



## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2022 AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL, AT 7PM

**Present:** Councillors Bartlett, Little, Major, Mastrolacasa, Phare, Warren, Wilcox

**In attendance:** DCC Councillor Radford, MDDC Councillor Chesterton, Clerk B Bodkin). Also in attendance to deliver a presentation to the Parish Council were Paul Nethercott and Sarah Beverley, Community Liaison Officers from Airband Community Internet Ltd.

The Chair welcomed the guests to the meeting.

**1. Apologies** had been received from Councillors Glover, Grantham, Sellick, Tobin and MDDC Councillor Evans.

**2.** Declarations of Interest from Members would be made at the appropriate agenda item.

**3.** There were no items brought forward from the Chair.

**4.** There were no public questions on any of the agenda items.

#### **5. Reports from District and County Councillors**

##### **a) District Councillor Reports**

i) **Councillor Chesterton** referred to the proposed change to MDDC bin collections in the Autumn following the 3 weekly waste collections trial and answered questions from members. Noted the final details would be considered by the Environment PDG before going to Cabinet.

He noted that the MDDC Local Plan ("Plan Mid Devon" issues paper) was included on tonight's agenda for consideration by the Parish Council.

ii) **Councillor Evans'** report had been circulated, which included updates on 2 Sisters and Housing.

iii) **Councillor Warren** reported a high level of budget work was ongoing at MDDC.

b) **County Councillor Radford** had submitted a written report. He had a useful meeting with the Parish Clerk, Councillor Major and Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Dan Wood, on 8 February.

He noted a significant amount of work being done to make savings in the Devon County budget.

In response to Councillor Bartlett's question, he clarified that the Elevation Fund was for businesses and that applications could be made to DCC or through him.

#### **6. Presentation from Airband**

Paul Nethercott thanked the Parish Council for their invitation, introduced himself and his colleague and provided background to Airband and a project overview. Willand comes under 2 clusters: E4 (imminent) and E5 (2 years to completion). He stressed that people need to go on to Airband's website to register their interest so that Airband can know how many people in the Parish want to get connected to a fibre network. Airband

specialise in reaching “hard-to-reach” and rural areas, using ultra-fast fibre, contracted under both Devon and Somerset County Councils. Airband are now covering the whole of Devon on a fibre rollout. Airband use the current infrastructure wherever possible e.g. poles and ducts. Paul Nethercott warned that when signing up it is important to specify “fibre”, not “super broadband” (the latter having a 40-gig speed and a dish). FTTC (fibre to the cabinet) results in a good signal near to the cabinet which drops down as you move further from the cabinet. Airband is offering “fibre to the premises” which can also replace the phone line by enabling calls over the internet. Various packages are offered to residential properties with separate packages for businesses. Airband can supply graphics to be included in a Parish newsletter or on the Parish website/Facebook page. Once residents have registered their interest, they receive regular updates on the project. Connections are always subject to survey. Listed properties would need to apply for a listed property consent form. Installation charge is £99 subject to a survey which may result in an extra connection charge e.g. down a long farm lane. Packages and upgrades can be discussed and arranged with Airband.

19.39 hours: Councillor Chesterton left the meeting

A list of CDS (Connecting Devon & Somerset) “In Contract” premises, including some within Willand village itself, was shown in the presentation which could be sent to the Parish Council as a pdf, along with details for the Clerk to inform people to register if they need better broadband. Paul Nethercott explained that “In Contract” meant that Airband was contractually obliged to provide fibre to those listed, and Airband would consider connecting others on or near the fibre route subject to survey. Airband would also look, from a commercial point of view, at areas within the village where their network was close but had not been serviced by another ISP. He explained that every premises was different and Airband undertakes a survey which works on a case-by-case basis and looks at every option available. He responded to questions raised by Councillors, and it was agreed that the Clerk would forward emails to Sarah Beverley with any further questions. The Chair thanked the presenters who left at 19.58 hours.

**ACTION: Clerk**

7. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13 January 2022 were agreed by all present and signed by the Chair.

## **8. For information and discussion**

a) It was noted there were 12 crimes reported and recorded on the Devon and Cornwall Police Crime Map in Willand in December 2021.

b) VAS report and Highways Working Group update: Councillor Major reported that data for January had been circulated and shared with Community Speed Watch. In response to a question from Councillor Wilcox, he stated that DCC had confirmed that the VAS sign in use was the only type permitted and that operational time restrictions applied.

c) BMX track: Councillor Wilcox had received a revised quote from the company who had previously quoted for a pump track and had saved the information in Teams. She confirmed the surface was rubber and suitable for multi-use. 2 further quotes would be obtained. Councillor Wilcox was thanked and would continue with her enquiries.

**ACTION: Councillor Wilcox**

d) Councillor Phare reported for the Cemetery Working Group. The planting of the new hedging was 50% completed and should be finished by 18 February.

e) Councillor Phare reported that in Worcester Crescent the new beech hedge had been planted in front of the play area.

- f) Chestnut Play Area update: the Clerk had written to S Densham at MDDC and a reply was awaited.
- g) Neighbourhood Planning Group
- i) Councillor Little had circulated a written report. He added that the first topic-based open meeting, on Traffic, had taken place; the meeting was worthwhile and would provide evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan. Two more consultation meetings had been publicised covering Pathways and Cycleways (3<sup>rd</sup> March) and Housing (31<sup>st</sup> March). The NPG would be looking at the required paperwork. The Chair thanked him.
- ii) Proposal to subscribe to Parish Online: a paper had been circulated detailing the costs and benefits, with the recommendation to subscribe for 12 months, with the cost of £200 + VAT being charged to the Neighbourhood Plan budget. Councillor Bartlett proposed that a year's subscription should be taken out, Councillor Phare seconded the proposal, and all voted in favour. **ACTION: Clerk**
- h) Hawthorn hedge for allotments road bank: item was not discussed due to Councillor Tobin's absence.
- i) Proposal for a Councillor to attend RPII Play Area Inspector Training: a paper had been circulated. After discussion, Councillor Bartlett proposed that the present suggestion of a Councillor just attending the training but with no exam or registration nor commitment to carry out inspections for a significant period of time did not make it value for money for the Parish Council and he proposed that the training should therefore not be undertaken; Councillor Little seconded the proposal and 6 Councillors voted in favour, with one abstention.
- j) Parking issues at Four Cross Avenue and possible solutions: Councillor Warren reported a slight improvement. Councillor Radford noted that the Parish Council would need to back any request for yellow lines. Following discussion by members, it was recognised that it was a housekeeping issue and noted that the Chair was addressing and monitoring the situation. **ACTION: Councillor Warren**

20.34 hours: Councillor Radford left the meeting.

- k) Agree date of next allotment hedge trees inspection: a paper had been circulated. Councillor Wilcox proposed to go ahead with arranging an inspection, Councillor Bartlett seconded the proposal, 4 voted in favour, no votes against and 3 abstentions. The Chair declared the motion carried and Clerk to action. **ACTION: Clerk**
- l) Consider seasonal clearance of footpaths and passageways: relevant correspondence had been circulated. The Chair was in favour of making sure that those responsible for the work actually undertook it. The Clerk had raised the question with the NHO who had advised that it be reported on the DCC portal, under "Debris or obstruction", adding that if it was not followed up within the recognised period, the Clerk could then bring it to the NHO's attention to be followed up. It was agreed that all Councillors would be pro-active in reporting back to the Clerk, including photos, so instances could be logged on the portal as complaints. The Chair also suggested it would be worthwhile for a couple of volunteers to clear a section of footpath which was obstructed and take photos to illustrate the extent of the problem which could be submitted to DCC to evidence that the footpath needs to be cleared. Councillor Little would include this at the Neighbourhood Planning Group's open meeting on Pathways and Cycleways. The Chair would raise the issue at District level and include an item in the next Parish Magazine. Councillor Phare pointed out that this was a longstanding issue, potentially made worse by spending cutbacks, and proposed that the Parish Council would review the position at the end of the summer and include provision in next year's budget if necessary; Councillor Little seconded and all voted in favour. Councillors felt it would be worthwhile asking an

appropriate contractor to “walk the route” before submitting a quotation for the seasonal clearance for consideration by the Parish Council. **ACTION: All Councillors and Clerk**

## 9. Finance

- a) Payment Authorisation of payment of invoices received since 7 January 2022 had been circulated and was approved by Parish Councillors present and signed by Councillor Warren. It was agreed that the authorisation of the related invoices by initialling should be signed solely by Councillor Warren, due to not passing papers between Councillors for COVID safety reasons. **ACTION: Councillor Warren and Clerk**
- b) Income received in January 2022 had been circulated. No further discussion.
- c) Income and Expenditure report as at end of January 2022 was noted.
- d) Consider quotation received for BMX track signs: the quotation had been circulated. The Clerk read out the proposed wording of the signs and it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate this wording to all Councillors, together with recommendations received from Mike Watts and MDDC, as Councillors did not feel the sign should say “Solely for BMX bikes”. Agreed that Councillor Phare would visit the site to see if it was feasible to put cheaper signs on the fence and if one or more were needed. Agreed Councillor Wilcox would forward details of an alternative supplier to the Clerk. **ACTION: Councillors Phare and Wilcox, Clerk**

## 10. Meeting dates

- Thursday 10 March 2022 – Full Council meeting preceded by Annual Parish meeting at 7pm
- Thursday 17 March 2022 – Finance and Administration Committee meeting
- Thursday 14 April 2022 – Full Council meeting
- Thursday 12 May 2022 – Annual Parish Council Meeting and Full Council meeting
- Thursday 9 June 2022 – Full Council meeting
- Thursday 16 June 2022 – Finance and Administration Committee meeting
- Thursday 14 July 2022 – Full Council meeting
- Working Groups – to note any scheduled dates

All noted.

**11. Councillors Roundtable:** to receive any further information from Councillors and to highlight future agenda items.

- a) Councillor Warren referred to the email from MDDC which had been circulated to Councillors seeking suggestions for 8 street names for the housing development adjacent to Meadow Park. Councillors were unanimously in favour of the theme of bird names relevant to the neighbouring woodland area and agreed with Councillor Wilcox’ proposal to include “Partridge” in reference to the achievements of Willand resident Margaret Partridge. Councillors also agreed that the Clerk should contact the Headteacher of Willand Primary School to offer the opportunity for the children to decide which bird names they would like to put forward. **ACTION: Clerk**
- b) Councillor Wilcox reported that a Jubilee Committee had been formed and would be asking the Parish Council for support through the Village Events fund: Councillors agreed that any requests for funding would need to be presented to the Clerk, stating the purpose and the amount required; it was noted there may be an option for the Parish Council to make a purchase on behalf of the Jubilee Committee e.g. to remove the need to set up a separate bank account and to recoup any VAT.
- c) Councillor Little noted a complaint he had received from a resident concerning traffic believed to be linked to the AD plant. Councillor Little confirmed that DCC was to undertake an inspection of the plant and had sent the relevant Conditions to the Clerk.

d) Councillor Phare noted that for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Parish Council had presented coins to all Willand Primary School children. Councillors agreed that Councillor Phare and the Clerk should look into what could be presented to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and were in favour of an "eco" option if possible. An alternative would be to support an initiative that the School may already be planning and it was agreed the Clerk would contact the Headteacher to enquire.

**ACTION: Councillor Phare and Clerk**

e) Councillor Bartlett had noted a blocked gully: agreed Clerk would send him the link to the DCC portal to enable him to report its exact location etc.

**ACTION: Councillor Bartlett and Clerk**

Councillor Bartlett raised the question of the offer by Seddons of free "20 is Plenty" signs. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should respond saying that the Parish Council was not in a position to accept the offer but that direct approaches could be made to landowners or the Community Speed Watch group.

**ACTION: Clerk**

f) Councillor Major indicated there may be potential VAS costs for another sign and longer-lasting batteries; also the provision of slabs to put around the poles to prevent the ladder sinking, which has to be approved and costed by DCC but payable by the Parish Council. Noted that the Clerk would check Public Liability insurance requirements in relation to use of the VAS.

**ACTION: Clerk**

g) The Clerk reminded Councillors of the forthcoming MDDC Planning training webinar on 24 February and would re-send the Zoom link to Councillors.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **12. Communications**

### **A) To consider**

#### **i) Tiverton Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2033**

Councillor Little recommended that members look at the Statement of Vision, Objectives and Underlying Principles. He had not read anything in the Plan that would impact on Willand Parish. It was agreed that the Parish Council had no observations. The Clerk would check if a response was due to MDDC, otherwise no further action would be taken.

**ACTION: Clerk**

#### **ii) "Plan Mid Devon" issues paper**

Councillor Warren provided an overview. It was agreed to include it on the agenda for Full Council on 10 March. Councillors could respond individually if they wished.

**ACTION: Councillors and Clerk**

### **B) Communications received since 7 January and forwarded to Councillors by email:**

#### **i) Current Planning Applications**

##### **a) 21/02379/FULL**

Proposal: Change of use and refurbishment of industrial building to self-contained offices  
Location: Premier Luxury Loos Unit 1 Tanyard Farm Site

**Response submitted 20.1.22:** Willand Parish Council has no objection to this application.

##### **b) 22/00074/OUT**

Proposal: Outline for the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling and garage

Location: Land at NGR 304215 110864 Weir Mill Farm Jaycroft

Response due by 14 February 2022

Response unanimously agreed: Willand Parish Council has concerns. Members do not wholly accept the assertion as to availability of suitable housing in reasonably close proximity to the farm as it is right on the edge of a village of some 1,500 properties. Approval has also been given for a further 125 houses, of which 44 will be affordable, within less than a mile from the farm. A further 35 Socially rented houses have also been built in the village over the past two years. Officers are asked to robustly test the housing availability argument in accord with latest guidelines. **ACTION: Clerk**

**c) 21/02215/MFUL**

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 19/00364/MARM to allow substitute plans - Reserved Matters application, pursuant to Outline application 15/01332/MOUT, for employment development of up to 5,256m<sup>2</sup> of B1, 2,651m<sup>2</sup> of B2 and 4,919m<sup>2</sup> of B8 units together with internal access roads, parking and associated infrastructure

Location: Land at NGR 303681 111677 (North Of Mid Devon Bus. Park) Muxbeare Lane  
Response due by 14 February 2022

Response unanimously agreed: Willand Parish Council offers no objection provided that no trees the subject of a Tree Protection Order are subjected to work or damage/removal  
**ACTION: Clerk**

**d) 22/00187/HOUSE**

Proposal: Erection of garden workshop/shed

Location: Redgates Cottage Old Jaycroft Willand

Response due by 22 February

Response agreed: Willand Parish Council offers no objection.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**ii) Planning Decisions notified for information**

**a) 21/02223/FULL**

Proposal: Erection of extension

Location: Western Holdings Ltd Unit 13 South View Estate Willand

Decision: permission granted

**b) 21/01754/MARM**

Proposal: Reserved matters for residential development of 125 dwellings (including 35% affordable housing), with public open space, landscaping and associated infrastructure following outline approval 18/00175/MOUT

Location: Land at NGR 303288 110467 Adj Meadow Park Silver Street Willand

Decision: MDDC granted approval of matters reserved following grant of outline planning permission

**iii) Newsletters and other correspondence**

4 Mid Devon Press Releases

14 NALC bulletins and events newsletters

7 DALC newsletters

7 Mid Devon meeting notifications

5 Rural Services Network bulletins

2 Devon Communities Together bulletins

1 SLCC news bulletins

7 Devon County Council Coronavirus Updates

1 Neighbourhood Planning Newsletters/Events - Locality

2 Devon CPRE newsletters

- 1 Information Commissioner's Office newsletter
- 4 Devon Highways Traffic Notice
- 2 Devon Climate Emergency newsletter
- 1 MDDC Planning Admin Weekly updates
- 1 MDDC Town and Parish: Planning Training
- 1 Royal British Legion newsletter
- 1 MDDC Town and Parish Newsletter
- 1 Connecting the Culm Newsletter
- 1 Insurance newsletter
- 1 Blackdown Hills AONB newsletter
- 1 Mid Devon Wildlife events

**C) Communications not referred to Councillors**

16 emails offering various seminars, equipment and services

22.00 hours: there being no further business the meeting closed.

<b>10 FEBRUARY 2022 PAYMENT SHEET</b>			
<b>PAYMENTS TO</b>	<b>INVOICE FOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Perrie Hale Nursery	235 hawthorn for Cemetery	219.96	Reserves:Cem. extn
Perrie Hale Nursery	63 green beech for WorcsCres	71.82	Reserves:Worcs Cres
Perrie Hale Nursery	460 green beech for Cemetery	524.40	Reserves:Cem. extn
Barclaycard	Mobile phone	6.00	Office/Admin
	Graffiti remover spray	32.35	Office/Admin
Parker Digital Marketing	Monthly website maint - Jan	50.00	Office/Admin
Citizens Advice TNMWD	Donation	100.00	Donations
HAGS-SMP Ltd	2 rubber footrest covers	160.56	Play areas equip
Brightsea Print Group	Willand Magazine Feb/Mar	1096.00	Magazine
T Scrace	Bus shelter cleaning	96.00	Village projects
G Taylor	Mileage claim - January 2022	4.80	Magazine
	<b>Total of all payments</b>	<b>2361.89</b>	
<b>RECEIPTS IN JANUARY</b>	Magazine advertising	517.50	
	Cemetery	147.00	
	Xmas lights donation	150.00	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>814.50</b>	