



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to Parish Council Mrs T Leaman, 11 Lower Town, Sampford
 Peverell, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 7BJ 01884 822914
 Email: willandclerk@willandmatters.org.uk

THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2012 AT 19.00 AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Crick, Ursell, Phare, Mander, Firkins, Warren Dennis, 1 x volunteer, Brian Holmes, Tracy Leaman (Parish Clerk)

1. Apologies: None

2. Matters arising: The laying of the allotment hedge has been completed. Cllr Warren suggested the hedge would look a lot better if some volunteers could tidy it up. Cllr Mander confirmed that Brian Vincent would charge £80.00 to tidy the hedge, alternatively Cllr Mander offered to assist other volunteers with the task. Brian Holmes asked if a farmer could undertake the task. The committee decided to ask Brian Vincent to complete the task. Cllr Dennis suggested that future quotes submitted should be like for like. Cllr Warren suggested that the Parish Council should write a specification for tenders. The Finance and Administration committee can address this at a future meeting. **Action Cllr Mander**
 2 Sisters smell - Cllr Dennis has received confirmation that an enforcement notice has been issued.
 Cllr Warren asked when the Christmas light decision will be made, Cllr Crick confirmed that it will be made before April once tenders and design options are provided.

3. Grit bins – Cllr Warren asked if the Parish Council is still waiting for the criteria that need to be met, Dave Fergie of Devon County Council has confirmed that he will address this again. Cllr Crick suggested that the provision of the grit bins should be sorted within the next four weeks, Cllr Dennis argued that the timescale should be shorter as this issue has been ongoing for some time. **Action Cllr Ursell will liaise with County Cllr Radford**

4. Muxbeare Lane dog bin – Mr Holmes confirmed that the bin has been moved and that those responsible for emptying the bin have been informed. A member of the public has provided a temporary bucket at the site of the old bin. Mr Holmes confirmed that he has displayed notices stating that the bin has been moved. Cllr Dennis asked how long dog walkers will continue to use the temporary dog bin and suggested that the public would prefer two dog bins in the area. Cllr Crick confirmed that the area is not in the parish of Willand. Brian Holmes confirmed

that to install a new metal top bin would cost £455.00 a plastic bin could be installed for £240.00 whilst moving a bin usually cost £50.00. Cllr Ursell proposed purchasing a second bin, Cllr Phare seconded this, but the Parish Council decided to monitor the situation for the next few months, if the use of the temporary bin has not been resolved the Parish Council will reconsider purchasing a second dog bin. Cllr Dennis suggested waiting 4 weeks and if the problem persists asking Halberton to share the cost of a new box this was agreed. A proposed prohibition of vehicles order will effectively close Muxbeare Lane.

5. **Nesting boxes** – Mr Holmes provided prices for replacement nesting boxes that were less than those supplied by Antony Pipe. Cllr Warren also offered to donate a nesting box. Cllr Firkins suggested the Parish Council purchase the nesting boxes required and the Cllrs erect the boxes. This was agreed. Cllr Crick will liaise with Cllr Warren to order the boxes. **Action Cllr Crick, Parish Council**

6. **Replacement notice boards** – Cllr Ursell confirmed that at the Finance and Administration meeting the committee had agreed to purchase two notice boards. Cllr Ursell suggested the Parish Council request using S106 money to purchase the notice boards. Jonathan Guscott of Mid Devon District Council has agreed that the notice board at the village hall can be purchased with S106 money, leaving the Parish Council to fund the notice board at the One Stop. Both boards will now be ordered. Brian Holmes asked what would happen to the old notice board at the One Stop and he and Cllr Firkins offered to make the notice board at the village hall accessible until the new board is erected. **Action Clerk, Cllrs Ursell, Firkins, Mr Holmes**

7. **Overgrown trees** – The Woodland Trust has met with Cllr Warren and will be trimming the tree on 24th February. Townlands have confirmed that the branches behind lamp post 30 will be trimmed soon and also confirmed that lamp post 29 is not on Townlands property.

8. **Cemetery**
 - Grave levelling – Brian Bussell has confirmed that he is willing to carry out the levelling and Cllr Mander has arranged to meet with Brian Bussell to discuss the work needed.
 - Bier repairs – Cllr Ursell confirmed that the rotten wood has been replaced and now requires painting. Cllr Ursell will carry out the painting. Cllr Ursell suggested the frame and doors will need replacing in the next two years. Following Cllr Dennis' suggestion, Cllr Ursell will ask if S106 money could be used for this.
 - Headstone repair – The headstone has been repaired and an invoice will be submitted for payment.

9. **Parish field**
 - Dog signage – Cllr Phare confirmed that Mid Devon District Council is aware that there are no signs at their end of the parish field. Phil Collins of Mid Devon

District Council has confirmed that the area is not covered with a by law. Cllr Phare confirmed that a by law would be hard to achieve and if the Parish Council were successful the by law would only cover the Parish Council's half of the field. Cllr Phare asked Phil Collins what could be done if a person saw a dog fouling, Phil Collins confirmed that two witness are needed for any action to be taken. Cllr Dennis confirmed that only areas with Children's play areas can have signs stating 'no dogs'. Cllr Firkins suggested that originally the idea was to clear the field and suggested a 'no dog fouling' sign. Mr Dennis suggested using the same wording as on Mid Devon District Council signs. Cllr Ursell suggested an article in the Parish Magazine explaining the use of the field for the Jubilee celebrations. Phil Collins suggested the Parish Council write a letter to Simon Newcombe, when it needs additional dog wardens and he will arrange it. Cllr Dennis will forward the proposed sign wording to Cllr Phare. **Action Cllrs Dennis, Phare**

By Law – The committee decided to remove this item from the agenda – see above.

Repairs – The surface has been repaired and the contactor is supplying a quote for repairs to equipment. Cllr Dennis confirmed that having made enquiries the skate board ramp has been found to be hardly used.

10. Churchyard wall – Cllr Ursell confirmed that action had temporarily stalled due to ill health of Andy Wetherall, Church Warden of St Mary's.

Cllr Ursell also confirmed that the Diocese committee have sent a letter confirming that the wall should only be made good. Cllr Ursell will respond asking for the source of this information. Cllr Firkins confirmed that the gap causing concern has widened by 3mm in the last 7 days and the earth below the wall is not drying out although it is further down the road. Cllr Ursell confirmed that the Freedom of Speech request is due to be replied to now. It was reiterated that this item needs to be resolved promptly.

11. Parish Walk – Cllr Crick will prepare a report, the problems can then be forwarded to the relevant authorities.

Mike Wright a former Parish Councillor has confirmed that he is willing to undertake the cleaning of the bus shelters. **Action Cllr Crick, Clerk**

12. Somerlea Parking – Cllrs Crick and Ursell have noticed that due to insufficient parking provision residents are parking on grass verges causing damage to the grassed areas. The road is very narrow. This area of the village needs some attention and it was suggested that the Council re-examines various options to improve the parking provision.

Meeting closed: 20:15

Cllr Ray Ursell

Chair Parish Council