



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN WILLAND VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2016 AT 1932 HOURS.

Present: Councillor Grantham, Councillor Mander, Councillor Sellick, Councillor Warren, Councillor Wilcox.

1. Apologies: Councillor Ursell, Councillor Phare, K Taylor (Clerk)

2. Chairman's announcements: Meeting recorded

3. Public questions. None.

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 25 February 2016 had been circulated. It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Mander and unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true and correct record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes – all actions had been completed or are on this agenda

5 5d (ii) Lead paint and play equipment – Councillor Grantham updated meeting on his findings. After discussion it was **agreed** that the item would remain on the agenda and further contact would be made with Mr Cook at MDDC for updated information. **Action: Councillor Grantham & Clerk.**

6. Improving the state of the village campaign

a) Play equipment

Councillors were able to assess costing information supplied by James Marshall together with alternative designs. Involvement of the School and possible funders also discussed.

[Unfortunately JM had to work but members were able to discuss options with him outside of the meeting.] Councillor Warren and Clerk would look at alternative options for site preparation and construction as manufacturers were considered ridiculously expensive. **Action: Councillor Warren & Clerk.**

b) Overhanging branches on to footpaths

Members agreed that this matter appears to have been resolved and can be removed from the agenda. **Action: Clerk.**

c) Planters b/f from Full Council

Detailed discussion included various offers of help and options. No response at all had been received for some sites. John Holmes was prepared to voluntarily arrange the planting and the Parish Council would purchase the plants. Due to grass cutting being reduced by DCC maintenance issues were important otherwise monies and effort would be wasted.

Proposed Councillor Warren, seconded Councillor Mander 'That the following planters be retained with offered voluntary help – Townlands, Junction of Silver Street/Old Village, Junction Old Village/Orchard Way and stone troughs Somerlea/Fir Close' Unanimously agreed.

Proposed Councillor Wilcox seconded Councillor Mander 'Further publicity for help to maintain the planters – opposite One Stop, Dean Hill Road, opposite Esso Garage, Gables – on website and Facebook accounts. Failure to find volunteers will result in a ratification decision at April Full

Council to remove these planters and restore the verges to grass. Unanimously agreed.

Action: Councillors Grantham, Warren & Parish Clerk.

d) Grass cutting contracts and specifications.

Difficulty was being experienced in drawing up final specifications and award contracts due to not having received the necessary documentation from MDDC for the Parish to take over the agreed areas. It was felt that it would not be correct for the Parish to pay for grass cutting and maintenance if they did not have legal control of the relevant areas. Councillor Warren advised members of discussion he had had that afternoon with Mr A Busby of DCC who was going to endeavour to have letters of agreement issued as an interim measure whilst awaiting the legal documents {leases}. Members felt that this would then allow us to move forward as two provisional quotes had been received and a third was to be sought. Boundaries also needed to be resolved as to maintenance of hedges/fences. It was agreed that a third quote would be sought in relation to cutting the grass of the Parish Jubilee Field. The two play areas would be considered later. The matter would be placed on Full Council Agenda for April with intention that a final decision could be made. **Action: Councillors Grantham, Warren & Parish Clerk.**

e) Weedspraying.

A price had been received from a preferred contractor which was considered to be excessive. Other prices were to be sought. Matter to be placed on Full Council Agenda for April for final decision to be made. **Action: Councillors Mander, Warren & Parish Clerk.**

7. Councillors roundtable to include

a) Seat/Bench.

Councillor Grantham advised that the seat on the grass triangle at the entrance to the village near the Esso Garage had been repaired and was to be replaced over the Easter holidays. Noted.

b) Dog Mess/Pink paint

Three volunteers had been marking dog mess around the village where owners had not picked up – some instances were within feet of a dog bin. Considerable concern was expressed as to the number of instances noted on the Jubilee Field. Councillor Grantham had been in contact with MDDC officer and had printed off some A4 sized poster which Councillor Sellick offered to laminate and distribute. Efforts need to be made to identify culprits and take action. Agreed that there would be further publicity via website, Facebook etc.. **Action: Councillors Grantham, Sellick & Parish Clerk.**

c) Dog and Litter bins collection update.

Councillor Grantham drew attention to letter from Mr Noyce of MDDC which outlined preferred procedures in relation to new bins and indicating that the two new bins would be emptied as an interim measure as a gesture of goodwill. He also indicated that a review of all waste and dog bins would be undertaken for the whole area with a view to policy change being considered. It was decided that a letter would be sent in response. **Action: Councillors Grantham, Warren & Parish Clerk.**

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2027 hours