



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Meeting of Willand Parish Council** held on **Thursday 12th September 2024 at 7.00 pm, in the Club Room at Willand Village Hall, Gables Rd, Willand.**

Present: Cllr Warren, Cllr Phare, Cllr Grantham, Cllr Little, Cllr Scott, Cllr Bagnall

In Attendance: D Bird, Parish Clerk
District Councillor Cathy Connor

Minutes

- 1209/01** It was **resolved** to co-opt Samantha Bagnall as a Councillor to fill a vacancy on the Parish Council. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed. Acceptance form signed and Register of Interest form provided for completion and return to Mid-Devon District Council.
- 1209/02** **To receive and accept apologies**
It was **resolved** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr James, Cllr Leach and Cllr Glover.
- 1209/03** **Declarations of Interest**
Declarations taken in the relevant item.
- 1209/04** **Public Question Time**
There were no questions.
- 1209/05** **Order of Business**
There were no changes to the order of business.
- 1209/06** It was **resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Willand Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th July 2024 as a correct record, Cllr Scott proposed and Cllr Phare seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- 1209/07** **Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**
- The Chair and Clerk met with District Councillor Duchesne and David Parker to discuss issues of concern relating to the Town and Parish Charter. They are looking into various issues raised and reporting back on these to the Parish Council.

- The Chair reported that he had remotely attended the recent Mid-Devon PDG and questioned the Committee as to the information, process and timescales for the Neighbourhood Plan modifications and referendum as presented in the Planning report.
- Skatepark completed in July and added to the Asset Register.
- Benches fitted in the Cemetery and added to the Asset Register.
- S106 applications submitted to Mid Devon District Council in August for Jubilee Field goal ends and rocker, and Orchard Way Trim Trail, multi-gym and bowl swing. The Clerk spoke to the S106 Officer and should receive a decision within the next few days. If all are approved over £12k is still available for other open space projects.
- Neighbourhood Highways Officer Kyle Walker is moving to another role in Devon County Council, his replacement is Ed Polding who will take over from the 23rd September. The Clerk has thanked Kyle for his work with the Parish.
- Play Area Inspections – the Clerk has received an email advising that from next financial year larger play areas such as Jubilee Field will be split into sections for inspection and charged separately potentially increasing the Parish Council's costs by £600 per annum at the current fee rate. The Clerk is exploring other options, and further information will be brought to Council as part of budget and precept setting for 2025/26.

1209/08 **County and District Councillor Reports.**

- Apologies received from County Cllr Radford who sent a report in advance of the meeting, which was noted.
- District Councillors – a report was received and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Cathy Connor was in attendance. In addition to items in the report Cllr Connor and other District Councillors are raising concerns at the lack of sixth form provision in Mid-Devon. Cllr Grantham asked a question as to whether Tesco had agreed to sell their area of land for the relief road – Cllr Connor advised that they had not agreed to sell as yet, and that the Compulsory Purchase process has started.

1209/09 **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 2024. Cllr Phare proposed, Cllr Little seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- b) It was **resolved** to authorise the payment of invoices received between the 19th August 2024 and 6th September 2024, and to **ratify** additional payments made since the previous meeting. Cllr Phare proposed & Cllr Scott seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- c) It was **resolved** to note The Reserves Balances Report up to the 31st August 2024.
- d) It was **resolved** to note the External Auditor's Report & Certificate for 2023/24, with thanks to the Clerk. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- e) It was **resolved** to approve Litter Picker holiday cover between the 23rd September and 6th October 2024 at an estimated cost of £335. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.

- 1209/10** The Emergency Plan was reviewed and Cllr Bagnall to be added to the contacts list in Appendix C. The Clerk will provide a copy of the plan to Cllr Bagnall.
- 1209/11** It was resolved to sever the ivy at the base of the two trees as recommended in the Allotment Tree Assessment carried out in July. Cllr Phare proposed, Cllr Little seconded. Unanimously agreed. It was also resolved to take no action on the priority 2 management recommendation to reduce the canopy overhanging the roof of 11 Blenheim Court to achieve a 3m clearance, but that the Council will not object if the householder wishes to undertake this work, subject to being granted permission by Mid-Devon District Council as this tree has a TPO. Cllr Phare proposed, Cllr Scott seconded. Unanimously agreed.
- 1209/12** It was **resolved** to note the update on allotment occupancy, administration and budget.
- 1209/13** The Clerk to contact the volunteers to confirm that they wish to continue with the planters and to arrange for plants to be ordered for the winter planting accordingly. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
- 1209/14** The proposals from the Cemetery Working Group were considered and it was **resolved** that:
1. the area for the scattering of ashes to be located in the top right-hand corner of the extension and a hedge planted to screen the spoil with access at either end. Three Trees to be planted in front of the hedge. Two memorial posts were approved, exact design to be decided. Additional ground cover, if any, to be decided. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
 2. the three trees to be planted in the area above are a rowan, a hazel and a cherry. Moved by Chair. Unanimously agreed.
 3. a wildflower area be planted in the top left-hand corner of the extension. Moved by the Chair. Unanimously agreed.
 4. the Clerk obtain costings for the above proposals and applies to the DCC Locality Budget for some funding.
- 1209/15** The Examiner's recommended modifications to the Neighbourhood Plan were considered and it was **resolved** to agree that the plan proceed to referendum. Cllr Little proposed. Cllr Scott seconded. 5 Cllrs voted in favour with 1 abstention. It was resolved that the funds remaining in the Reserve are used to encourage awareness before and after the referendum.
- 1209/16** The Grand Western Canal Public Consultation was considered, and it was resolved to respond as follows - Concerns have been raised that reducing the conservation area around the canal might lead to additional development that could have a detrimental effect on the view from and surrounding environment of a key tourist asset in the area. Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.

1209/17 **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: 24/01262/CAT
Proposal: Notification of intention to reduce the crowns of a group of Oak trees by 4m within the Conservation Area
Location: Pitfield House Willand Old Village Willand Cullompton Devon EX15 2RL
It was **resolved** to offer no objection to this application. Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.
- i. It was **resolved** to ratify the Planning comments submitted to support the recommendations of the MDDC Tree Officer regarding application Number 24/00988/TPO, various works to TPOs - Land at NGR 303415 110522 and NGR 303250 110816, Meadow Park Willand owned by the Woodland Trust. Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.
- ii. It was **resolved** to ratify the Planning comments submitted to support the recommendations of the MDDC Tree Officer regarding application Number 24/01216/CAT, notification of intention to reduce crown of Oak Tree by 2-3m within the Conservation Area, Dye House Willand Old Village EX15 2RL. Moved by the Chair, unanimously agreed.

1209/18 **Mid Devon District Council – Planning Decisions**

It was **resolved** to note that Mid Devon District Council, the determining Authority, has made the following planning decision.

Reference: 23/01904/MFUL

Proposal: Erection of a two-storey office extension and associated works

Location: Pencarrie Ltd Unit 14 South View Estate Willand

DECISION: Permission Granted

Reference: 24/00810/FULL

Proposal: Erection of additional workshop building to provide cleaning area

Location: Stoneman Engineering Park Works Station Road Willand

DECISION: Permission Granted

Reference: 24/00988/TPO

Proposal: Application to remove dead branches from 1 Field Maple, 1 Sycamore, 1 Turkey Oak, 1 Common Ash; remove 1 Turkey Oak, 8 Common Ash, 1 Wild Cherry to ground level; 1 Sycamore to 6m above ground level; 2 Sycamore to 5m above ground level; 1 Common Ash to 4m above ground level and reduce canopy of 1 Common Ash all protected by Tree Preservation Order No. 73/00012/TPO and 74/00015/TPO

Location: Land at NGR 303415 110522 and NGR 303250 110816 Meadow Park Willand

DECISION: Permission Granted

1209/19

Councillor Reports:

The Chair thanked Cllr Scott for producing the monthly VAS reports. Average speed was 28.2 mph in August and a very excessive speed of 85 mph recorded in one instance.

The Clerk to check on the planning permission for Stoneshill farm and the conditions for public access.

Cllr Phare mentioned a strong smell of coffee in the village at times. If excessive this should be reported to Mid-Devon District Council.

Cllr Grantham raised that conditions have not been adhered to on previous applications relating to the land at Willand Road Business Park (in Halberton Parish), for which a further application has been received, application number 24/00271/FULL, which Mid-Devon are belatedly consulting the Parish on.

The Chair asked Cllr Phare to liaise with the Clerk re overgrown hedges behind Mallow Court onto Willand Moor Road.

The Chair mentioned the Facebook post on the removal of the bank in Muxbeare Lane. Mid-Devon have been contacted and Cllr Glover is following up in her role as District Councillor.

1209/20

The meeting closed at 20.40 p.m.