



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN WILLAND VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 23 JUNE 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 Mander, Councillor Phare, Councillor Tobin, Councillor Warren, DCC Councillor Radford (part), Clerk K Taylor

1. **Apologies** Councillor Sellick, Councillor Wilcox

2. **Chairman's announcements:** declared the meeting open at 8.05 and announced that the meeting would be recorded.

3. **Public questions** no members of the public were present.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2016 had been circulated
It was proposed by Councillor Phare, seconded by Councillor Tobin, and unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true and correct record.

5. Matters arising

5. 5 5d (ii) Lead paint and play equipment – update Councillor Grantham, it had been agreed at the Full Council that he would email District Councillor Chesterton with the question about lead paint but had not heard from him. Therefore, he wanted to leave it on the agenda until the next meeting. It was noted that Adrian Cook had now left his post at MDDC.

ACTION: Clerk/ Councillor Grantham

6. Cemetery

a) Councillor Grantham reported that he had no progress to report on the cemetery extension plans as yet. Councillor Phare would forward his original document with the outline plan of the development of the extension to the Chair.

ACTION: Councillor Phare/Clerk

b) Reservation of plots in the cemetery. Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Warren that as of this date Willand Parish Council would no longer allow the reservation of plots in the cemetery. Councillor Phare seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Clerk

7. Play Equipment

a) Councillor Warren gave an update on the proposed equipment for the Jubilee Field. He informed the meeting that the company supplying the wooden equipment would be on site on Tue 28 June at 12:30 to meet him and James Marshall. He asked if anyone else was able to attend. It was agreed that a potential package including some additional equipment could be explored. Following this firm details of costs will be available and it was agreed that the Parish Council would then consider the possibility of obtaining additional equipment.

b) It was reported that one of the pieces of equipment in the Jubilee Field was broken and this had been reported to MDDC. The repair to the seesaw in Worcester Crescent had been completed and Councillor Warren had asked MDDC if the Harpitt Close playground could be reopened with the one broken piece of equipment being sectioned off.

c) Councillor Warren undated the meeting on the proposed leases for the play areas due to be in place from 1 July. There will be a separate lease for each of the three areas and MDDC had questioned whether the Parish wished to include the grass area outside of the fenced off equipment in the lease for the play areas. Following discussion, it was agreed that with regard to Mallow Court play area the Parish Council would lease the area inside the fence. Councillor Phare proposed that the Parish Council take on all the grass area of the Worcester Crescent play park. Councillor Tobin seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Councillor Warren

It was noted that the leases had to be registered within two months of completion at the Land Registry. The Chair of the Parish Council and the Clerk would progress with the Solicitor used for the WHCC lease. Councillor Warren also advised that he had suggested to MDDC that they charge 'a peppercorn if demanded' in respect of each lease as to demand £1 for each play area per year would not be cost effective.

8. Devon Air Ambulance

Specifications had been received from the air ambulance for the light installation. It was agreed that Councillor Warren would approach the contractor who had offered to install the equipment to discuss the specification and see if they were able to assist with this.

ACTION: Councillor Warren

WiTS had raised money for this project at their Bingo evening and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to thank them for this.

ACTION: Clerk

9. Improving the state of the village campaign

a) The Chair welcomed Councillor Radford to the meeting. Councillor Radford had originally offered £1,000 towards the cost of grass cutting in Willand but he now suggested the purchase of a mower for the Parish which he would fund through the investing in Devon scheme. There followed a full discussion, and it was clear that the Parish Council were not totally opposed to this idea, but needed to find out how practical it would be for them to do this. There were a number of factors to consider.

Councillor Radford knew that there were some local Parish/Town Councils who had taken on the DCC grass cutting areas already and agreed that he would establish which these were through Devon County Council. Councillor Radford would also approach MDDC to enquire what income would be given to the Parish Council if it took responsibility for MDDC areas of grass cutting.

ACTION: Councillor Radford

The Clerk would contact the Clerks in Devon to discover the impact on local councils that had taken on this work.

ACTION: Clerk

Councillor Grantham agreed to establish an estimate of the number of hours that would be required to cut all the DCC grass in Willand, and also all of the grass areas.

ACTION: Councillor Grantham

b) Planters

The volunteers had bought plants for some of the planters, Councillor Warren had arranged for the purchase of plants so that John Holmes could complete the others. It was agreed that the Parish Council would refund the volunteers for their purchases on this occasion. Councillor Grantham would discuss the removal of the plants from the One Stop planter with John Holmes and then discuss its removal with the Handyman. The Clerk would issue the work order for the removal.

ACTION: Clerk/ Councillor Grantham

It was noted that the first weed spraying had been done on Tuesday 21 June.

10. Councillors Round Table

Councillor Tobin informed the meeting that the shed has been removed from the allotment as had been requested. It was agreed that the Clerk would acknowledge this by writing to thank the allotment holder.

ACTION: Clerk

Councillor Tobin had also been asked by some of the allotment holders about the possibility of the allotment site being sold. It was confirmed by the PC representative that there had been a discussion at a Willand United Charities meeting. However, this had not gone any further and the Parish Council had not received any formal communication of such a proposal by the landowner.

Councillor Grantham reminded the meeting that the appointment of Vice Chair of the Environment Committee had not yet been actioned. Councillor Grantham proposed Councillor Mander, Councillor Mander agreed, Councillor Phare seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed 21:49

Councillor Keith Grantham
Chair of Environment Committee