



## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

**Present:** Cllr Warren, Cllr Sycamore, Cllr Scott, Cllr Little, Cllr Grantham, Cllr Phare, Cllr Hutter, Cllr Jones, Cllr Turner

**In Attendance:** D Bird, Parish Clerk  
District Councillor Cathy Connor (arrived at 19.15 p.m. Left at 19.37 p.m.)  
County Councillor Simon Clist  
5 members of the public (2 arrived after public participation)

### Minutes

- 0904/01 Apologies**  
It was **noted** that apologies had been received from Cllr James.
- 0904/02 Declarations of Interest**  
Declarations taken in the relevant item.
- 0904/03 Public Question Time**  
There were 3 members of the public present for this item.  
The Chair agreed that the member of the public wishing to speak on the planters would speak at the start of agenda item 11.  
A member of the public spoke on the proposed development of 130 houses off Silver St. He is organising a petition objecting to the application. The petition now has 478 signatures. He has written to Mid Devon District Council and is awaiting their response. The Chairman explained procedures to contributor. Another member of the public queried why no District Councillor was present or spoke at the Planning meeting where the application was discussed. Chairman gave brief explanation of what he knew in the absence of any of Lower Culm Ward Councillors.
- 0904/04 Order of Business**  
There were no changes to the order of business.
- 0904/05** It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026, proposed by Cllr Hutter seconded by Cllr Phare. Unanimously agreed.

**0904/06**

**Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

- The Clerk advised that nothing further has been heard re the potential asset transfer of Gables Lea and Orchard Way, although an asset transfer policy was on the Mid Devon Cabinet agenda for approval on the 7<sup>th</sup> April and this talks about leasehold as being the preferred option – the Parish Council already leases these areas.
- The magazine is not produced by the Parish Council but by a team of volunteers. The editor has had to step down unexpectedly due to poor health. There are posts on Facebook, in the magazine and on the Website seeking volunteers. If no one comes forward then the magazine may have to cease production. An agenda item will be added to the May meeting to consider the future of the magazine if no-one volunteers. However, with the next edition due to be published at the end of May someone would need to volunteer to at least co-ordinate this edition or it will have to be missed or delayed. There is also a current issue around accessing the gmail account used. Cllr Hutter and Cllr Warren agreed to edit the next edition as a stop gap.
- The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Annual Parish Council meeting is next month – 14<sup>th</sup> May. The first order of business is to elect a Chair for the next year. All nominees will need a proposer and a seconder.
- Coronation Bench ordered, to be delivered week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April and installed on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**0904/07**

**County and District Councillor Reports.**

- County Councillor Clist was in attendance. The County Council have agreed the 2026/27 budget. The aim is to protect front line services. SEND remains a priority and the County is also prioritising fostering services. 25,000 responses received to the library survey and the results are being considered. There will be no library closures, but more will become local hubs. Locality budgets starting up again and will be primarily aimed at young people and the future of Devon. An extra £15m budget allocated for road defects. Most patching now completed and restarting capital works shortly. The B3181 has been raised with Highways Officers given the proposed new developments plus other key local Highways issues. The costs of the Local Government Re-organisation will have to be funded from Reserves. Cllr Sycamore raised the poor condition of the B3181 between Cullompton and Exeter. Cllr Grantham asked if there is a procedure for ditches and drains - £4m has been allocated and the County Councillor will follow up with any procedures developed.
- A written report was received from District Councillor Connor and circulated prior to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Poynton. Cllr Connor attended part of the meeting and was asked about the potential asset transfer request - she has not received a response to her email and will chase. The new Household Support Fund will open for applications in early May.

- 0904/08**      **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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Cllr Scott proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed.
  - b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices as set out in List A of the payments report, and to **ratify the** additional payments made since the previous meeting as set out in List B. The Clerk advised that adjustments will be made in the income and expenditure end of year accounts for invoices received at the end of March but not paid until April. Cllr Sycamore proposed, Cllr Phare seconded. Unanimously agreed.
  - c) The Clerk advised that the final underspend figure for 2025-26 has been allocated to the earmarked reserves as agreed at the 18th December budget meeting. The Reserves Balances Report up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 was **noted**.
- 0904/09**      It was **resolved** to approve the updated Risk Register. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 0904/10**      The indicative Capital Programme for April 2026 – March 2029 was **noted**.
- 0904/11**      A member of the public spoke at the beginning of this item asking that the Council consider that the planters be planted and managed in a more sustainable way to improve habitats and biodiversity. It was **resolved** that Cllr Sycamore and Cllr Jones will look in detail at all the planters with the Handyman, taking into account the information provided by the member of the public and make recommendations to Council as to the way forward. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 0904/12**      A meeting of the Joint Traffic Group was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February which Cllr Grantham attended as the Parish Council representative and he provided an update on the meeting. The minutes were circulated with the agenda and the recommendations considered:
1. It was **resolved** to approve the changes to the Terms of Reference – the addition of Burlescombe to the group and a maximum of 2 representatives per Parish Council. It was **resolved** that Cllr Turner will be the Parish Council's second representative on the group. Cllr Grantham proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed.
  2. It was **resolved** to accept the changes proposed in the minutes for wider participation in the group as and when required. Cllr Grantham proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. 6 in favour, 3 against.
  3. It was **resolved** to approve a joint petition for speed reduction on the Uffculme Straight. Cllr Grantham proposed, the Chair seconded. Unanimously agreed.
  4. As Willand only has one VAS unit in constant use and with additional concerns around insurance it was **resolved** not to share the unit. The data is already available on the website and is shared with the police. Moved by the Chair Unanimously agreed.
  5. It was **resolved** to approve a joint letter to MPs and the Secretary of State for Transport to lobby for upgrades to the M5 motorway junctions 27 and 28 to

cope with the additional traffic that will result from the proposed developments. Cllr Grantham proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed.

6. It was **resolved** to consider options to raise awareness of traffic issues with residents and obtain feedback. Cllr Grantham proposed, Cllr Scott seconded. Unanimously agreed.

**0904/13** It was **resolved** to approve the proposal from the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Advisory Group to undertake a simple open questionnaire survey of the residents of Old Village to seek their opinions about a 20mph limit on the road from the Petrol Station round to the Cemetery, and to approve the associated printing costs to be taken from the Neighbourhood Plan Project earmarked reserve. Cllr Scott proposed, Cllr Little seconded. Unanimously agreed.

**0904/14** It was **resolved** to increase the litter picker's hours by 2 hours per week for the 6-week school summer holidays. Cllr Scott proposed, Cllr Turner seconded. Unanimously agreed. This will be kept under review.

**0904/15** **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: None

It was **resolved** to ratify the following planning application submissions made since the last Full Council meeting. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

- i. No observations on application number 26/002747/HOUSE, erection of replacement front boundary wall, including increase in height and installation of a gate at Ashbrooke House, Silver St Willand..
- ii. Comments made as per the accompanying document on application number 26/00359/FULL, change of use of agricultural land to B8 open storage yard and associated hardstanding, fencing and drainage works, land at NGR 305107 111974 7 Anthony Way Hitchcocks Business Park.

**0904/16** **Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions**

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

Reference: 26/00085/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to reduce the crown of 1 Yew tree by 1.5-2m within the Conservation Area

Location: Beaufoy House Willand Old Village Willand Cullompton

DECISION: No objection to work described

Reference: 26/00077/CLP

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed erection of replacement timber sliding gate and fence

Location: Rydon House Willand Cullompton  
DECISION: Certificate of Lawfulness Granted

Reference: 26/00095/TPO

Proposal: Application to remove 1 Tulip tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 08/00004/TPO

Location: 11 The Gables Willand Cullompton  
DECISION: Consent Refused

Reference: 25/01492/TPO

Proposal: Application to fell 1 Ash tree (ref T48) protected by Tree Preservation Order 97/00008/TPO

Location: 8 Mulbery Close Willand Cullompton

DECISION: A split decision issued, refusing the removal of the ash tree but allowing for crown reduction where it overhangs the adjacent gardens and conservatory - Crown reduction of the tree's northern and eastern crown aspect by reducing the lateral crown spread by up to 2 m, making pruning cuts no greater than 50 mm in diameter

**0904/17**

**Councillor Reports:**

- Cllr Hutter and Cllr Turner attended the Mid Devon Planning training online. Cllr Hutter felt too much jargon and too many acronyms were used, and a lot of the content didn't directly relate to Parish Councils. As a result Cllr Hutter left the training early. Cllr Turner also felt the same. Cllr Hutter will feedback her views to Mid Devon. Cllr Grantham attended in person and provided an update on the questions he asked and advised Parish Councillors to read the slides the Clerk has already circulated.
- Cllr Jones reiterated the problem with the condition of the footpath along the B3181 towards the Esso garage. This is on the Highways priority list for action.
- Cllr Turner is reporting a couple of potholes he has observed to Devon County Council.
- Cllr Hutter advised that a meeting to discuss the Community Fund has been arranged by Devon Green Power for the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Cllr Hutter will be attending along with the other members of the group. except Cllr Turner who is unable to attend as its being held during the working day so the Clerk will accompany Cllr Hutter.

**0904/18**

The meeting closed at 20.57 p.m.