



## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012 AT 19.00 AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

#### MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs Crick, Ursell, Phare, Mander, Warren, Firkins, Dennis, Wilcox, Metherell, Tracy Leaman (Parish Clerk)

**1. Apologies:** None

**2. Matters arising**

Allotment hedge – Cllr Mander confirmed that the extra £80.00, approved at the last environment meeting to tidy up the hedge, has not been spent, and the hedge would be left as it was when it was laid. Cllr Mander also confirmed that the hedge would have to be re-laid within the next 4 or 5 years. Cllr Firkins suggested the Parish Council inspect the condition of the hedge every two years. Cllr Warren stated that the hedge would become a bank if it were not kept tidy. Cllr Dennis suggested writing to the Allotment Holders Association confirming that the Parish Council maintains the hedge at a considerable cost and would like to see that it is kept clean and tidy. **Action Clerk**

Grit bins – Cllr Warren confirmed that the criteria regarding the placement of grit bins is open to interpretation and could be challenged and that as County Cllr Radford is supplying a bin Devon County Council will need to maintain it. Cllr Firkins raised safety concerns and stated that a householder along the bus route in Willand Old Village had been very concerned about a bus crashing into the front wall of his house. Cllr Dennis asked who would be to blame if an accident occurred and stated that the Parish Council would be failing the community if it did not challenge the criteria. Cllr Dennis confirmed that relocating the grit bin at Rows Orchard to Townlands would address the problem and offered to made enquiries regarding relocating it. Cllr Warren suggested that the Rows Orchard grit bin was placed there by Devon Community Housing. Cllr Warren sought the committee's approval to put together a proposal for the committee to consider. This was agreed. Cllr Crick confirmed that the proposal should be forwarded to the 2 Chairs and Cllr Dennis in the first instance. It would then be forwarded to all Cllrs for their views before sending. Cllr Warren also suggested informing parishioners of the situation via the Willand Magazine and the website. Cllr Ursell observed that once the issue was made public it would remain in the public domain. **Action Cllr Warren**

Dog bin – Muxbeare Lane – Cllr Dennis confirmed that the dog bin has been moved, and although there is currently some confusion regarding the emptying of the bins Cllr Dennis thinks that the refuse driver will empty the bins. The committee thanked Brian Holmes and Cllr Firkins for their efforts. The school children have carried out a survey and decided that a new dog bin should be placed near the Somerlea entrance of the parish field. Cllr Warren confirmed that dog owners have been using the rubbish bin as a dog bin in the field.

Nesting boxes – Cllr Firkins confirmed that he had found the nesting boxes that need replacing. Any repairable boxes will be repaired and kept until needed.

**Action Cllr Firkins**

Replacement Notice boards – The clerk has received notice that the new boards will be erected on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Cllr Dennis offered to meet the team on Thursday and email the site post codes to the clerk. Cllr Phare and Brian Holmes will remove the old notice boards at the weekend.

Overgrown trees – Cllr Warren confirmed that both Townlands and the Woodland Trust had carried out a good job and that letters of thanks had been sent. Cllr Warren also confirmed that he met the Mid Devon District Council representative at the site earlier in the week and that he is chasing Paul Osmond about the trees and the clearing of the pavement. Cllr Warren stated that he would like to send District Cllr Brandon an email to both thank and update her. Cllr Dennis confirmed that the Parish Lengthsman will maintain the conifers at Meadow Park and the corners of the Gables. Cllr Warren stated the need to maintain the improvement in the width of the footpath and that Lester Willmington of Devon County Council has promised that the path will be kept back.

### 3. Cemetery

Grave levelling – Cllr Mander confirmed that 43 graves need levelling, of these 24 are more than 5 years old. Cllr Mander confirmed that Brian Bussell will be submitting a quote to carry out the work. The Clerk will send letters to the owners of the rights confirming that the Parish Council can arrange for the work to be carried out for £20 per grave. Cllr Crick asked how long it would take for the work to be completed. Cllr Mander suggested one hour for each grave. This improvement will make the grass cutting in the cemetery much easier in future. Cllr Crick confirmed that the tidying of the cemetery needs to be ongoing and regular inspections should take place. Cllr Mander also spoke about the possible positioning of headstones when the second side of the cemetery starts being used. Cllr Firkins suggested that he and some other Cllrs visit the cemetery and assess the future needs. A long term plan will then be drawn up. Cllr Ursell suggested that when the unused side of the cemetery starts being used burial plots are first positioned at the gate end of the cemetery and cremation plots are positioned from the current back of the cemetery, at some point in the future both areas will then meet. This committee agreed with this unanimously. Cllr Mander offered to make more enquiries and report back to the committee. **Action Clerk, Cllr Mander**

Bier repair – Cllr Ursell confirmed that S106 money could not be used to replace the bier doors and that once the current doors have been repainted they will last for a couple of more years. These doors will then have to be replaced by UPVC doors.

#### **4. Parish Field**

Dog signage inc. by laws sign- Cllr Phare confirmed that the signs on each gate have been replaced and that the brambles covering the by law sign have been removed and the sign cleaned. Cllr Wilcox suggested moving the sign to a more prominent position. The committee decided to order a new sign and hang it on the new fence once the fence has been installed. Cllr Dennis will make enquiries regarding the costs of a new sign. Cllr Ursell proposed renaming the field the Jubilee Field and will make the relevant enquiries. Cllr Dennis reiterated the need to use the S106 money available to the Parish Council in the near future. Cllr Crick confirmed that he and Cllr Wilcox are meeting with District Cllrs Brandon and Chesterton on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> to view the play areas in the village. Cllr Dennis suggested the need to remind Mid Devon District Council that it receives money from developers for the long term upkeep of play areas. Cllr Mander suggested asking for residents views regarding the usage of play areas. Cllr Warren stated that the swings in Orchard Way are well used. **Action Cllrs Dennis, Ursell, Crick and Wilcox**

**5. Churchyard wall** – Cllr Ursell confirmed that there had been a meeting of the Diocese and its architect. The Diocese has agreed that the original plan is good but it would like the wall to be sympathetically repaired. The Diocese is now speaking with Devon County Council to arrange the placement of kerbstones at the base of the wall, the foundations should then stabilise and the area dry. The areas of wall that need repairing can then be repaired. Cllr Firkins stated that the Parish Council's plan will be plan 'b' if the foundations do not stabilise. Cllr Warren asked if the Parish Council has anything in writing between the Parish Council and the Diocese. Cllr Ursell confirmed not. Cllr Warren stated that a formal letter was needed. Cllr Firkins offered to draft a letter. This was unanimously agreed.

**6. Somerlea Car Parking** – Cllr Dennis suggested the Parish Council ask its District Councillors for advice regarding this item

**Meeting closed: 20:30**

**Cllr Nigel Crick**

**Chair Willand Environment Committee**