



## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

68 Pinnex Moor Road, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6JZ

Tel: 07920 014407

Email: clerk@willand-pc.org.uk

### Minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.

**Present:** Cllrs Mr B Warren, Mr R Phare, Mr K, Grantham, Mr S Little, Mr N James, Mr J Sellick, Mr P Major

**In Attendance:** Mrs C Dalley, Parish Clerk  
County Councillor R Radford  
6 Members of the public

**Absent:** Cllr N Bartlett

#### 2303/01 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllrs F Wilcox, L Mastrolacasa & A Glover. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

The Clerk advised that District Councillors Evans and Chesterton had also sent their apologies.

#### 2303/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

#### 2303/03 Public Question Time

There were no questions.

#### 2303/04 Order of Business

There were no changes to the order of business.

**2303/05 Parish Council Minutes** - To approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023, as a correct record. It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023, as a correct record. (Proposed by Cllr Grantham)

#### 2303/06 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

The Chairman advised Councillors that the pressures on his time as the new Leader of Mid Devon District Councillor will now decrease following the setting of the District Council budget and the approaching elections.

The Clerk advised Councillors of the following:

- She had contacted four ARB approved Tree Surgeons requesting quotations for the tree works at Jubilee Field. Only one quotation has been received so far. Councillors expressed concern that bird nesting season was fast approaching. It was recommended that the quotations received were assessed at the upcoming Finance & Administration Committee meeting in order to expedite matters.
- She had formally e-mailed Mid Devon District Council Forward Planning, as instructed at the February Council meeting, with the resolutions regarding the Draft Neighbourhood Plan submission.
- She still required a volunteer to look after the Parish Council noticeboards. Cllr Warren asked for the keys to be left with him and he would arrange this.
- Planning permission has been received for the Jubilee Field pump track.

### **2303/07 Police Report**

The Police Report for January had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

It was noted that District Cllr Evans had e-mailed the Clerk to advise that at two recent Parish council meetings, that he had attended, individuals responsible for reporting on local crime figures had reported that little or no crime was being reported via the relevant police portal. In his capacity as a Police and Crime Commissioner Councillor Advocate, Cllr Evans had been asked to seek any explanation from the police for the lack of data.

The response received from the Police was as follows:

*‘Devon and Cornwall Police are transitioning to a new record management system (Niche), which will provide enhanced functionality and analytical capability. The change will deliver a significant uplift in our ability to record and report crime and incident data. However during the transition period, the information that we are able to provide will be limited as reliable quantifiable data is not available. Officers are able to view crime and intelligence records, however a range of process and data issues means that providing strategic information is not possible at this time. The issue is not that we can’t extract data, the issue is that the data on the system is not reliable.*

*We are working at pace to identify the issues, but they are wide and varied and in many cases require changes to working practices to ensure data quality improves. We are unable to provide a timeline for resolution at this point.’*

Councillors considered removing this item from the agenda until accurate crime figure reports are received, however, it was felt that it should remain for the time being.

### **2303/08 To receive reports from County and District Councillors.**

County Councillor Radford had provided a report, which had been circulated to Councillors, prior to the meeting. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix One.

A member of the public asked Cllr Radford who is in charge of temporary traffic lights. Cllr Radford advised that Devon County Council Highways and Traffic Orders Committee are responsible and that any closures do need to be advertised in advance unless they are emergency works.

The Clerk advised that a written report had been received from District Councillor Evans, as he was unable to attend the meeting. The report had been issued prior to the meeting and is attached as Appendix Two.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Chesterton had sent apologies and no report had been received.

Cllr Warren in his capacity as a District Councillor reported:

- Mid Devon District Council's budget had been approved the previous day. He added that it did require money to be taken out of the reserves. Cllr Warren stressed that he had been appointed as Leader on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, he was an Independent Councillor with no political affiliations and that the budget had been set with no axe to grind or political agenda.
- Talks are underway regarding the possibility of a joint authority for Devon. This is very much an ongoing prospect and will take approximately two to three years if, there is any change at all.
- The planned Mid Devon District Council parking charges increase has been halted and is once again being reviewed.

Cllr Grantham asked Cllr Warren what is happening with the Three Rivers Development Group. Councillor Warren advised that the issue had been called into Mid Devon District Council's Scrutiny Committee. There are two projects that are currently underway and Three Rivers Development Group are being funded to finish the projects. Everything will then be placed on hold until an independent review is carried out.

**2303/09 To receive an update from Cllr Radford, Devon County Councillor, regarding any possibility of street lighting in Jaycroft and to agree a course of action.** Cllr Radford reported that he had sent another email to Alex Crump, Network Operations Manager at Devon County Council and was awaiting a response.

**2303/10 Accounts Due for Payment and Receipts - To examine and agree the accounts due for payment, receipts, and bank transfers for the period 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and to receive the bank reconciliation.** The schedule of payments and receipts for January, February and March had been issued prior to the meeting. It was **resolved** to approve the payments and receipts, copies of which are attached to these minutes as Appendix Three. (Proposed by Cllr Phare)

Cllr Radford left the meeting at 8.11 pm

**2303/11 To consider, approve and adopt the following Willand Parish Council Policies, Procedures & Strategies:**

- **Standing Orders**
- **Financial Regulations**
- **Investment Strategy**
- **Freedom of Information - Model Publication Scheme**
- **Expenses Policy and Expenses Claim Form**
- **Co-option Policy**

Copies had been issued with the agenda.

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt, with immediate effect, Willand Parish Council's Standing Orders. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt, with immediate effect, Willand Parish Council's Financial Regulations. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt, with immediate effect, Willand Parish Council's Investment Strategy. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt, with immediate effect, Willand Parish Council's Freedom of Information – Model Publication Scheme. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt, with immediate effect, Willand Parish Council's Expenses Policy and Expenses Claim Form. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt, with immediate effect, Willand Parish Council's Co-option Policy. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

**2303/12 To consider and approve the Parish Council joining the Local Government Pension Scheme and auto enrolling the Parish Clerk into the scheme.** Information regarding this item had been issued with the agenda. The Chairman advised Councillors that the current Clerk has resigned from her role and therefore this item no longer requires consideration.

**2303/13 To consider a request for funding to support an event to celebrate the King's Coronation.** Further information had been issued with the agenda. The request was considered and discussed by Councillors. It was felt that further information was required from the grant applicant before a decision could be made. It was **resolved** to defer this item to the Finance & Administration Committee for further consideration, with the grant applicant present, in order to provide further information and answer any questions Councillors may have. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

**2303/14 To receive and approve for publication the following:**

- **Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) Report for February 2023**
- **Highways Road Safety Assessment Report produced by 2020 Consultancy**

Copies of the reports had been issued with the agenda.

Cllr Warren asked Cllr Major whether the VAS was currently working. Cllr Major advised that the battery is currently flat and the VAS also needs to be moved.

Cllr Major advised Councillors how the report is collated with the help of Mr Marrow of Willand Community Speedwatch. Mr Marrow advised that February 2023 is the second month where they have been able to provide a year-on-year comparison. The good news is that there has been approximately a 20% reduction in speeding vehicles, which is encouraging. Mr Marrow then provided Councillors with further information regarding Community Speedwatch.

It was **resolved** to note and publish the VAS Report for February 2023. (Proposed by Cllr Major)

It was **resolved** to note and publish the Highways Road Safety Assessment Report produced by 2020 Consultancy. (Proposed by Cllr Major)

There was a discussion about what follow-up to the Report there will be. Cllr Major was asked what he would like as a follow-up. Cllr Major said he was not minded to comment at this time.

- 2303/15 To discuss and agree the installation of play equipment at Chestnut Drive play area, in particular the safety surfacing and the way it is to be installed following a site pre-start meeting.** A report produced by the Clerk had been issued with the agenda. Councillors discussed the safety surfacing options and the guarantees provided. It was **resolved** to overlay the rubber mulch safety surfacing over the existing rubber tiles in the light of the guarantee given by the supplier. (Proposed by Cllr Sellick) The Clerk advised that installation is scheduled for April 2023.

- 2303/16 To consider the future of the Willand Parish Magazine following the public appeal for volunteers and agree a course of action.** A report prepared by Cllr Warren and information regarding the duties involved in producing the magazine had been circulated with the agenda. The future of the magazine was discussed in detail and at length, this included the costs involved in producing the magazine and the lack of a willing volunteer to take over from the current Editor. Possible ways forward were discussed including the use of Council employed staff and any possible collaboration opportunities. Councillors expressed deep concern that the Magazine may cease and were willing to explore any and all viable options to ensure its continuation.

It was proposed by Cllr Little for two councillors to meet with the Editor of the Willand Magazine to consider whether there is a viable alternative to put before Council, for a final decision to be made, at its April meeting. There was no seconder for the proposal.

It was **resolved** for Cllr Warren to speak to the current Editor of the Willand Parish Magazine. Following this Cllr Warren will put forward a firm recommendation for the April Council meeting. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

**2303/17 To receive and consider the monthly play area inspection reports and agree any required courses of action.** A copy of the reports had been issued with the agenda. It was **resolved** to note the reports. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

**2303/18 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:

Cllr Sellick declared an interest in planning application 23/00350/CAT as the applicant is a member of his family.

Reference: [23/00268/HOUSE](#)

Proposal: Erection of conservatory

Location: Garden House Willand Old Village Willand - Grid Ref: 303410 / 110206

Applicant: Mr & Mrs D Hall

It was **resolved** to comment as follows: NO OBSERVATION. (Proposed by Cllr Grantham)

Reference: [23/00332/FULL](#)

Proposal: Replacement of 16 existing metal halide floodlight heads with 16 LED floodlight heads

Location: Willand Rovers Football Club Silver Street Willand

Applicant: Willand Rovers FC

It was **resolved** to recommend APPROVAL of the application with the Council expressing it's support for the environmental benefits. (Proposed by Cllr Sellick)

Reference: [23/00350/CAT](#)

Proposal: Notification of intention to reduce the height of 1 Lime tree by 2.5m and 2m lateral branch length within the Conservation Area

Location: Pump Cottage Willand Old Village Willand

Applicant: Mr R Sellick

It was **resolved** to recommend NO OBJECTION (Proposed by Cllr Little)

**2303/19 Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions**

It was **resolved** to note Mid Devon District Council, the determining Authority, has made the following planning decisions. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

Reference: 23/00064/CAT

Proposal: Notification of intention to fell one Apple tree within a Conservation Area

Location: 1 Old Verbeer Willand Old Village Willand Cullompton

Applicant: Mr P Smith

DECISION: MDDC has no objection

Reference: 22/00790/FULL  
 Proposal: To crown reduce 1 Oak tree protected by Tree Preservation Order No. 96/00014/TPO by 1.5 to 2m, shape and balance crown by reducing sides by 2 to 3m and thin crown by 15%  
 Location: 18 Pear Drive Willand Cullompton Devon  
 Applicant: Mr L Hyson  
 DECISION: Permitted with Conditions to Discharge

Reference: 22/02391/CLP  
 Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed replacement of floodlight heads with LED floodlight heads  
 Location: Willand Rovers Football Club Silver Street Willand  
 Applicant: Willand Rovers FC  
 DECISION: Refuse Permission

Reference: 3/00025/FULL  
 Proposal: Replacement of existing BMX track with a surfaced Pump Track  
 Location: Playing Field at NGR 303550 110909 Gables Road Willand Devon  
 Applicant: Willand Parish Council  
 DECISION: Approved

Reference: 23/00008/HOUSE  
 Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension following removal of conservatory together with alterations to the pitch of the front porch roof  
 Location: 26 Townlands Willand Cullompton  
 Applicant: Mr Charles Scottfox  
 DECISION: Approved

**2303/20 Correspondence and Matters to Note – To receive Council correspondence and matters to note.** A list of the correspondence and matters to note had been issued with the agenda.

1. NALC – Events Bulletin
2. MDDC - Planning Agenda
3. Rural Services Network - The Rural Bulletin
4. N. Hardy DCC - Receipt of Green Spaces in ownership of Devon County Council notification
5. MDDC Communication - Successful Funding Bid for accessible toilets
6. Cosmic Team - Free M365 Training 22nd February 2023
7. Involve - HWBA Cullompton Meeting Agenda for 22nd Feb 2023
8. A. Williams MDDC – Update RE: 18/00175/MOUT 125 dwellings off Meadow Park, Willand
9. Resident - Overgrown vegetation Damson Close/Orchard Way
10. D Maynard and B Warren - CCTV upgrades
11. DCC – Connect Me News Update
12. NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin
13. Airband - Advanced Warning Dean Hill Road closure
14. NALC Events - Why Do Standards Matter
15. Resident – Response to Overhanging Vegetation Letter
16. DALC – News E-Bulletin

17. Devon Communities Together - Devon, Plymouth & Torbay VCSE Assembly Update
18. NALC – Newsletter
19. Rural Services Network - The Rural Bulletin
20. NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin
21. MDDC - Increase in car parking charges
22. BT's digital society solutions for the public sector
23. DALC – E-Bulletin
24. NALC – Newsletter
25. DCC - Connect Me - Childrens Mental Health Special
26. DCC - Health & Social Care Skills Accelerator Programme
27. Devon Communities Together – Newsletter
28. MDDC Press Release - Parish Review
29. Citizen's Advice - Thank you for donation.
30. C Dalley - E-mail to T Peat at MDDC request to start formal NP process
31. DALC - News E-Bulletin
32. NALC – Newsletter
33. Dan Angell TFA - Public Consultation East Cullompton
34. Consultation on revising the National Policy Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
35. D Beer MDDC - Litter and dog poo bins
36. NALC - Chief Executives Bulletin
37. Keep Britain Tidy - Great British Spring Clean
38. Rural Services Network – Bulletin
39. Locality - Members only mail - COF and Guardian grants
40. MDDC Planning - Approval of Planning Permission at Jubilee Field
41. DALC – Newsletter
42. NALC – Newsletter
43. Resident - Overhanging vegetation and branches
44. SLCC – News Bulletin

It was **resolved** to note the correspondence and matters to note. (Proposed by Cllr Warren)

**2303/21 Councillor Reports** – At the discretion of the Chairman, to receive reports from Parish Councillors – strictly for information only.

Cllr James reminded Councillors that Willand United Charities give grants for those experiencing hardship.

**2303/22 Close**

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm

Signed .....

Chairman

Dated.....