



Clerk to the Parish Council
Mrs P Harrogate
Tel: 01884 34285

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

St Julitta Gables Road
Willand
EX15 2PL

Minutes of the full Meeting of the Parish Council which took place on
Thursday 11 June 2009 at **Willand Village Hall** at 19.00

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cllr Perrett, Cllr Davey, Cllr Crawford, Cllr Davis, Cllr Ursell, Cllr Mander, Cllr Phare, Cllr Dennis.

In attendance: District Cllr Brandon, County Councillor Radford, Adrian Cook (MDDC), Nick Sanderson (MDDC), PC Katie Rich, 2 members of the public, District Cllr Chesterton, Mrs P Harrogate (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr Crick, Cllr Eschele, District Cllr Hull

2. Nick Sanderson and Adrian Cook from MDDC regarding grass cutting and the churchyard adoption

Nick Sanderson explained that cuts in Willand take place at least 10 times per year. A lot of the grass is the responsibility of DCC including the main road. There are budgetary constraints therefore it is difficult to do more cuts. Cuts take place between February and November. Areas such as Jaycroft are only cut 6 times a year. It takes at least 5 weeks to complete the grass cutting in the whole district. In May and June because of the weather conditions the grass will grow more and there are no more resources and no further budget. DCC pay for six cuts but the work is completed by MDDC – there are more cuts than six possibly 20 cuts per year and the additional cuts are subsidised by MDDC. Where there is a roundabout the adjacent grass is kept to the same level as the roundabout to try to enhance the area. MDDC have invested in machinery that cuts longer grass over the last 2 or 3 years. Park areas are cut with different machinery. The area that Nick looked at the day after the grass had been cut were considered a good standard. When shown the photographs Nick agreed that the standard was not in fact good. He did explain that if the area is cut when the grass is wet then the standard is not as good.

Different areas require different equipment. Do we need to ask our district cllrs to raise more money for more cuts?

There are different regimes for different areas across the District. The quality can be monitored but there is only a certain amount of money available. More areas have been taken on including the Willand Moor estate yet the budget has been cut. The council asked whether existing grass could be replaced by slow growing grass. Adrian Cook replied that on a new estate the slow growing grass would be purchased

however to change the existing grass you would have to rotavate it and reseed it which would be extremely costly. The soil is very fertile in this village and therefore the grass grows very quickly. There is a chemical that could be used to slow the growth down but there are additional problems with this.

Cllr Radford agrees that the condition of the cutting shown on the photo is not acceptable. He will task Mel Lucas to look at a policy for next year to agree the standard of cutting. More resources will be needed and this will need to be taken to executive to agree the additional funding.

The budget has been cut by £10,000 and yet there are 10 percent more cuts to do.

Is there any quality control of the cutting of the grass? Nick Sanderson explained that the foreman will follow up any complaints and check the workmanship of the cutting. Some grass does spring up but as they have 360 square miles to cover the cutting is not checked every time. The conditions including weather need to be taken into consideration.

Future complaints are to be sent via email to District Cllr Diane Brandon.

Churchyard

Adrian Cook is the Bereavement Services Manager for MDDC and is responsible for the adoption of the churchyard which has been budgeted for this financial year.

Adrian will meet with the Clerk and the vicar to gather the relevant information and a date can then be set for the formal adoption. They will need all of the information previously asked for. Clerk to arrange a mutually convenient date with Adrian Cook. Item to be on environmental agenda to discuss grass cutting proposals.

Update on the roundabout

Adrian has spoken to Bob Wigley from DCC about the sponsorship on the roundabout. Dave Huxham was looking at new sponsorship. The planting is planned for October and Adrian will send a plan to the parish council for approval.

Adrian Cook and Nick Sanderson left the meeting.

Cllr Perrett asked for council permission to bring forward the police item.

PC Katie Rich reported the following incidents for the last month:

Allotments damaged– 7 sheds broken into or damaged overnight in May. No further problems since then. Last weekend 2 reports of lads being verbally abusive – PC Rich has names and is going to speak to them.

Anti social behaviour issues - 1 under age drinking in orchard way – officers attended no one around

Beginning of May – 2 arrests charged with public order and assault and theft at one stop.

Letter from a resident about play area in chestnut close – swings are being hung over the frame – police are aware to monitor the situation.

1 minor assault in football field – 2 young lads have been spoken to.

Vehicle crimes – there have been a flurry of break ins and PC Rich has put an article in the magazine

3 males trying to break into flats – no sign when officers attending

1 female arrested for being drunk and disorderly outside the one stop

Special constables were working last Friday in the Willand area and targeted underage drinking in parks – they located youths on Somerville road with £30.00 worth of alcohol – which was all confiscated.

Neighbourhood watch – looking for volunteers to work with the police Sgt Matt Lawler is pushing this initiative a meeting took place at Blundells School that all neighbourhood watch agents were invited to. If anyone that would like to volunteer every fortnight to work at Cullompton police station they can contact PC Rich.

3. Minutes of the Meetings held:

- Full Council 14 May 2009
- Planning Committee 28 May 2009

Agreed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

4. Matters Arising:

Elaine Lane to report on Police liaison meeting

Sgt Crosby is the liaison officer for neighbourhood watch and would be the person to contact for this area. Elaine feels that there is a lack of communication, the Police are hoping to work closer with parish councils and local people – Elaine brought back a leaflet explaining the initiative – Clerk to distribute to Cllrs.

Cllr Ursell to report on MDDC financial support network

Embryonic website is in the process of being created. This will have sections on different issues that face people with financial difficulties, there are then three aspects to each area – what are the issues, what can I do and where can I get help on all issues. Cllr Ursell is trying to move this forward and hopes that the website will be on line before the next pc meeting.

Tour of Britain cycle race

Friday 18th September the Tour of Britain cycle race will pass through Willand – the Parish Clerk has informed the school and the preschool and they may make banners and stand on the roadside. To be discussed at the next environmental meeting.

Highways issues relating to Willand Old Village, Willand Moor Rd and Somerville Rd

Cllr Dennis met with Darren Queenan (DCC) and County Cllr Radford this morning and they looked at the parking issues at Somerville park. He suggested that the parish council talk with the local police for them to advise local drivers that they shouldn't park near the entrance to roads. The PC agreed to write to all residents in the vicinity asking them to be mindful of where they park. Clerk to ask PC Katie Rich

to go door to door on Somerville Park advising residents that the car park is for public use and is not restricted to residents only.

Willand Moor road – there is no funding available for an island in the middle of the road. Cars for sale at the end of the road is permissible if the residents live there (restricted to one vehicle). The possibility of double yellow lines was not pursued.

Willand Old Village – they felt that the parking could not be changed – the bus stop is an interchange point so it would be difficult to make any changes to it – Darren will contact the bus company for their views.

Set date for environmental committee meeting

18th June – 19.15 planning meeting

19.30 environmental committee meeting

Update on clean zone

Cllr Crawford organised a litter pick for Saturday but due to other commitments and torrential rain there were only 3 people in attendance. Gary Pilling advised that they have been into the village and there do not seem to be any problem and asked which areas the parish council would like them to work in. It was pointed out that the Halberton lay-by should be put on their list of areas.

Councillor vacancy

The Parish council are now free to co-opt a new member to fill the vacancy. The clerk has arranged to put an article in the magazine, on the website and in the notice boards.

Further information regarding the school extension project

Having spoken to Anne Hawkins the Clerk confirmed that the work on the school was due to begin at the end of this month as the funding needed to be spent by August. The tree that is to be removed from the playground will be replaced by at least one horse chestnut tree elsewhere on the grounds. The project will be properly managed in terms of the entry and exit to the school and the safety of the children.

5. Items to be reported:

- **Devon and Cornwall Police**

Taken forward

- **Mid Devon District Councillors Chesterton, Hull and Brandon**

Cllr Brandon – air quality control report has been received and this has been forwarded to all Cllrs. The approx annual average daily total of vehicle movements from junction 27 to junction 28 is 29000 per day with 130 rail movements. Cllr Davis will look at the report and recommend to the council whether a presentation from the writer of the report would be beneficial.

Glenn Crocker has advised that a proposal is being put into place for a gypsy and traveller site for 9 permanent pitches to be developed in 2010/11 at Sandpits, Maiden Down on A38. There are already 2 gypsy sites there. This may make a difference at appeal stage to other applications put forward in the district as MDDC will be offering a proposed site.

Cllr Chesterton reported that the site at Merrimeade was recommended for refusal by the delegated officer and the planning committee agreed refusal

Dean hill road application was also recommended refusal on drainage by the delegated officer this was also refused by committee

Aspen close – extension – site visit for planning working group. The Parish Council are able to make representation at this site meeting.

Regarding the grass areas on the edge of fir close and the consideration that this be made into a parking area – Cllr Chesterton has put this forward to Kevin Finan.

- **Devon County Councillor Radford**

The Chairman offered congratulations to Ray Radford for his re-election to County Councillor.

The administration at DCC has changed to Conservative. No positions have been allocated; John Hart is the new Leader.

Cllr Radford thanked everyone for their support over the past 4 years and for his re-election. The £10,000 that John Smith previously promised from the airport fund has been agreed and will be with the youth club next week.

- **Parish Lengthsman / Health and Safety - areas for attention**

The Gables hedges – the Clerk has contacted Steve Keable at DCC. House at the end of Gables Road – overgrown hedge. Overgrown hedges top of Willand Moor Road - between Fir close and Somerlea – bush grown over on to path – Cllr Brandon to report.

Somerlea – pot holes – Clerk to write to Ed Chorlton and DCC and copy to County Cllr Radford.

6. Accounts:

Cheque signing

P Harrogate (office expenses and internet)	£	23.99
P Harrogate (BT phone bill)	£	27.60
Ron Tucker (plants for planters)	£	165.00
Ray Ursell (leaflets for annual meeting and open day)	£	8.00
Income this month		
Magazine advertising	£	504.00

7. Correspondence Received:

Letter regarding the holly tree in the churchyard

Agreed a maximum amount of £50 – clerk to arrange and write back to Mr Shere

Letter from MDDC regarding the new Chairman

Noted

MDDC questionnaire on housing priorities

Clerk to ask Catherine Simmonds to send the questionnaire electronically and then distribute via email to all cllrs – cllrs to respond as quickly as possible and clerk to collate responses and forward back to MDDC by the closing date of 4th July 2009.

8. Public Questions

Gary Pilling advised at the last meeting that residents would be informed when the street sweeper was coming round in order for them to move cars – there were no bollards or letters through doors. – Cllr Dennis to take this forward to Gary Pilling.

Items to be tabled:

Village Green

Meeting closed: 21.45