



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 12th June 2025 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

Present: Cllr Warren, Cllr Grantham, Cllr Sycamore, Cllr Phare, Cllr Hutter, Cllr Leach, Cllr James,

In Attendance: D Bird, Parish Clerk
County Councillor Simon Clist
District Councillor David Wulff – Deputy Leader of Mid Devon District Council
District Councillor John Poynton
District Councillor Cathy Connor

Minutes

1206/01 To receive and accept apologies

It was **resolved** to note apologies from Cllr Scott, Cllr Little, Cllr Glover and Cllr Jones.

1206/02 Declarations of Interest

Declarations taken in the relevant item.

1206/03 Public Question Time

There were No members of the public present.

1206/04 Order of Business

There was no change to the order of business.

1206/05 It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th May 2025. Cllr Sycamore proposed, Cllr Phare seconded. Unanimously agreed.

1206/06 Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements

- One of the rockers in Jubilee Field has been damaged. It has been removed and the holes filled in. The Clerk will investigate whether it can be repaired.
- Locality Budget Application submitted for £700 towards weed spraying costs, following discussion with DCC Councillor Simon Clist, who agreed to support the application.

- Mid Devon Planning Training is going ahead on Monday 28th July starting at 5.30 p.m. and can be attended either in person at Phoenix House or via Teams – email sent with link and code to join via Teams. Anyone wishing to attend in person to advise the Clerk as MDDC need to know numbers for seating and refreshments.
- The contract to cut the grass in the smaller play areas is for 9 cuts per annum in the growing season, around once a month. There is also the ability to request additional cuts if needed at the agreed rate per cut. Any requests to be made to the Clerk.

1206/07 County and District Councillor Reports.

- County Councillor Simon Clist was in attendance and was welcomed to the meeting by the Chair. He advised that the new administration is working to improve communication with towns and parishes. He also set out the makeup of the new administration at the County Council and the key points from the first Cabinet and Council meetings.
- Cllr Poynton and Cllr Connor were in attendance. A report was received from Cllr Connor which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting – this gave some brief information on general initiatives rather than anything Willand specific. Cllr Connor is looking for a Park Run venue in Mid Devon. The Chair raised the continuing concerns around the Zed Pod developments in Willand.

1206/08 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 May 2025. Cllr James proposed, Cllr Hutter seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices listed in table A of the payments list, and to **ratify** additional payments made since the previous meeting. Cllr James proposed, Cllr Phare seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- c) The Reserves Balance Report up to the 31st May 2025 was **noted**.
- d) It was **resolved** to ratify Litter Picker holiday cover at an approximate cost of £178. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

1206/09 The Emergency Plan was reviewed. County Councillor details have been updated and Caretaker details removed for the Village Hall due to pending retirement with no replacement yet appointed.

1206/10 It was **resolved** to approve and adopt an IT Policy for the Council as recommended by the Smaller Authorities' Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP, formerly JPAG) in the 2025 Practitioners Guide. Moved by the Chair with thanks to the Clerk. Unanimously agreed.

1206/11 It was **resolved** to approve the addition of Councillor Hutter to the Open Space & Recreation Group. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

1206/12 It was **resolved** to dispose of the Field Shelter side panels stored in the Cemetery Bier Shed. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

1206/13

A report of the Cemetery Working Group meeting on the 15th May was circulated with the agenda, and actions already undertaken noted. In respect of the area designated for the scattering of ashes it was **resolved** that:

1. a wicker fence of sufficient height is erected to screen the spoil area at a cost of £637.77. Cllr Phare proposed. Cllr Sycamore seconded - 6 in favour, Cllr Leach voted against.
2. two “rustic” memorial posts with rounded top edge of good quality seasoned hardwood to be erected either side of the area in accordance with the specification presented, subject to the cost being approved by Council. Proposed by Cllr Phare, seconded by Cllr Sycamore. Cllr Leach proposed square posts as an alternative, Cllr Grantham seconded and this was voted on - 3 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention. The Chair then used his casting vote in favour of the “rustic” posts. The Clerk to go back to the Handyman to confirm the specification and quote, with costs to be agreed at the July meeting.
3. the charge for fixing memorial plaques to the posts to be £25 per plaque. Cllr Phare proposed, Cllr Sycamore seconded. 5 in favour, 2 abstentions.

1206/14

It was **resolved** to contribute £100 to the South Western Ambulance Charity towards their fundraising appeal to buy, convert and equip a second Community Response Vehicle. Cllr Grantham proposed, Cllr Leach seconded. 5 in favour, 2 abstentions.

1206/15

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 25/00473/HOUSE
Proposal: Erection of a single storey garage in rear garden
Location: 38 Chestnut Drive Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2SJ
REVISED PLANS

It was **resolved** to comment as follows: **“Although reduced in size to accommodate 3 vehicles as opposed to 4, the original objections raised are still valid. If the garage is to be used for racing cars there may be an additional noise factor to consider.”** Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

- b) Reference: 25/00660/MFUL
Proposal: Erection of an agricultural livestock building (1544 sqm)
Location: Bycott Farm Lower Town Halberton Devon
HALBERTON PARISH

It was **resolved** to comment as follows: **“Willand Parish Council has no objection in principle to the construction of this large livestock unit on agricultural land. There is an issue of concern to the Parish Council - the application form shows that surface water is disposed of via an existing water course and although the slurry, waste and water management is explained it**

is not clear as to non-managed soak out of urine etc... from the shed.” Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed

- i. It was **resolved** to ratify the response to Application Number 25/00686/TPO - Application to fell 1 Oak tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 97/00008/TPO – comments made as follows: **“Willand Parish Council will support the views and recommendations of the Mid Devon District Council Tree Officer. If permission is granted for the tree to be removed a condition should be added for a replacement tree to be planted but NOT a woodland tree as it would become too large again over time.”** Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

1206/16 Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions

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

Reference: 25/00344/TPO

Proposal: Application to reduce crown by 1-2mtrs; remove epicormic growth and dead wood to Oak tree protected by Tree Preservation Order 97/00008/TPO

Location: 6 Blenheim Court Willand Cullompton Devon

DECISION: Consent Granted

1206/17 Councillor Reports:

- Harpitt Close footpath – vegetation needs cutting back again. Devon County Council to be contacted. The Clerk will add to the County Councillor Highways list.
- Fox Mill Gardens tarmacking – cars parking on the road whilst this is taking place, will be completed by Friday 13th June.
- Fencing of gully at Lupin Way is in a poor state. This is Mid Devon’s responsibility.
- B3181 from the Esso garage – pits in the footpath and hedge growing over. Already flagged with Devon County Council. The Clerk to send the County Councillor an email regarding this.
- Cllr Sycamore suggested refreshing the village signs. The Parish Council is responsible for the stone signs with the ordinary road signs being the responsibility of Devon County Council. Cllr Sycamore will re-look at the signs to see what work is needed.

1206/18 The meeting closed at 20.20 p.m.