

Clerk to the Parish Council
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11 Cornlands
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WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council, which took place on Thursday 11th February 2010 at Willand Village Hall

Present: Cllr Ursell, Cllr Mander, Cllr Crick, Cllr Wright, Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Phare

In attendance: District Cllr Hull, District Cllr Brandon, District Cllr Chesterton, County Cllr Radford, Chairman of the District Council Cllr Frank Rosamond, 4 member of the public, Mrs Leaman (Parish Clerk)

1. Cllr Ursell welcomed Chairman of the District Council Cllr Frank Rosamond to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:** Cllr Davis, Cllr Davey, Cllr Crawford

3. **Public Questions:** A member of the public brought the problems of water retention and sewage at Muxbeare Lane to the attention of the Parish Council. Concerns were first raised in 2006. The member of the public stated that one of the houses has started to crack and another has mould inside due to the damp conditions. The member of the public stated that the Environment Agency is now willing to attend a meeting. District Cllr Chesterton confirmed that with this information he will set up a meeting with all the relevant participants, Cllr Ursell confirmed that he will attend the meeting. Cllr Crick suggested Eddie Dennis brief the Parish Council with background details as all of the Parish Councillors are fairly new to the Council and were not aware of this situation.
Action District Cllr Chesterton, Cllr Ursell

A member of the public asked if any progress had been made with Somerlea Road. County Cllr Radford stated that a strong case will have to be put forward at the next HATOC meeting on 15th March. Cllr Ursell reassured the member of the public that the Parish Council are monitoring this situation and will write to members of HATOC reinforcing our request and supporting Cllr Radford.

Action Clerk

4. **Minutes of the meetings held:**

Full Council 14th January

Planning Committee 14th January

Environment Committee 28th January
Planning Committee 28th January
All were agreed as a true and correct record.

5. Reports:

Devon and Cornwall Police

No Police attendance, no report sent. Cllr Ursell to email PSCO Jonathan Sims to follow up.

Action Cllr Ursell

Mid Devon District Councillors

Cllr Chesterton

Expressed the view that Devon as a whole will not benefit from the recent decision to make Exeter a Unitary Authority.

Cllrs Hull/Brandon:

Recommendations from the MDDC Executive suggest a 1.5% increase in Council Tax for 2010-2011.

Devon County Councillor

Cllr Radford reported that the Unitary Authority decision had now been made.

He confirmed that a further £3.5 million will be spent on road maintenance next year and he will email the Clerk addresses of HATOC individuals to enable the Parish Council to contact them regarding Somerlea Road.

Cllr Radford also reported a 53% decline in the use of the mobile library service over the past 10 years. Devon County Council intends to streamline the service and bring it up to date.

Cllr Crick reported a problem at the school as it regularly floods outside, due to a dip in the road surface. He has requested photographs of the problem are forwarded to the Parish Council. The school confirmed that the dip is not on their land.

Cllr Crick is also to pass a letter to County Cllr Radford received from a parishioner regarding speeding traffic on Silver Street. Cllr Ursell will include this matter in his letter to the Police. **Action Cllr Crick, Cllr Ursell**

Parish lingsman/Health and safety – areas for attention: Cllr Mander reported that the hedge needs trimming along the footpath near Four Cross roundabout.

Action Clerk

6. Finance:

Payments		
T Leaman	Office and Internet expenses	£23.99
T Leaman	Stamps	£30.61
R Ursell	Storage containers	£38.94
HM Revenue and Customs	NI and PAYE	£2643.67
Brian Holmes	Postage	£84.24

M J Phillips	Internal Audit	£66.00
Receipts		
Allotment	Rent	£460.00
Cemetery	Memorial	£63.00
Magazine	Advertising	£99.00

Cllr Ursell reported that the Parish Council is holding improvement workshops to ensure it has effective systems in place for the future. The first area looked at was the accounting system which had previously been a Sage accounting system and was not transferred effectively at the 2007 Clerk change over. A redesigned finance system is now in place that meets the Auditors approval. Cllr Ursell requested approval of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 accounts now that they have been audited. Cllr Ursell requested 2 extra weeks of Parish Clerk time for the work involved with the accounts. These were approved unanimously. The 2009-10 accounts will be ready for approval in June 2010

Cllr Ursell reported that last year the Parish Council purchased a £50.00 voucher for John Holmes to show its appreciation for all this hard work in the village. This will be repeated again this year in the form of a New Year gift.

Action Clerk

Clum Valley Car Scheme confirmed that 135 passengers from Willand benefited from the scheme in the last year. Cllr Wright requested the Clerk confirm how many different individuals benefited from the scheme. Cllr Crick recommended the Parish Council donate £100.00 if the Council donated last year or £200.00 if a donation was not made last year. Unanimously agreed. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Ursell suggested that the village History Group might like to look at the old Parish Council records before they are deposited with Devon County Council Records Office. Unanimously agreed.

7. Project updates:

Churchyard adoption

The Parish Council is still awaiting an estimate to repair the walls. The Churchyard adoption could then be put on hold as all the urgent work will have been completed with the wall repair.

Headstone repair

As the quotation received for headstone repairs was under budget Cllr Phare proposed repairing the fallen headstone in the Churchyard entrance which did not show up on the original report. A quote for this has been received for £246.00 less the £143.00 which was over from the original sum budgeted by the Parish Council. This additional expense was approved unanimously

8. Communication received

Devon County Council questionnaire – Mobile Library Service – The questionnaire will be published in the next edition of the Parish Magazine enabling regular service users to reply. This information can then be collated and the questionnaire returned.

Mrs Allan spoke to the Clerk regarding flashing streetlights Orchard Way – The repair was completed on the 10th February

January 2010 Parish Matters – emailed to Cllrs 28th January

Standards Committee Annual Report 2009 – emailed to Cllrs 28th January

W4W Scheme Overview MDDC January 2010 – emailed to Cllrs 28th January

Email from County Councillor Radford re: Somerlea Road – emailed to Cllrs 29th January

Telephone call from Miss Bird: requesting Dog Bin at entrance to cycle path Muxbeare Lane – **Action Environment Committee**

Telephone call: requesting a Grit Bin at the cemetery – 29th January – Cllr Radford suggested writing to Devon County Council.

Action Environment Committee

Mrs Joyce Bacchus – concerns about parking on Rectory Close - 30th Jan

Helen Stoneman – concerns about parking outside school at drop off time - 2nd Feb – Cllr Ursell will inform the Police as part of the follow up.

Clerk & Councils Direct document available

Update from the Chairman of the District Council

Cllr Frank Rosamond stated that Parish Councils are an important building block in a democracy and that more responsibilities are now being passed on to Parish Councils. He recognised that Cllrs have limited time available but work very hard in their communities.

Mid Devon District Council is working very hard to improve its performance and to retrieve money invested in Iceland.

Cllr Rosamond informed the Parish Council that he is hosting the ‘State of the District Debate’ on 10th March at Petroc Tiverton, and the Annual Meeting of Parish and Town Council Clerks will be held on 24th March at Phoenix House.

Meeting closed 20:52