



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

Present: Cllr Warren, Cllr Grantham, Cllr Scott, Cllr Sycamore, Cllr James, Cllr Leach, Cllr Glover, Cllr Jones (arrived at 19.02 p.m.)

In Attendance: D Bird, Parish Clerk
5 Members of the public

Minutes

1411/01 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Little and Cllr Phare.

1411/02 Declarations of Interest

Declarations taken in the relevant item.

1411/03 Public Question Time

There were 5 members of the public present. No questions were asked.

1411/04 Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

1411/05 It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th October 2024 as a correct record, Cllr Leach proposed and Cllr James seconded. Unanimously agreed.

1411/06 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

- The Chair represented the Parish Council at the remembrance service on Sunday 10th November and laid a wreath, several other Councillors were also present.
- The Chair raised concerns re engagement between Mid-Devon District Council and Towns and Parishes at the MDDC Full Council meeting.
- Following the Old Well fire plants for planters received and distributed, trees for the cemetery extension delivered and planted and the whips for the additional hedging collected and planted.
- Fir Close Z Pod – response received from Cllr Glover to several questions raised. Further questions may be asked.

- Victoria Park Public Space Protection Order – following an error Mid Devon have removed the “dogs on leads” signs in the wider recreation area/park.
- The Clerk sent a letter of welcome to the new Rector on behalf of the Parish Council and an email of thanks has been received.
- Update on S106 projects – Jubilee Field Junior Goal Posts to be fitted 20th November (will take 2 days). Indicative start date of the 6th January for installation of the Chestnut Drive Springer, Jubilee Field Seesaw and the Orchard Way equipment.
- Following the walk around with Devon County Council on the 10th October, the Clerk followed up with an email to the Highways Officer summarising the key issues discussed, copying in the County Councillor – still waiting to hear back. Spearings have undertaken work to repair the tarmac on their forecourt to alleviate the issue of flooding onto the footpath when it rains.
- Pay award for 2024/25 finally agreed – increase of £0.63p per hour. Backpay to 1st April will be made with November salaries.
- Christmas Lights being installed and switched on 15th November. As agreed, timers removed and one new connector installed. In future years therefore there will be no charge from DCC to undertake an annual timer check or replace faulty timers and the additional electricity cost should be more than offset by the removal of these charges.
- Annual RoSPA reports received for the play areas. Only minor issues identified. An item will be brought to the December meeting.

1411/07 **County and District Councillor Reports.**

- Apologies received from County Cllr Radford who sent a report in advance of the meeting, which was circulated to members and noted.
- District Councillors – a report was received and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Poynton and Cllr Connor. Cllr Glover mentioned an historic issue relating to rent overcharging by Mid Devon Housing. The District Council is starting budget setting for next year. A member of the public queried the cost of the Z Pod in Fir Close.

1411/08 **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 up to the 31st October 2024. Cllr James proposed, Cllr Scott seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices received between the 7th October 2024 and 6th November 2024, and to **ratify** additional payments made since the previous meeting. Cllr James Proposed, Cllr Sycamore seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- c) It was **resolved** to note The Reserves Balances Report up to the 31st October 2024.

1411/09 **Update on Budget Planning for 2025/26:**

- a) The Clerk’s report on the Capital Budget and Reserves was noted with thanks.
- b) The Clerk’s report on revenue budget planning for 2025/26 was noted with thanks.

- c) An extra Council meeting is to be held on Thursday the 19th December 2024 to agree a budget for 2025/26 to enable approval of the Precept at the January 2025 Council meeting.

- 1411/10** Cllr Scott suggested that If the Neighbourhood Plan is approved at referendum and subsequently adopted a sub-committee should be formed to take forward actions and projects arising from the plan. To be further discussed after the referendum.
- 1411/11** It was **resolved** that Cllr Leach, who is also prepared to read a lesson, will represent the Parish Council at the Annual Village Carol Services and that the Carol requested to be sung by the congregation is “Oh Come all Ye Faithful”. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 1411/12** It was **resolved** to support an application towards the cost for the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Willand Tennis Club, from the S106 funding allocation set aside for open space and recreation facilities in the Village. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 1411/13** It was **resolved** to approve the estimate of £2,146.50 to plant a wildflower area in the Cemetery Extension. Cllr Jones proposed, Cllr Glover seconded. 6 Councillors voted for, 2 Councillors abstained.
- 1411/14** It was **resolved** to appoint Active Council as the .gov domain and website provider and approve the set-up and on-going support and hosting costs as set out in the paper presented to Council. It was further **resolved** that decisions relating to any changes required during the process be delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Cllr Scott. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 1411/15** It was **resolved** to note the updated Asset Register with thanks.
- 1411/16** The offer from the National Highways Team undertaking the current M5 road works to volunteer their time for local community projects was considered and it was **resolved** to ask them to assist with footpath clearance between the Esso garage and Meadow Park/Gables Road and the footpath that runs from Silver Street to Somerville Road. The Clerk will contact the Project Manager. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 1411/17** It was **resolved** that the Clerk respond on behalf of the Parish Council to the Government consultation on allowing remote attendance at Council meetings and voting by proxy in certain circumstances. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 1411/18** It was **resolved** that no donation be made to CHAT following their request letter, as the Village has its own pantry. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Leach. Unanimously agreed.

1411/19 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: 24/01584/FULL
Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 21/01920/FULL (Erection of dwelling following demolition of existing garage) to allow substitute plans relating to the addition of second floor; addition of front window to the lean-to; removal of lean-to patio doors and side window; addition of first floor window on North East elevation and second floor window on South East elevation
Location: 8 Somerlea Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2PU
It was **resolved** to comment that the Parish Council has no objections provided the Planning Officer is satisfied that there will be no intrusion on the privacy of adjoining properties. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- i. It was **resolved** to ratify the Planning comments submitted for applications 24/01522/TPO Application to lift the crown of 1 Oak tree by 6m, remove the lowest branches, crown thin and reduce property side by 1.5m protected by Tree Preservation Order 02/00005/TPO, 6 Greenwood Willand and 24/01523/TPO Application to remove lowest limb over garden of 1 Oak tree, crown thin, reduce property side by 3-4m and reduce lateral limbers over Jaycroft by 2-2.5m protected by Tree Preservation Order 02/00005/TPO, 5 Greenwood Willand. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

1411/20 Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions

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

Reference: 24/01262/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to reduce the crowns of a group of Oak trees by 4m within the Conservation Area

Location: Pitfield House Willand Old Village Willand Cullompton

DECISION: No objection to work described

Reference: 24/01302/PNHH

Proposal: Prior Notification for the erection of an extension, extending 5.30m to the rear, maximum height of 3.10m and eaves height of 2.40m

Location: 6 Blenheim Court Willand Cullompton Devon

DECISION: Householder Development Acceptance

1411/21 Councillor Reports:

- No issues reported by Councillors.

1411/22

It was **resolved** to award contracts as follows:

- a) Cemetery Grass Cutting – Four Seasons. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Sycamore. Unanimously agreed.
- b) Cemetery Hedge Management – Four Seasons. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Sycamore. Unanimously agreed.
- c) Play Area Grass Cutting – Four Seasons. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Sycamore. Unanimously agreed.
- d) Village Handyman – DMW, subject to public liability insurance and references. Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded by Cllr Leach. Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Grantham raised the issues of moles in the Cemetery. The Clerk to ask the newly appointed contractor to remove the moles

1411/23

The meeting closed at 20.45 p.m.

DRAFT