



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Willand Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 9th March 2023 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.

Present: Willand Parish Councillors Mr B Warren (Chairman), Mr R Phare, Mr N James, Mr K Grantham, Mr S Little, Mr J Sellick & Mr P Major
7 Members of the public

In Attendance: Mrs C Dalley, Parish Clerk

1. **Welcome by the Chairman of Willand Parish Council**
The Chairman of Willand Parish Council, Councillor Barry Warren, opened the meeting and welcomed all those present.
2. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th March 2022.**
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th March 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and were duly signed by Councillor Warren.
3. **To receive a report from Cllr. Barry Warren, Chairman of Willand Parish Council**
Cllr Warren provided a report, this is attached as Appendix One.
4. **To receive reports from Willand Parish organisations.** All Willand community organisations had been invited to submit a report on their activities over the last year. The Clerk confirmed that reports had been received from the following organisations:
 - a) Willand School – this report is attached as Appendix Two
 - b) Excelsior Athletic Development Club – this report is attached as Appendix Three
 - c) Willand Rovers Football Club – this report is attached at Appendix Four
 - d) Willand Scout Group – this report is attached as Appendix Five
 - e) Willand Theatrical Society – this report is attached as Appendix Six
 - f) Willand Art Group – this report is attached as Appendix Seven
 - g) Willand History Group – this report is attached as Appendix Eight
 - h) Willand Preschool and Gables Nursery – this report is attached as Appendix Nine
 - i) The Pantry – this report is attached as Appendix Ten
 - j) Culm Valley Methodist Church – this report is attached as Appendix Eleven.

The Clerk advised that the accounts for Willand United Charities had been received and are attached as Appendix Twelve.

Cllr Grantham advised that Willand Health and Community Centre had submitted a report. The Clerk advised that she did not appear to have received this. Cllr Grantham supplied a copy to the Clerk. This is attached as Appendix Thirteen.

A member of the public advised that Willand Tennis Club had also provided a report. Again, the Clerk advised that she had not received this.

5. To discuss matters raised by parishioners

There was a question regarding allotment subscriptions from an allotment tenant. In particular, the Allotment Association subscription and whether this payment includes membership of the National Allotment Association. Cllr Warren advised that questions regarding the Allotment Association would need to be taken up with the Allotment Association Committee.

A member of the public asked the following questions to Cllr Warren.

- What does the Council have planned for the next twelve months?
- Is there any picture of who is standing in the May Council elections?
- What are you going to do as Chairman of Mid Devon District Council?

Cllr Warren said he would take each point in turn. He advised that there is only so much Parishes can do. The budget and precept for 2023-2024 has been set. The Council has planned for the things that are going to happen, this includes ring fencing S106 money for Meadow Park improvements. He explained that the Council would not be setting the world alight in the next financial year. It is not advisable to in an election year, as you may be committing a new Council to a course of action that it does not agree with. The budget set will enable the Council to continue to maintain the areas under its control such as play areas and keeping the village tidy with grass cutting etc.

The member of the public queried keeping the village tidy, pointing out that the village has continuing issues with bushes overhanging pavements. Cllr Warren explained that the Parish Council has no statutory responsibility in this area. It is the responsibility of Devon County Council to enforce obstructions on highways and footways. The Parish Council does send letters to residents, when overhanging vegetation is identified. It copies in Devon County Council's Highways Officer, in an attempt to remedy the situation locally. However, the Parish Council has no authority to enforce this and it must be dealt with by Devon County Council. Devon County Council as the responsible authority for Highways has a set process that it must follow, which can take numerous weeks and can eventually result in Devon County Council remedying the issue and charging the homeowner responsible for the obstruction.

With regard to Cllr Warren's position within Mid Devon District Council, he is Leader for eight weeks until the elections. As far as the Parish is concerned, he has the election forms but he hasn't filled them in yet. In May the Parish Council will be increasing its number of Councillors from eleven to twelve. Cllr Warren explained that he does the best he can with his time and that the elections were an opportunity for people to stand

as Councillors themselves and to vote for who they wished to represent them for the next four years.

Cllr Warren commented that this particular member of the public had been approached previously and asked to join the Council as a co-opted member. The member of the public denied this. He stated that he had never been asked to stand for co-option and that he has offered to be involved in numerous community initiatives.

6. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.28 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Dated.....