



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH JANUARY 2011 AT 19.00 AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Mander, Cllr Ursell, Cllr Bartlett, Cllr Crick, Cllr Wright, 4 members of the public, Tracy Leaman (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies: Cllr Phare, Cllr Baker

2. Matters arising

Churchyard wall – The Parish council have not yet received a response from the Diocese. Cllr Ursell suggested the Parish Council send a follow up letter stating that the Parish Council has offered to donate a sum of money towards the cost of the rebuilding of the wall and that Parish Council has limited finances available for which there are other urgent requirements.

Asset register – response from MDDC – Cllr Wright reported that he had meeting earlier today with Lin Hearn, full report below.

Double parking –Somerville – Cllr Ursell and Eddie Dennis reported that they had recently met with the Nursing Home owners, who are happy for their staff to park in their grounds. Unfortunately this will only ease some of the problem and double parking will continue to cause a danger in the area. Cllr Ursell will ask the Police for their opinion when he writes to them regarding the issues raised at the recent Parish Council meeting. Devon County Council would also need to be consulted if road markings are required.

MDDC – Tree planting – Cllr Mander confirmed that he has not heard from Adrian Cook, Cllr Mander suggested the Parish Council ask the Volunteer Tree Warden for a quote for the Parish Council to purchase and plant the trees. Mid Devon District Council and the District Councillors will be contacted and asked for permission as the trees are to be planted on Mid Devon District Land. **Action Cllr Ursell**

3. Allotments

Site meeting request from Simon Duckett to discuss the various aspects of the field hedges and their maintenance – Cllr Wright has agreed to meet Simon Duckett following the Allotment Association AGM.

Rent for new tenant – As the Parish Council has received the rent for the plot from the previous tenant for 2010 – 2011 the new tenant will receive an invoice from the Parish Council in October.

Plot 36b – shed application – The Clerk will send an approval letter to the tenant including details of the dimensions allowed. **Action Clerk**

4. Grass cutting contracts

The Clerk has recently spoken to Tony Baker who has confirmed that a VAT receipt for last years grass cutting and a quote for this years grass cutting will be forwarded to the Parish Council. Cllr Crick offered to continue to liaise with the football club.

5. Reports

Parish field – Report from Cllrs Wright and Baker:-

The following outline proposals are being considered by the project team following investigation and consultation with interested parties. The project team has been disappointed by the lack of response by parishioners but have incorporated the few points raised.

The parish council will be aware that some of the project money is needed for current repair and maintenance. This is estimated to be in the region of £2,500. We have still to confirm with MDDC their share of this sum. We also need to consider a date line for this work to be carried out. The team would hope that repairs and maintenance could be incorporated at the same time as the proposed enhancements.

The project team had a site meeting with a MDDC Parks representative on the 24 January 2011, with a view to positioning and the costing of the outlined proposal. We have considered enhancements within the fenced area or placing additional equipment just outside. This has been considered incorporating the proposals already submitted in the MUGA project.

Pre site visit proposals

1. Increase seating capacity by provision of second bench seat alongside the multi play area.
2. Replace the tiny tots equipment which was has been removed.
3. Increase the bucket swing capacity by utilising the current flat swing.
4. Purchase 4 flat swings.
5. Purchase a more adventurous climbing frame.

The reason behind proposals 4 and 5 is to provide for slightly older children, between the ages 8-10. The current amenities in the play area are for the very young and the proposed MUGA would cover children over the age of 10.

At the site visit we hoped to fix the positioning of the new equipment. However the MDDC representative was concerned about any proposal that was not fenced in, since the Parish Field is not a dog free area. He also considered that the total cost would be greater than our current budget. The re-arrangement of equipment within the fenced area was discussed and considerations made. This was considered as an unnecessary cost by the Project Team. We are concerned that if we position the equipment within the play area it may be too condense. We have consulted Roger Perrett with regard to the MUGA proposals and have agreed that if we position the new equipment just outside the area, this would be acceptable, in fact it would generate a flow of age between the play area and MUGA.

The team has considered the issues and recommend a phase programme in order to keep costs under control while developing the site to meet most of the original expectations.

Phase 1

Increase seating capacity and change current flat swing to bucket type. Purchase a four flat swing structure and position outside the fenced area.

Phase 2

Purchase a more adventurous climbing frame and position beside the four flat swing.

Phase 3

Fence in area around the two new structures if dogs are a problem.

We are obviously now at the stage where we need to acquire some final costings for both purchase and installation. This we hope to obtain from MDDC to complete proposals before the end of this financial year.

Cllr Wright confirmed that the new equipment will have the type of underpinning that grass grows through; Cllr Crick suggested that the Parish Council should reassure parents/carers that the new surface is safe and will make grass cutting much easier.

The committee unanimously agreed to write to the District Cllrs and Mid Devon District Council to ask who is responsible for the present play surface under the Mid Devon District Council equipment if there is an accident as attention is needed as the surface is slippery. **Action Clerk**

Cemetery - topple test results –Mid Devon District Council recently topple tested two headstones, one needs repairing as soon as possible the other should be retested in 6 months. Eddie Dennis has been trying to track down relatives but has not had any success; the committee decided that a policy is needed stating what action should be taken in this instance and the future. The Clerk will ask Mid Devon District what action they would take in this instance/what options are available, could the headstone be removed to a safe area until relatives are contacted? The committee unanimously agreed to ask for relative/contacts in the Village Magazine.

Tree/bush removal – the Clerk has received a signed agreement that the Parish Council can remove the conifer from the Cottle grave. The contact provided for the other grave is for an elderly lady in a care home in Exeter, the committee will send a letter to the home for the attention of her son stating that it is the Parish Councils intention to remove the bush and that any queries to the Parish Council should be received within 30 days. The Clerk will ask for a quote for the removal of the bushes.

Soil removal - the removal needs to be arranged with Brian Bussell, the Clerk has drafted a letter for him confirming that he can remove small amounts of soil without a faculty. **Action Clerk**

Meeting closed: 20:35

Cllr Ray Ursell

Willand Parish Clerk