

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING ON 13 DECEMBER 2001

Present: Mr Dennis (Chairman), Mr Vearncombe, Mr Roberts, Mr Wills, Mr Helliker, Mr Spearing, Mrs Barfoot and Mr Steele and the Clerk. Mrs Campbell was in attendance.

1. Apologies

Mrs Lane, Mr Maynard, Mr Berry and PC M Davies.

2. Chairman's Announcements

Mrs Jane Campbell, Chairman of Mid Devon District Council was welcomed by Mr Dennis and was thanked for attending the meeting.

The Council was disappointed that Mr Paul Edwards, Chief Executive Mid Devon District Council, failed to attend and did not apologise in advance.

a. Finance and General Purposes Committee

A meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 January 2002. An agenda will follow shortly.

b. Safeway – Additional Lorries

Mr Dennis declared an interest. Cllr Quick and Cllr Herniman will represent Willand on this issue.

c. Allotments

A letter has been received from Mr Duckett regarding the allotments. The Environmental Committee will shortly be making a visit of the site after which time a response will be sent to Mr Duckett.

3. Recruitment of new Litter Warden

It was understood that Mr Michaux had intended to attend the meeting to discuss the recruitment of the new Litter Warden. However, an advert has been placed in the Parish Magazine and two additional people have expressed an interest in the position. Mr Steele expressed that concern Mr Henessy should be informed about the new role intended for the Litter Warden and it was agreed that Mr Wills and Mr Dennis would arrange to discuss the matter with him.

Mr Dennis advised that he had just been sent a new document from Mid Devon District Council called "Play Strategy" which set out guidelines for play equipment inspection and training for the person charged with that responsibility.

4. Minutes of the Meetings and Matters Arising

a. Environmental Committee on 6 November 2001

b. Planning, Lighting and Transportation Committee on 12 November 2001

c. Planning, Lighting and Transportation Committee on 17 November 2001

d. Planning, Lighting and Transportation Committee on 26 November 2001

e. Environmental Committee on 5 December 2001

f. Planning, Lighting and Transportation Committee on 5 December 2001

These minutes were all signed as a true and correct record.

5. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 November 2001

The minutes were signed as a true and correct record.

6. Matters Arising

a. Devon and Cornwall Police

Regrettably, PC Davies was not able to attend the meeting but had kindly submitted a report to the Clerk prior to the meeting. Since the last meeting, eleven offences had been reported in Willand, three of which has been detected. The Chairman expressed his concerns at the number of offences being reported each month which appear to have increased steadily, yet the number of police on duty at any given time has in fact reduced as Willand has been incorporated with Uffculme. As previously when this happened, crime figures appear to have increased, which suggests there could be a link with the police cover.

b. Devon County Councillor

Mr Berry was unwell and was unable to attend.

c. Internet site for Willand

Mr Dennis formally thanked Mr Wills for his efforts and enthusiasm for the website. Mr Wills has organised for an advert to go into the Parish Magazine to see if other organisations in Willand would like to appear on the website. Mr Wills also reported that Nick Quinn would be attending the February meeting to provide a demonstration of the proposed website.

d. Millennium Clock

Mr Dennis announced that a letter had been sent from Gillett & Johnston stating that there did indeed seem to be a problem with the MSF signal at the Village Hall. Legal Services have now written to Rydon Signs pointing out that they are in breach of contract. Mr Wills to continue dialogue with Gillett and Johnston with regard to the antenna.

e. Parish Boundaries

The proposed new boundaries document has been updated by the Clerk and is awaiting final comment from Mr Dennis and Mr Roberts.

f. Cemetery Notice Board

The green and cream cemetery notice board was approved by the Council and the Clerk is to order this sign as soon as possible. With regard to the brown cemetery sign, concerns were raised as to whether Highways would allow the use of the colour for the sign. The Clerk is to investigate this and report to the next Council meeting.

g. Prowtings Footpath / Railway Cycle Route

Mr Dennis provided an update on the situation. It transpires that an environmental concept survey had not been carried out. It was also mentioned that footpath and landscaping plans had not been approved by Mid Devon, and that Mid Devon officers had failed to spot that the path was initially intended to be situated in the gully. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Mid Devon pointing out that plans had not been submitted; the stop order was challenged, how, as there was no landscaping plan to challenge; two years on and the situation is still not satisfactory; the footpath is not in the gully as it was originally intended to be; and that Mr Tony Lane was less than helpful during a site meeting in September.

h. Local Plan – Pre-School Funding

Mr Vearncombe and Mr Dennis have recently attended a meeting on the subject. It was reported that the current pre-school facility is bursting at the seams and oversubscribed. The Chairman, having taken advice from MDDC, has submitted a further amendment to the Mid Devon Local Plan, First Alteration, seeking revision to the present policy that any future developers must contribute towards additional facilities. It was also reported that the Parish Council has, over recent years, contributed between £7,000 and £8,000 to the pre-school. Mr Roberts declared an interest as Rotary had been asked to support the facility.

i. B3181 Traffic Flow / Lorries

Mr Dennis declared an interest. Mrs Campbell informed the Council that a meeting was due to be held in Cullompton in the New Year to discuss this particular issue and that of traffic problems in Cullompton at the same time. All parish councils affected by the proposals will be invited to the meeting.

Mr Dennis also reported that a letter had been received from Mr Alan Mitchard of Devon County Council providing an update.

j. Playfield Lighting

It was agreed that £1,000 had been previously allocated for lighting. The Clerk and Mr Wills are to go ahead and arrange for two quotations for lighting. It was suggested that one source might be Devon County Council's contractors SEC.

7. Queen's Golden Jubilee

A separate committee must meet in the New Year to make some headway on this event. It was suggested that the Clerk arrange for all interested parties to meet at the Village Hall in the New Year to discuss what the village would like to organise.

The Clerk is to contact all organisations in Willand with a view to inviting them to the meeting.

8. Precept –

Finance Sub Committee will be held on 2 January to discuss this further before the next meeting.

9. Mrs Balaam expenses

The Council decided that as Mrs Balaam was requesting a float facility, the issue must be discussed at the forthcoming Finance and General Purposes meeting on 2 January, chaired by Mr David Maynard.

10. Correspondence

a. MDDC – Guide to Waste Collection Services

This is to be deferred to the next meeting. Mr Dennis holds the Clerk's copy of this document.

b. DCC – Youth Justice

It was agreed that Mr Dennis would arrange for an article to be placed in the next Parish magazine.

c. Quality Parish and Town Councils – Consultation Paper

This is to be circulated to all Councillors. At this point, the Clerk urged Councillors to be much more efficient at passing circulars on to each other. In the five months the Clerk has been in her post, only one out of at least fifteen circulars has actually been returned to the Clerk!

d. The Standards Board for England / The Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001

Mr Dennis announced that all Councillors had been provided with a copy of the legislation in their packs and that they should read the document carefully. Councillors were also urged to book themselves on the January (if possible) seminar on the subject, organised by Mid Devon.

e. Mid Devon Rural Transport Forum

Mr Dennis reminded the Council that this was another forum to encourage better transport facilities for the region. Date of next meeting 15 January 2002, 2.30pm, Town Hall, Cullompton.

f. Devon Association of Parish Councils – Nomination of Treasurer

No nominations were forthcoming.

g. News from Devon County Council – November 2001

To be circulated by the Clerk.

h. Mid Devon Community Safety Audit and Draft Strategy

A response will be forwarded by the Clerk as agreed at the meeting.

i. Financial Support for the Ring and Ride Bus 2002/2003

Mr Roberts declared an interest. The Council decided to forward a £50 donation, which is to be organised by the Clerk.

j. Councillor Contact List – Email addresses to be added

Councillors with email addresses filled in the form that was circulated at the meeting. The Clerk is to circulate to all Councillors once typed up.

k. Local Improvement Scheme – response

Mr Dennis reported that a response had been received as a result of the Council's written comments. Mr Dennis announced that he had been given a selection of building materials for the Council's approval. These materials will be brought to the next Planning Committee meeting on Monday 14 January 2002 at 7.30pm.

l. Rockers Toddler Group

A letter had been received by the Chairman from the Toddler Group asking for help with some new pieces of carpet for underneath play equipment and a small CD player. This item is to be placed on the agenda for the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting. The Clerk is to ring Sally Taylor to discuss their request.

11. Accounts

The accounts were agreed as a true and correct record of the finances. The Clerk also suggested that a second bank account be considered in order to attract more bank interest to the account. This is to be discussed at the next Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting and in the meantime, the Clerk is to discuss the matter with Jim Banks at Mid Devon.

12. Public Questions

There were no members of the public present.

13. Date of next meeting – Thursday 10 January 2002 at 7pm