



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 13th March 2025 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 Glover, Cllr Sycamore, Cllr Scott

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

Minutes

1303/01 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Phare, Cllr Jones and Cllr Hutter.

1303/02 Declarations of Interest

Declarations taken in the relevant item.

1303/03 Public Question Time

There were 5 members of the public present. The Willand Garden Club Treasurer, Dorothy Anderson, read a report on the previous year's activities, provided for the Annual Parish Meeting, which had ended before she arrived. All present thanked her for the report.

1303/04 Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

1303/05

It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meetings held on the 13th February 2025. Cllr Little proposed, Cllr Glover seconded. Unanimously agreed.

1303/06 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

- The Chair is meeting with 2 Sisters on the 25th March. The Chair suggested that a District Councillor might wish to attend.
- Fir Close – Reply received from Mid Devon's Chief Executive to the letter sent following the resolution at February Council. He notes the Parish Council's concerns and suggests the original enquirers are directed back to the relevant MDDC meeting to ask their questions. The Clerk has emailed Cllr DuChesne and

the Ward Councillors asking them to pursue answers to the outstanding questions and no response received to date.

- Neighbourhood Plan – Following the “Yes” vote at the referendum the plan will go to Mid Devon’s Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 1st April (recommendation to Council to adopt / ‘make’ the neighbourhood plan) and then Full Council on Wednesday 23rd April (decision to adopt / ‘make’ the neighbourhood plan). Councillors were asked to advise the Clerk if they are interested in being on the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Advisory Committee agreed at February Council – there will be a formal item to appoint Council members to the Committee at the April meeting.
- Concerns have been raised by several people about the walking access to Steamers from Willand, and the need for a crossing. This has been raised with Highways and Halberton Parish Council. Access would be part of joint working between both parishes, Cullompton Town Council and the County Council.
- The Clerk raised the possibility of adding an additional signatory to the Lloyds Bank account to ensure there are always sufficient signatories available and to spread the responsibility. Cllr Sycamore volunteered to be a signatory. The Clerk will bring an item to the next meeting for formal approval.
- Somerlea Zed Pods – Approval decision notice now issued.
- Church Lea Enforcement – Mid Devon have contacted the Planning Inspectorate who advise that they are behind on the determination of enforcement appeals. Nothing further can be done to expedite this. The missing documentation has been uploaded to the Portal.
- M5 subway graffiti – The Clerk has spoken to the National Highways local team leader who advised that they are now making regular visits to monitor and remove the offensive graffiti.
- The Cullompton and Tiverton Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan was due to be adopted by Devon County Council at their Cabinet meeting on the 12th March.

1303/07

County and District Councillor Reports.

- The County Councillor was not in attendance. No report received. Cllr Grantham asked if there was an update from DCC on repairs to roads in the Village, there were no further updates available.
- District Councillors – Apologies received from Cllr Connor and Cllr Poynton. Cllr Glover gave a short verbal update.

1303/08

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 28th February 2025. Cllr James proposed, Cllr Leach seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices received between the 7th February 2025 and 6th March 2025, and to **ratify** additional payments made since the previous meeting. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- c) It was **resolved** to note the Reserves Balance Report up to the 28th February 2025. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

d) It was **resolved** to ratify Litter Picker cover from the 22nd February to the 1st March February at a cost of £192.31. Cllr Sycamore proposed, Cllr Little seconded. Unanimously agreed.

1303/09

It was **resolved** to approve the following reviewed Willand Parish Council Policies, Procedures & Strategies:

- a) Investment Strategy: no amendments
 - b) Freedom of Information - Model Publication Scheme: no amendments
 - c) Expenses Policy and Expenses Claim Form approved subject to clarification of vehicle insurance requirements for councillors and volunteers.
 - d) Co-option Policy – no amendments
- Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

1303/10

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the new Grants Policy as presented to Council. Cllr Leach proposed , Cllr Sycamore seconded. Unanimously agreed.

1303/11

The Emergency Plan was reviewed. It was noted that Cllr Hutter’s name has now been added to the list of contacts. It was **resolved** to continue to maintain the plan in its current form. Cllr Scott Proposed, Cllr Little seconded. Unanimously agreed.

1303/12

It was **resolved** to purchase replacement cabinets for the defibrillators at the Post Office and the Preschool at a cost of £1,110 plus VAT. Cllr Scott proposed and Cllr Little seconded. 7 Voted in favour. Cllr Grantham abstained.

1303/13

Cllr Glover declared an interest in this item having been involved in the application process but as she is not a member of the PTFA and does not have a pecuniary interest she took part in the debate and voted.

Consideration was given to the following:

- Availability of similar equipment in the adjoining Jubilee Field;
- The proposed new equipment will only be used by school pupils whilst recognising the need for security and safety of the children;
- The Parish Council had funded the Grasslock matting to widen the footpath in the Jubilee Field at the school’s request;
- The school had received over £250,000 through Devon County Council S106 funding from Foxmill Gardens.

It was **resolved** to approve the grant request of £3,000 from Willand School PTFA for the provision of a Trim Trail in the School Playground. Cllr Grantham proposed and Cllr Scott seconded. 7 voted in favour, 1 abstention.

1303/14

Following an extensive debate on Cllr’s Glover’s VE Day Picnic proposal as set out in the accompanying paper, and questioning as to some of the detail of information given, Cllr Grantham proposed that a decision be delayed to allow the Clerk to contact the insurance company to ensure that the Council’s insurance would cover the proposal, specifically that it was acceptable for one Councillor to organise the event with the help of a number of volunteers, and that an extra meeting be convened to make a final decision. Cllr Sycamore seconded with 6 voting in favour and 2

abstentions. Cllr Glover's original proposal was then voted on, having been seconded by Cllr James with 2 in favour and 6 against – the motion was therefore lost. Cllr Grantham's proposed amendment was again put to the vote having become the substantive proposal – 7 voted in favour with 1 abstention. It was therefore **resolved** that the Clerk will contact the insurer to clarify the insurance cover for the event as proposed and arrange an extra ordinary meeting to make a final decision on the event.

1303/15 **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: 24/01847/MFUL
Proposal: Continued operation of existing anaerobic digester plant without previous limitations on power output, feedstocks and tonnages
Location: Land at NGR 299621 112764 (Red Linhay) Crown Hill Halberton Devon
It was **resolved** to object to this application with comments reinforcing previous objections and the history of breaches of conditions. Objection on the grounds of increased vehicle movements, pollution, land use and harm to the local area. Cllr Leach proposed, Cllr Sycamore seconded. 7 voted in favour, 1 abstention.

- i. It was **resolved** to ratify the response of no objection to application Number 25/00169/FULL, siting of storage container within existing yard, the Co-Operative Food Unit 3 Four Cross Court Cross Avenue Willand EX15 2FH. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

1303/16 **Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions**

It was noted that Mid Devon District Council, the determining Authority, has made the following planning decision.

Reference: 24/01801/ADVERT
Proposal: Advertisement Consent for erection of small freestanding illuminated advertising display board
Location: Willand Service Station Willand Cullompton Devon
DECISION: Consent Granted

1303/17 **Councillor Reports:**

No Councillor reports.

1303/18 The meeting closed at **20.38 p.m.**