



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2011 AT 19.00 AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Mander, Cllr Ursell, Cllr Phare, Cllr Baker, Cllr Wright, Cllr Crick, 2 member of the public Tracy Leaman (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies: None

2. Matters arising

Churchyard wall – a response has not yet been received from the Diocese.

Asset register – Following the response from Mid Devon District Council Cllr Wright explained his amendments to the register.

The responsibility of the area in the wood by the B3181, just south of the small gas installation building still needs confirming.

District Cllr Radford joined the meeting.

Tree planting - Adrian Cook of Mid Devon District Council has ordered two Cherry trees on behalf of the Parish Council, he has also confirmed that if the trees do not arrive soon another species will be chosen.

Action Clerk/Cllr Wright

3. Allotments

Site meeting report – Cllr Wright is currently waiting to hear from Simon Duckett to arrange a meeting. Cllr Wright also suggested that any hedges should not be cut between now and July due to bird nesting.

Action Cllr Wright

4. The Big Tree Plant –

Cllr Mander explained that Parish Councils can be included in the scheme and that the scheme is able to fund projects between £100 and £700 and the successful applicants will receive up to 75% toward their planning costs. The closing date of applications is 31st March 2011.

Action Clerk/Cllr Mander

5. Meadow Park Wood

Asset register – see above.

6. Reports

Parish field

PLAYING FIELD PROJECT - FINAL REPORT

Since our progress report of 26 January 2011 we have considered the agreed phase 1 proposals and investigated costs of equipment and installation.

We had hoped that MDDC would help with the costing process as indicated by their representative at a site visit. After three weeks of waiting and confirming with them that they could not help for at least three weeks, the project team has contacted three suppliers normally involved with this type of work.

The Council will be aware that we had a budget of around £7000, which would be reduced by the current necessity for repair and maintenance. On the issue of R&M, MDDC have strung us along since June 2010. They now consider the R&M report on their assets exaggerated and no work is needed. The project team still consider that groundwork around the Parish assets, especially the bucket seat swing base is of high risk.

Initial costings for equipment of phase 1 will not be achieved within budget and reducing our initial expectations will not achieve meaningful development to the play area.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Increase seating capacity and carry out repair to Parish assets as indicated in inspectors report.
2. Consider re-directing budget money from other sources to develop and modernise the Play Park Area.

Councillors Wright and Barker
24/2/2011

Cllr Ursell suggested that the Parish Council postpone the MUGA for 2 or 3 years and concentrate on improving the facilities already in place. Following a review of the finances Cllr Ursell proposed a budget of £10,000 + VAT for Phase I, Cllr Phare seconded this proposal and the committee unanimously agreed. Cllr Ursell offered to liaise with the Full Parish Council regarding the budget. Phase I would then include new swings and the necessary repairs required. Phase II in 2012 could budget for a climbing frame and one other item. Funding for Phase II could be sought from Uffculme Environmental. Clarification also needs to be sought regarding the rules concerning dogs accessing the parish field, as this might influence the need for barriers surrounding the equipment. Alternatively the Parish Council could have a 'statement of intent' to fence the equipment when finances make this possible or Mid Devon District Council could be asked to provide the barriers as it did previously.

Action Cllrs Baker, Wright and Ursell

Willand Rovers have confirmed that it takes about four hours to cut the field behind the village hall using their ride-on mower, a push mower and strimmer, plus the fuel for the machines and wear and tear, they initially thought that a sum

of £60 + VAT was a fair amount for each cut. The agreement was for 15 cuts per year making a total of £900 + VAT per year. The club were then found to have quoted for the cutting of the whole of the field and subsequently quoted £45.00 + VAT. Confirmation of this is need following the clubs next meeting.

Mid Devon District Council confirmed that the club cuts the grass in its ½ of the field in return of rent. Previous Parish Council minutes need to be checked to confirm the original offer made to the club. The Parish Council then needs to calculate the rent and make a decision, a formal agreement can then be confirmed.

Action Clerk

Cemetery

Bush removal -The Clerk contact Brian Bussell who confirmed that he would charge £10-15 to remove the conifer, the family should be removing the rose bush on the other grave. The committee agreed to ask Brian Bussell to remove the bush.

Headstone repair search – an article has been submitted in the next Village Magazine.

Unsafe headstones – The Clerk contacted ICCM who advised that the headstones cannot be removed from the space. The options available are to:- apply a temporary support whist contacting the family, (send a letter stating that you will lay the headstone flat if there is not a reply within x months, lay the headstone flat, or sink the headstone into the ground by 1/3 of its height (converting to a monolith).

Meeting closed 17:55

**Cllr Ray Ursell
Willand Parish Council**