WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 10th September 2026 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

Present: Cllr Sycamore, Cllr Grantham, Cllr Hutter, Cllr Turner, Cllr James, Cllr Little, Cllr Fernbank

In Attendance: D Bird, Parish Clerk
County Councillor Clist, arrived at 7.32 p.m.
3 members of the public

Minutes

1009/01 **Apologies**
It was **noted** that apologies had been received from Cllrs Phare, Jones, Scott and Glover.

1009/02 **Declarations of Interest**
Declarations taken in the relevant item.

1009/03 **Public Question Time**
There were three members of the public present. One member of the public asked why Willand couldn't have a railway station. The Parish Clerk advised that railways are a national strategic issue and not something the Parish Council can deliver. The Chair stated that public transport is an important issue for the Council to consider and she is currently focussing on bus services.

1009/04 **Order of Business**
There were no changes to the order of business.

1009/05 It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th July 2026, Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

1009/06 **Chair and Clerk's Announcements**

- The Clerk advised that no co-options are permitted within 6 months of an election due date. The election date is due to be 6th May 2027 so the last meeting at which a co-option can take place is the 8th October. Paperwork will have to be submitted to the Clerk by the 28th September.

- Mid Devon District Council have advised that the community assets expressions of interest submitted in June have been assessed and a report will be going to Cabinet with recommendations to consider.
- Cllr Scott reported to the Clerk that the Keywise advertising sign is still up and lit at night despite the refusal of planning consent. The Clerk has reported this to enforcement as a planning breach.
- National Pay award agreed – 3.3% increase backdated to the 1st April. Backdate will be paid with September salaries.
- Uffculme are looking at some in person training for planning and have asked if Willand would be interested in joining and sharing costs. May be useful for new Councillors and/or as a refresher. Cllrs Hutter, Sycamore, Fernbank and Grantham are interested in attending the training.
- The Chair advised Councillors of the contents of her article for the next magazine which highlights concerns re local bus services and asks local people to come forward with project ideas for the Council to consider taking forward.

1009/07 **County and District Councillor Reports**.

- County Councillor Clist arrived at 7.32 p.m. and updated the meeting as follows: Positive report received from Ofsted for Children's Social Services. The County Council still need more fosterers. £8.8m overspend was being predicted due to adult social services spend and the now paused Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) work. Cllr Clist has invited the MP Angela Eagle to visit the County Farm Estates. An update was given on road repairs, Cllr Clist is requesting that Highways undertake more repairs on rural roads. LGR has been paused pending a Government review. The county is hoping to channel some of the Officers brought in for LGR to work on SEND.
- A written report was received from District Councillor Connor and circulated prior to the meeting. No District Councillors were present.

1009/08 **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 August 2026. Moved by the Chair, 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. Proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Cllr Hutter, unanimously agreed.
c) The Reserves Balances Report up to the 31st August 2026 was **noted**.
d) The External Auditor's Report & Certificate for 2025/26 was **noted**.

1009/09 Cllr Grantham had advised at the July meeting that to remember him and all he did for the Village the late Chair Cllr Warren's family would like a street named after him on the proposed new development of 130 houses off Silver St. As Cllr Warren died in office this was considered appropriate and it was therefore **resolved** to make this proposal to Mid Devon District Council. Proposed by Cllr Grantham, seconded by Cllr Little, unanimously agreed.

1009/10 There was no update from the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Advisory Group for this meeting. An update will be provided in October.

1009/11 Cllr Hutter circulated an update prior to the meeting. The Willand Wildlife Day is to be held at the village hall on Sunday 4th April 2027. Expected to be mainly funded by external grants but the Group may request a small amount of funding from the Parish Council in due course. The Group wish to look at extending the Wildflower Meadow at the Cemetery to create an area with walkways to the bench currently situated at the top end and possibly install a further 2 benches within the area**.** It was **resolved** that the Group develop a project plan and obtain costings to be brought back to Council for consideration, Cllr Hutter proposed, Cllr Turner seconded. 6 voted in favour, 1 voted against.

1009/12 It was **resolved** that Cllr Fernbank be invited to bring a firm proposal to a future meeting for Council to consider the setting up a Community Emergency Hub. Proposed by Cllr Little, seconded by Cllr Hutter. 5 in favour, 2 abstained.

1009/13 **Play Areas:**

(i) It was **resolved** to approve the repair of the Jubilee Field Play Area Carousel at a cost of £1,603.49. Cllr Little proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded, unanimously agreed.

(ii) It was **resolved** to defer the decision on whether to proceed with the pressure washing of the play areas at Mallow Court, South View and Worcester Crescent to the November meeting pending the findings of the next RoSPA annual inspection being undertaken in October. Proposed by Cllr Hutter, seconded by Cllr Little, unanimously agreed.

1009/14 Since the agenda was published the Government has paused Local Government Re-Organisation pending a review. It was **resolved** that Cllr Little brings a proposal to a future meeting to consider the future of Parish boundaries and partnerships. Proposed by Cllr Little, seconded by Cllr Grantham, unanimously agreed.

1009/15 The Chair moved that the debate on the proposed motion from Cllr Fernbank be adjourned to a later date as Council would benefit from having additional information before them in order to make an informed decision. The motion will therefore be brought back to a future meeting when further evidence is available. Unanimously agreed.

1009/16 **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:

Reference: DCC/4472/2026
Proposal: Application for Hazardous Substances Consent
Location: Devon Green Power, Lloyd Maunder Road, Willand, EX15 2PJ

With his expertise in this area, Councillor Turner prepared some information relating to the safety measures set out in the application, these were circulated in advance of the meeting. It was **resolved** to comment as per the information set out in this paper**.** Proposed by Cllr Hutter, seconded by Cllr Grantham, unanimously agreed.

Reference: 26/01138/TPO
Proposal: Application to reduce the overall crown of 1 Ash tree (T48) by up to 2m and reduce the lower co-dominant stem back to previous pruning point protected by Tree Preservation Order 97/00008/TPO
Location: 8 Mulberry Close Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2PA
It was **resolved** to comment as follows: Willand Parish Council will support the views and recommendations of the Mid Devon District Council Tree Officer**.** Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.

It was **resolved** to ratify submissions made on the following applications under delegated powers since the last meeting:

i. No objection to application number 26/00944/HOUSE - Erection of single storey rear extension 14 Campion Court Willand Cullompton.
ii. No objection to application number 26/00956/MFUL - Variation of Condition 21 of planning permission 20/00876/MFUL (Construction of Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road comprising new 1350 metre road connecting Station Road to Duke Street and associated works) to amend the requirements for the provision of replacement cricket facilities prior to construction activities affecting Cullompton Cricket Club, Land at NGR 302456 107324 Cullompton Devon. CULLOMPTON, Willand consulted as a neighbouring parish.
iii. Application number 26/00996/TPO, Application for a 1-1.5m lateral reduction to the south-west and north-west aspects of the canopy of 1 Oak tree, and reduction pruning of limbs, protected by Tree Preservation Order 96/00014/TPO, 4 Mulberry Close Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2PA, comments as follows: Willand Parish Council notes that no arboricultural report has been provided on the condition of the tree and the need for the proposed work. The Parish Council considers that more information is needed before a decision is made on this application and therefore an arboricultural report should be requested. Until more information is provided the Parish Council is unable to make an informed response and therefore objects to this application in its current form.
iv. Application number 26/01030/TPO, Application to remove 1 English Oak tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 02/00005/TPO, Land at NGR 304156 111003 (Boundary Of 12 Lupin Way) Willand, comments as follows: Willand Parish Council notes that the applicant states that the tree poses a risk of damage to property, however this is not adequately evidenced by the accompanying tree report. The applicant has stated that a professional house surveyor's report can be made available and we would suggest that this is requested in order to see if there is further evidence of property damage or risk of damage. We further note the applicant's comments around the drainage ditch and the offer to undertake wildlife friendly replanting, however

the application should be determined on whether the tree is causing damage or is a potential risk. Finally we note that the tree report suggests the tree could be reduced rather than removed and if the Tree Officer considers that work is required it should be an appropriate reduction rather than removal.

v. Application number 26/01050/HOUSE, Erection of a single-storey rear extension and entrance porch; external alterations including rendering, replacement roof coverings, windows and doors, installation of roof-mounted solar photovoltaic panels, air source heat pump and electric vehicle charging point, Juniper Bungalow 25 Elmside Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2RN, comments as follows: Willand Parish Council offers no objection to the erection of a single storey extension and entrance porch as per the proposed plans. As regards the external alterations, the impact of the proposed substantial integrated solar-PV array on the rear roof slope on the surrounding area, including the adjoining conservation area, needs to be assessed. The proposed change from brickwork to render is out of keeping with the other properties in this road and any potential visual impact must be fully considered.

vi. No observations to make on application number 26/00159/MFUL, Construction of an earth-banked slurry lagoon, two silage clamps with associated retaining wall, yard extension, fencing and drainage, Land at NGR 298043 107664 (Honey Park Farm) Butterleigh Devon. CULLOMPTON, Willand consulted as a neighbouring parish.

vii. Application number 26/01055/TPO, Application to reduce one over extended scaffold branch growing towards the property by approximately 2m back to a suitable growth point and undertake an overall canopy reduction of approximately 1-1.5m from One Ash tree (T1) protected by Tree Preservation Order 97/00008/TPO, Barnwell Jaycroft Willand, comments as follows: Willand Parish Council will support the views and recommendations of the Mid Devon District Council Tree Officer.

Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.

1009/17 Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions

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

Reference: 26/00826/TPO
Proposal: Application to reduce the crown of 1 Ash tree (T22) by approximately 4-5m, reduce selected limbs by 1-2m and undertake light crown thinning and lifting, protected by Tree Preservation Order 94/00009/TPO
Location: 1 Harpitt Close Willand Cullompton Devon
DECISION: Split Decision – crown reduction limited to 2m and pruning cuts to be made up to a diameter of 50mm

1009/18 Councillor Reports:

- Cllr Hutter updated the Parish Council on the Acorn Bioenergy Community Fund, the first round of funding has opened and is being publicised online, in noticeboards, on social media and in the magazine.
- Cllr Little would like the Parish Council to consider re-joining DALC. The Clerk will bring back the cost to a future meeting for consideration.
- Cllr Little raised the issue of the bus to Uffculme School, which doesn't stop if it's close to being full making it difficult for young people to get to school. A resident has set up a group and raised the issue directly with the MP.
- Cllr James asked if permission is needed to erect a shed on an allotment. The Clerk advised that sheds over 8ft x 6ft in size require the Council's permission.
- Cllr Grantham advised that the catch on the Cemetery gate isn't working. The clerk will instruct the Responsive Repairs & Maintenance Contractor to undertake repairs.
- Cllr Grantham enquired as to why the ashes plots are being allocated further down the right-hand side of the existing cemetery area than originally agreed – the Clerk advised that this is because there are fewer burials taking place.
- Cllr Grantham advised that some of the hawthorn hedging in the scattering of ashes area has died off and consideration needs to be given to partial replanting.
- Cllr Grantham advised that some residents approached him over the summer regarding anti-social behaviour in the woods near Chestnut Drive. Cllr Grantham visited and spoke to the young people concerned and they have now tidied up the area and the anti-social behaviour has stopped.

1009/19 The meeting closed at 20.54 p.m.