



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2016 FOLLOWING THE PLANNING MEETING IN WILLAND VILLAGE HALL. Meeting commenced 19:52

PLEASE NOTE: All Council Meetings are electronically recorded in the interests of accuracy.

Present: Councillor Grantham, Councillor Mander, Councillor Phare, Councillor Warren & 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Councillors Ursell & Wilcox, K Taylor (Clerk)
2. **Chairman's announcements:** Meeting recorded
3. **Public questions:** There were no questions from the public.
4. **Minutes of the meeting held:** 26 November 2015 it was proposed by Cllr Warren, seconded by Cllr Mander and unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true record.
5. **Matters arising**
 - a) Payment had been received from the Village Hall towards the hedge cutting – **Item discharged.**
 - b) TAPS fund applications – Councillor Grantham gave an update on this years applications/allocations from notes left by the Clerk. MDDC had advised that we were over committed by a small amount and that the MDDC Officer was approaching an adjoining Parish to seek support for the difference. It was agreed the outcome of this enquiry would be awaited and the Clerk could then report back. **ACTION:** Clerk
 - c) Costs of paint to spray dog mess in Jubilee Field – Cllr Wilcox had circulated a link for products which the Clerk had priced. During discussion it was felt that the suggested canisters were too large for a volunteer to carry in their pocket and the Clerk would be asked to further research. **ACTION:** Clerk
 - d)(i) Play area meeting had been held – Cllr Warren updated meeting regarding contact from MDDC since. MDDC Grounds Maintenance had submitted a quote for grass cutting. Cllr Warren had spoken to District Councillor Chesterton who would speak to MDDC Officers to ensure that work was progressing on the lease. **ACTION:** Councillor Warren to monitor response.
 - (ii) Cllr Grantham raised concerns with regard to recent media publicity concerning lead paint having been used on play equipment. He had discussed issue with Adrian Cook of MDDC who felt confident that MDDC had not used such paint for over 20 years. He was to check with suppliers of equipment. Cllr Warren advised that our offer to lease play areas had contained a clause to ensure that all was in order before we took over a play area and so if lead paint was identified on one of those sites he felt MDDC would be responsible for rectifying any issue before handover. **ACTION:** Councillor Grantham to continue with discussions/enquiries.
 - (iii) Cllr Phare asked if MDDC would continue to empty rubbish and dog bins in areas we were to lease or would they be charging us to empty them. Cllr Grantham updated meeting on discussions to date with MDDC over additional bins we had provided. It was

identified that there was a need to have a 'map' showing the location of all bins within the Parish. **ACTION:** Cllr Grantham to continue discussions with MDDC regarding emptying of bins; Cllr Mander to make enquiries to produce location map.

(iv) Maintenance [grass and hedges] was discussed. The following areas or 'work' were identified:

- Specifications needed to enable quotes to be obtained – **ACTION:** Cllr Grantham to send current specifications to all Councillors for views/update and then he & Cllr Warren would finalise for Clerk to obtain quotes from contractors.
- Approaches would be made to residents in Worcester Crescent & Mallow Court areas to seek volunteers to cut grass etc. Handyman could be used to make extra cuts if needed. If no volunteers then contract.

ACTION: Clerk & Cllr Warren

6. Improving the state of the village campaign –

a) Bench at Four Ways Cross Clerk had sent a letter to County Councillor Radford thanking him for repairing this bench. **Item discharged.**

b) Bench at the top of Willand Old Village. Relatives of person to whom bench was memorial had offered to take bench away and refurbish it during February. **Item discharged unless further information arose.**

c) Fly tipping. Cllr Warren advised that there had been no recent reports and he had checked Dean Hill Road earlier in the week with no problems observed. **Item discharged unless further information arose.**

d) Planters. Mrs D Anderson was present and invited to contribute to the discussion. A number of options were explored and some solutions identified. There had been very little [2 people/organisation] response to magazine & website article to date. Verge grass cutting was identified as the overriding issue which was in the hands of Devon County Council.

Options discussed:

- Leave the beds in place but do not plant/maintain them for year and assess what effect the grass may have before deciding final action.
- Place a 'weed free' frame around selected beds and mulch for this could be provided by the composting group of sieved waste.
- Use handyman to cut margins around bed as needed.
- Seek volunteers to look after specific beds with appropriate 'job description'.
- Generate further publicity using all forms of media.
- Consider seeking sponsorship of some beds.

ACTION: Clerk & ALL Councillors

Positives Noted:

- ✓ Parish precept would continue to purchase plants,
- ✓ Current volunteer would continue to do planting - with help,
- ✓ Mrs Anderson had volunteered to fund provision of 'frames' on some sites.
- ✓ Few volunteers were available to help with maintenance on three/four sites.

e) Fencing application for S106 money – Cllr Phare reported that he had been unable to progress this due to changes in requirements by MDDC and work commitments. After discussion a way forward was agreed. **ACTION:** Cllrs Grantham & Warren

f) Ground Maintenance contracts 2016/17. The contract for 2016 had been awarded in relation to the cemetery. Actions in relation to other areas had been dealt with under item 5d)(iv) above,

7. Allotments

Issues surrounding the future potential for rent rise demand from Willand United Charities and the implications for further maintenance and administration by the Parish

Council were discussed. Cllr Mander will be attending the next meeting of WUC to represent the Parish Council and will report back. **ACTION:** Cllr Mander

8. Identification of open space areas

Cllr Warren reminded members of the content of a letter from MDDC Forward Planning dated 2/4/2015. As we had heard no more he had raised the issue with District Councillor Chesterton. His response had been circulated to members where it appeared that further action had been taken with regard to S106 monies but Willand had been 'overlooked'. A contact at MDDC had been identified and it was agreed that Cllr Warren would contact her and prepare the necessary documentation for consideration.

ACTION: Cllr Warren

9. Village Hall Clock

As an emergency item chair allowed discussion as to the future of clock which continued to be a problem. Councillor Phare would attempt a repair as time allowed.

ACTION: Cllrs Phare & Mander.

The meeting closed at 21:21 hours.

Cllr Keith Grantham
Chair of Environment Committee