 17<sup>th</sup> of November to allow sufficient time for an additional meeting to be held if agreement cannot be reached.
- The new Youth Club committee has installed an alarm system and, in the process, uninstalled the Council's CCTV system, cutting the wires. They say they were unaware it was still in use. The installer for the alarm is due to visit on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> to see whether the cameras can be connected to the new system. If this is not possible the Parish Council will need to consider the way forward.
- Pay Award for 2023/24 finally agreed. Increase of £1 per hour as expected, backdated to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Backdated pay will be paid with November salaries.

#### **0911/07 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Apologies received from County Councillor Radford, who emailed a written report earlier in the day, which was circulated to Councillors. Cllr Hughes would like an update on the Waterloo Cross road defects/pot holes – **Clerk to contact Cllr Radford.**

District Councillor Cllr Cathy Connor:

- Cllr Connor, Cllr Glover & Cllr Duchesne visited Aggregate Industries quarry outside Uffculme, who advised how the landscape will be returned to nature once it eventually closes some years hence.
- The District Council is undertaking a residents' survey, which is on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page. The Magazine Editor, who was present at the Council meeting, will add into the next edition of the magazine.
- The District Council has set up a petition to Devon County Council regarding the repairs and maintenance of the highways in Mid-Devon.
- Following discussion of the Cabinet System in the last Council, Mid-Devon is now exploring a move to a hybrid system of Governance.
- Business grants and training are available to local businesses.
- The Kentisbeare Christmas celebrations held prior to Covid will take place in a different format than previously.

#### **0911/08 Update from the Neighbourhood Planning Group**

The Neighbourhood Planning Group are still waiting for answers from Mid Devon District Council on questions raised following their Regulation 14 comments.

- 0911/09** A request was considered from a resident (present at the meeting) to cut the area of boundary hedge adjoining their property, adjacent to the South View Play Area. Whilst the Council did not agree to cut the hedge on the resident's side, **it was agreed that the Clerk will seek advice from the Mid-Devon District Council Tree Officer as to what work he would recommend be undertaken to the Ash Tree in the hedge line and his permission to do so, and report back to a future meeting.** This is required under the terms of the lease.
- 0911/10** **Accounts**
- a) It was **resolved** to approve the Summary of Receipts and Payments and the Bank Reconciliation as at the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Cllr James proposed, Cllr Hughes seconded. Unanimously agreed.
  - b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices received between 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023, and to minute **ratification** of salary and other additional payments made since the previous meeting. Cllr Little proposed, Cllr James seconded. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Jones temporarily left the room at 19.56 p.m. and returned at 20.05 p.m. and did not vote on this item.
  - c) The Reserves Balances Report was noted.
- 0911/11** **Update on Budget Planning for 2024/25:**
- a) It was agreed that the Jubilee Field earmarked reserves will be amalgamated. It was agreed that **the Clerk will develop a 3-year Capital Programme for Play Areas to bring to Council for approval.**
  - b) The Operational Reserve which stands at £20,000 should be £37,000, half the annual precept, various options were highlighted. Way forward to be agreed at the December Precept meeting.
  - c) Cllr Hughes raised the suggestion of circulating the magazine on a hybrid basis (some electronically and some by post), to save on printing costs. Consultation would be required. There is insufficient time to undertake in respect of next year's precept. To be added as an agenda item for consideration at a future meeting.
  - d) The Clerk advised that Mid-Devon's Precept return deadline is the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024. It was **resolved** that a special meeting be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7 p.m. to consider and agree the Precept for 2024/25. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed. The precept will be finalised and formally approved at the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Council.
- 0911/12** It was **resolved** to approve the proposal from the magazine volunteers to continue producing 6 issues a year with a slightly reduced number of pages and ensure that advertising revenue is kept below £5,000 per annum to avoid a VAT liability. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 0911/13** Indicative quote received to light the Pump Track of £37,450. It was decided that this be placed on hold and revisited after the Skatepark Mini-Ramp work is complete.
- 0911/14** The working group approved at the October Council meeting had considered the suggestions put forward by a member of the public in relation to enhancing

biodiversity within the parish. Cllr Jones stated that much of what was suggested would be difficult to achieve however specific areas could be considered where it wouldn't impede on visibility and access. It was agreed that the working group would prepare some proposals for consideration. Cllr Jones will contact the member of the public to discuss the paper. Cllr Phare suggested that we consider potential costs as part of the Precept setting.

**0911/15** Indicative costs to install a trampoline at Chestnut Drive range from between £4,000 to £7,000 depending on the style, this exceeds the funds remaining in Reserve. There was also concern as to whether it will fit within the remaining space, and another play area may be more suitable. It was agreed to build into 3-year Capital Programme discussed in item 11a, along with alternative suggestions for Chestnut Drive.

**0911/16** The recommendations of the annual RoSPA reports for the play areas and the suggested actions, were noted.

**0911/17** It was **resolved** that the costs for the purchase of two replacement kitchens for the Willand Health & Community Centre of £13,720.84 be reimbursed from the S106 monies set aside in the earmarked reserve for refurbishment of the Centre. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed. As a trustee of the Centre, Cllr Grantham did not vote.

**0911/18** **Mid Devon District Council – Planning Applications** [MDDC Planning Public Access Portal](#)

Reference: 23/01635/TPO

Proposal: Application to reduce side of 2 Sycamore trees (T1&T2) by 2.5-3m and 1 Hornbeam tree (T3) by 2.5-3m back to boundary fence, protected by Tree Preservation Order 74/00015/TPO

Location: Land at NGR 303424 110527 (Adj. 20 Sycamore Close) Meadow Park Willand Devon

It was **resolved** to comment as follows:

*“The application appears to be to cut back the trees to allow more light into the house and the garden. There is no evidence of disease, damage or danger to justify works as evidenced on the application form. It is a matter of judgement for the Tree Officer and the Parish Council will support his judgement to ensure that excessive works are not carried out to the trees.”* Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

a) To **Minute Ratification** of the submission on the of the submission on the 1st November 2023 that “Willand Parish Council observes that the lower branches need to be raised to be Highways Compliant. The proposed 3.5m off the crown appears excessive but we will be guided by the Tree Officer”, on Planning Application 23/01622/TPO - Application to crown reduce by 3.5m and reshape 1 Ash tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 94/00009/TPO, 1 Harpitt Close Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2RX. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

**0911/19 Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions**

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

Reference: 23/01426/HOUSE

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to front and conversion of garage to study

Location: 6 Myrtle Close Willand Cullompton Devon

DECISION: Permission Granted

**0911/20** Following receipt of an invitation to attend the annual Village Carol Service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and to select a carol to be sung, Council approved Cllr Leach’s suggestion of “In the Bleak Midwinter” and her offer to read a lesson. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed. **Clerk to advise the organisers.**

**0911/21** Correspondence noted. No further action required.

**0911/22 Councillor Reports**

Cllr Hughes raised the lack of lighting in Jaycroft. This has been discussed with DCC previously who will not provide additional lighting as there is an alternative route. A further approach could be made at a future date.

Cllr Little referenced emails circulated for agreement, and that a date for response should be provided and if no objection received by that date, it will be taken as an agreement to the proposal set out in the email.

Cllr Jones still having issues logging into her Parish email. She will liaise with Cllr Scott for assistance.

Meeting closed at **21.02 p.m.**