



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN WILLAND VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 26 MAY 2016 FOLLOWING THE PLANNING, LIGHTING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

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

Present: Councillor Grantham, Councillor Phare, Councillor Tobin, Councillor Warren, Councillor Wilcox, two members of the public, Clerk K Taylor

Appointment of Chair of Environment Committee

Councillor Wilcox proposed Councillor Grantham continue as Chair of the Environment Committee, Councillor Grantham agreed, seconded by Councillor Phare and unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that the appointment of the Vice Chair would be held over to the next meeting.

1. Apologies Councillor Mander, Councillor Sellick

2. Chairman's announcements: The Chair opened the meeting at 19:30 and confirmed that it would be recorded.

3. Public questions – Mr & Mrs Statham confirmed that they had attended the meeting because they were concerned with the allotments and grass cutting around the village. The Chair agreed to take their comments when these items were raised.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 28 April 2016 had been circulated. It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox, seconded by Councillor Phare, and unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true and correct record.

5. Matters arising

5 5d (ii) Lead paint and play equipment – Cllr Grantham had not yet received confirmation in writing from MDDC that they had not used lead paint in Willand playgrounds. It was agreed to leave this on the agenda. **ACTION:** Clerk

7a Surface of the play area in the Jubilee field. The Clerk reported that she had contacted Mike Watts who had confirmed that there were no issues at the moment with the play area surface. The Parish Council noted that Councillor Warren had informed that MDDC had asked for S106 monies for the maintenance of Chestnut play area.

7b Signs for play areas – Cllr Grantham had obtained a quote for new notices for the Jubilee Field and the play areas at Worcester Crescent and Mallow Court. Councillor Warren proposed that these signs were ordered once the leases had been signed. Councillor Phare seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Councillor Grantham

7c. Leaflet drop - the leaflets had been photocopied and were with the deliverers. The Clerk informed the Councillors that she had received a phone call from Kevin Taylor from Worcester Crescent giving the names of volunteers who live at number 3 & 4 who already helped in cutting the grass. They were proposing to form a rota to keep the area

cut and clean. The Parish Council formally recorded their thanks to those residents of Worcester Crescent who were doing this. It was noted that if the Volunteers were unable to cut the hedge then the Parish Council would need to arrange for this to be done. It was reported that the seats on the seesaw in Worcester Crescent play park were in need of repair. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact MDDC regarding this and copy to the District Councillors as they would need to be repaired before the Parish Council took on the lease. **ACTION:** Clerk

7d. Councillor Wilcox confirmed that she had written to the Litter Picker to ask if he would include Worcester Crescent and Mallow Court in his play equipment inspections from July, and he had confirmed that he would do this.

7e. Insurance company – the insurance company had confirmed that the new playgrounds would be covered under the current policy and that they required the address when the lease was finalised. **ACTION:** Clerk

7f. Purchase of new play equipment for the Jubilee Field. Councillor Warren reported that he had the Tesco form to apply for funding for the larger item and had virtually completed it, but the earliest that this would be achieved would be October. The Parish Council had previously discussed having another wooden structure as well, which was not so expensive and could be obtained sooner. Councillor Warren proposed that he work in conjunction with James Marshall to speak to the suppliers and get a firm price for this so as to move this forward. Councillor Wilcox seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed. **ACTION:** Councillor Warren

6. Improving the state of the village campaign

a) Clock on village hall the Clerk had investigated this and discovered that it was likely that any repair would be over £2,000. It was proposed that because of the continual problems with maintenance and the cost of any maintenance that the Parish Council remove the clock and make good. It was agreed that this proposed action be put on the website and an article in the next magazine in order to give the residents a chance to comment.

ACTION: Councillor Grantham/Clerk

b) Councillor Wilcox proposed that when the Litter Picker was away on holiday the Parish Council ask the Handyman to do an hour a week picking up the litter in the Parish Field. Councillor Phare seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed. **ACTION:** Clerk

c) It was noted that the hedge along the B3181 from the Esso station down was overgrown and needed strimming along the bottom. The Clerk to contact Mr Webber and Mr Sanders regarding this. **ACTION:** Clerk

7. Councillors roundtable

a) The Chair brought up the question of the planters as it had been agreed at the May Full Council that the Handyman be asked to remove those that volunteers had not come forward to look after. The Chair had been informed that now two extra planters were being looked after. The Chair proposed that the Environment Committee make a recommendation to the next Full Council that as someone has come forward to look after the planter in Dean Hill Road and at the top of Willand Old Village they should be deleted from the list of those to be removed. Councillor Wilcox seconded the recommendation and it was unanimously agreed.

b) The Parish Council had received a number of complaints about the state of the verges and the lack of cutting grass around Willand. This was not the responsibility of the Parish Council and had been referred to Devon County Council Councillor Radford. Some residents were cutting some of the verges but this had to be on a voluntary basis. It was noted that DCC should be doing the visibility splay on all corners. It was noted that the land outside of the Gables development was not DCC, and it was not clear who did own it. Councillor Grantham

agreed to approach the householders to see if they would be able to strim around the planter if they wished to retain it.

c) The Allotment Association had referred an issue to the Parish Council as an allotment holder had erected a shed off his allotment and on the path. Mrs Statham asked for clarification on holding extra sheds and having them off the allotment plots. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had to approve any proposed shed, there should only be one shed per plot, that all equipment such as composters and poly tunnels had to be kept on the individual plots. Following discussion and clarification it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the allotment holder reminding him of the tenancy agreement details and requesting that the shed be dismantled. **ACTION:** Clerk

20:42 Councillor Phare and Councillor Warren left the meeting.

d) Councillor Grantham informed the Committee that he was working on plans for preparing the hedge for the extension to the cemetery. It was agreed that this and the reservation of plots would be items on the next Environment Committee agenda. **ACTION:** Clerk

e) An email regarding TAP Fund changes had been received from MDDC and it was agreed that this should go on the June Full Council meeting. **ACTION:** Clerk

f) Councillor Wilcox proposed that the Parish Council agree to the Blue Cross having use of the Jubilee Field area near the Village Hall for their fun day on 25 June as they have in the previous two years. Councillor Tobin seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed. The Litter Picker would allow them access through the gate as Councillor Wilcox was not available that weekend.

The meeting closed at 20.59

Councillor Keith Grantham
Chair of Environment Committee