

## Clerk

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**From:** Clerk  
**Sent:** 04 February 2026 09:17  
**To:** Clerk  
**Subject:** FW: Cabinet Meeting- Response to Public Questions

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Dear Barry,

Please find your written response below to all your questions asked at the MDDC Cabinet Meeting on the 13 January 2026.

My questions relate to item 5 on the agenda and in particular comments from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) in his report at Paragraph 2.4 – the first bullet point where it states:

Pressure, REF 17, reduced maintenance costs through the transfer of assets or increased financial contributions from Town or Parish Councils – looking unlikely this will be achieved given the limited conversations – moving the £50k pressure from Amber to Green. However, conversations continue with several Town and Parish Councils on the potential transfer of assets or increased financial contributions.

This last sentence is a problem for me and our Parish Council.

At the end of last year, our Clerk wrote to the Deputy Chief Executive with an enquiry about the Parish taking over complete ownership of two of the main sites located in Willand. But no response, not even an acknowledgement, was forthcoming from the Deputy Chief Executive - even after the Clerk sent him a reminder.

Our Parish Council lease six of the nine Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) play/open space areas within the village. Historically we would have taken over ownership of them, but officers would only agree 25-year leases. They are maintained more frequently and better than the MDDC areas. Over the past 12 months the Parish has spent about £35,800 + VAT on these areas which have been a saving to MDDC.

It is very disappointing to see the generalised, almost critical comments, of the Deputy Chief Executive when our Parish has done as much as we have, at some cost to our Parish, without much recognition.

### **Question 1:**

Is it recognised that Willand Parish Council has been positive in their response?

**Response from Deputy Leader :**

Yes. I can confirm that the update position referenced in the report was clearly a generic one summarising an aggregated response from all of the District's 62 Town/Parish Councils.

**Question 2:**

What are the alleged conversations which have taken place with our Parish?

**Response from the Deputy Leader:**

I am aware our Property Services team has been in contact with the Clerk in early December providing a positive initial response.

**Question 3:**

Is MDDC going to engage with the Parish Council in relation to the latest approach?

**Response from the Deputy Leader:**

Yes.

**Question 4:**

Alternatively does this lack of response indicate that the Parish Council should consider a hand back of the leases?

**Response from the Deputy Leader:**

No, it is hoped that an ongoing and mutually beneficial dialogue will be continued.

**Question 5:**

Under REF 17 is there an error in moving from Amber to Green? Should this be Amber to Red or removed completely?

**Response from the Deputy Leader:**

This is not an error, as moving the figure to green signifies that we are now confident that this is the correct revised figure required that will be included in the 2026/27 budget.

Kind Regards

Laura Woon