



## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### THE MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012 AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL FOLLOWING THE PLANNING MEETING

#### MINUTES

**Present:** Cllrs Phare, Mander, Warren, Firkins, Metherell, Wilcox Tracy Leaman (Parish Clerk), 2 x members of the public Cllrs Crick and Dennis were present although not committee members

Cllr Wilcox asked to join the committee, this requested was unanimously agreed.

**1. Apologies** Cllr Ursell

**2. Minutes of the meeting held** -Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – Cllr Mander proposed signing the minutes as a true and correct record. Cllr Firkins seconded, unanimously agreed.

**3. Matters arising** - Nesting boxes – Cllr Firkins confirmed that there are now 2 nesting boxes to be replaced and that he will confirm by email when this has been completed. Cllr Warren confirmed he has a spare nesting box if required. **Action Cllr Firkins**

**4. Allotment hedge/trees** – The Clerk confirmed that a new allotment committee has been formed and that she will contact the new secretary when details are received. **Action Clerk**

**5. Cemetery**

Gravel levelling – The Clerk confirmed that 5 payments have been received. Brian Bussell will be asked to level those graves for which payment has been received. An article will need to be submitted in the village magazine before further work is undertaken **Action Clerk**

Future needs – Cllrs Phare and Firkins visited the cemetery and explained their proposal for the future needs. There are currently 3 more spaces for burials at the top of the site, one of which is reserved. Burial will then take place from the bier toward the rear of the cemetery. Cllr Phare confirmed that the cemetery should have 30 more years use before the need to use the reserved land. Cllr Phare showed the committee a timeline work plan, the completed new area being ready

for 2040, and provisional costings. Cllr Phare confirmed that the Parish Council has precepted £1000.00 for the last three years, and suggested that this could be reduced to £500.00 for the next 10 years and then reviewed. Cllr Warren suggested keeping the precepted amount the same due to possible escalating costs. The first phase should be repairing and repainting the gates, painting the bier, and planting hedging/bushes near the bier and along the remaining edge to improve the look of that area. Cllr Warren suggested that the planting should have to take place this year. Cllr Phare and Firkins will assess the condition of the fence before the hedging is planted. Cllrs Phare and Firkins confirmed that when examining the original drawing they found the bench has been positioned in the wrong place and proposed relocating and painting the bench. A further bench could then be positioned mirroring the original. Cllr Firkins has spoken with Rev. Rob Wilkinson regarding the positioning of memorials and agrees that cemeteries look best if all the memorials face the middle. Cllr Mander also confirmed the positioning of the water pipes. Cllr Crick suggested that now is the ideal opportunity to update the cemetery rules. The Clerk will forward a copy of the rules to all Cllrs before the next meeting. Cllr Warren is currently scanning and arranging the Parish Council deeds in order and will continue looking for the tenancy letter. Agreement will be needed to confirm to the tenant to leave the land. Cllr Dennis offered to discuss this matter with David Maynard. Cllr Firkins proposed painting the bier a colour that will allow it to blend into the surrounding area, Four Cllrs supported the proposal, one Cllr abstained and one Cllr voted against. Cllr Mander will seek quotes for the hedging, Cllr Phare to send information to Cllr Mander. **Action Cllrs Phare, Firkins, Mander, Dennis, Clerk**

Bier repairs – Cllr Ursell is currently painting the bier woodwork.

## 6. Jubilee Parish Field

Renaming/Conditions of Use signage – completed

Replacement play equipment – Cllr Dennis offered to meet Mike Watts when he next inspects the play area. **Action Cllr Dennis, Clerk**

Skate board facilities – Cllr Dennis suggested the need to speak with the young people to see what they would like. Some Cllrs will meet on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August at 11am in the village hall car park to view the equipment at Exmouth. Cllr Phare confirmed that he has made enquiries regarding the price of tarmac. **Action Cllrs**

7. **Churchyard wall** – update – postponed until the next meeting.

8. **Raised bed** – adjacent Townlands – responsibility – postponed until the next meeting.

9. **Litter bins** – brought forward from the Full Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – parishioner's email forward to Cllrs 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Cllr Dennis suggested moving the bin. Cllr Firkins and Mander will have a look at the bin and report back to the committee. **Action Cllr Firkins, Mander**

**10. Parish Lengthsmans duties**

William Pike confirmed that the duties have not changed and forwarded an explanatory leaflet to the clerk, emailed to all Cllrs 24<sup>th</sup> July.

**11. Street Sweeping** – Cllr Warren confirmed that he sent an email to Mid Devon

District Council asking three direct questions. The answer confirmed that the roads in Willand should be swept every 3 weeks. It was agreed that parishioners should be informed via Parish Magazine. Cllr Warren raised a question regarding a footpath which is covered in moss with Mid Devon District Council today. Cllr Dennis confirmed that Cullompton Town Council arranges its own grass cutting and other services, and felt that we should review wherever there would be a saving or we would have a better service if we did the same. It was agreed that we should review.

**12. Weeds** – The Parish Council will try and arrange for the weeds in the village to be sprayed this year, County Cllr Radford has confirmed that any money not spent this financial year can be held over until next year. Next year the weeds will have to be sprayed in April and July. The cost will have to be included in the precept for next year. An article should also be included in the village magazine confirming that the weed treatment is being carried out by the Parish Council. Cllr Crick will arrange collection of the weed killing equipment from Nigel Crawford. Cllr Warren proposed asking John Holmes if he would be interested in undertaking the work this year, Cllr Firkins seconded, unanimously agreed.

**Action Cllr Crick, Clerk**

**13. Parish Walk** – The findings of the village walk relevant to Devon County Council have been forwarded to the Devon Customer Services Centre and the Clerk will forward the document to all Cllrs. Cllr Warren proposed, subject to the committee's authority, that he and Councillor Dennis take these issues, together with all other identified problems around the village, forward with the intention of greatly improving the situation if not totally resolving it. To achieve this they need the authority of Parish Council to act fully on behalf of Parish Council without the need to keep referring back on actions.

A spreadsheet would be created on which all issues of concern would be listed and actions taken. This would be updated at all stages and shared with the Parish Clerk and Environment Committee Chair on a regular basis. From this, reports would be made to Environment Committee and Full Council as necessary.

Each problem area would result in landowner/occupier receiving a personal visit/letter on Parish Headed paper advising of problem and requested action. If ownership was down to Mid Devon District Council or Devon County Council they would contact them through the normal channel or procedure. In cases of non-cooperation or refusal to act all relevant papers/photographs would be passed

to Mid Devon District Council or Devon County Council whichever would be responsible formally through Parish Clerk requesting that formal action be taken. An Article to be included in Parish Magazine advising Parish of actions and reasons Cllr Mander seconded, unanimously agreed. **Action Cllr Dennis, Warren**

**14. State of the village** – A member of the public sought reassurance that the Parish Council is working to improve the state of the village. He confirmed that the hedge along the B3181 is kept clear on the road side but not on the footpath side. A member of the public confirmed that the hedge on that side has been cut back a little but not enough and there are still a lot of nettles, wheelchair access would not be possible. Cllr Warren confirmed that the footpath has been widened, but it has since been overgrown by the hedge. Cllr Warren assured the member of the public that the Parish Council is on the case.

**15. South View Close play area** – A member of the public asked for the Parish Council's thoughts since bringing this item to the attention of the Parish Council at the last meeting. The member of the public was assured that the removal of the trees in the park and the adding of more equipment are being explored. Cllr Mander offered to contact the owner of a tree that needs trimming. Cllr Dennis suggested that equipment from a play area that is little used could be moved to that play area, although the householders in the original area would have to be consulted. A member of the public confirmed that he has spoken with play equipment companies who have suggested that play area flooring is expensive and that if the flooring already present it in good condition it would be best left. Cllr Crick confirmed that S106 funds are limited. A member of the public asked if 'keep children safe' signs could be erected in the road nearby. Cllr Dennis explained what a prolonged and expensive process this would be. **Action Cllr Mander**

**16. Plants for planters** - It was unanimously agreed that a budget will be set in next years precept.

**17. Register of Heritage Asset** – Mid Devon District Council have asked Parish Council to compile a Register of Heritage Assets. **Action Cllrs Dennis, Crick**

**Meeting closed: 21:45**

**Cllr Richard Phare**

**Chair Willand Environment Committee**