



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN WILLAND VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 25 MAY 2017 AT 19.00

Present: Councillor Bartlett, Councillor Grantham, Councillor Phare, Councillor Tobin (part), Councillor Warren, Councillor Wilcox, DCC Councillor Radford (part) Clerk K Taylor 2 members of the public

Councillor Warren took the Chair and asked for nominations for the Chair of the Environment Committee. Councillor Wilcox proposed Councillor Grantham who accepted the nomination. Councillor Phare seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed. It was agreed to defer the appointment of a Vice Chair until the next meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Mander

2. **Chairman's announcements:** Meeting recorded

3. **Public questions** no public questions

4. It was proposed by Councillor Phare seconded by Councillor Wilcox, and unanimously agreed that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday 27 April 2017 be signed as a true and correct record.

5. Progress reports for information

a) Play equipment in Jubilee Field

Councillor Grantham reported that the MDDC inspector had noted that some of the new equipment installed by Playdale in September had become loose. He had been to check this and found 3 poles were loose and the matting under the monkey bars was coming away from the ground. It was noted that this was under guarantee and agreed that Playdale should be contacted to rectify this. **ACTION:** Clerk

Councillor Grantham reported that the Skateboard ramp has been repaired and he will be arranging the refit, the replacement of the broken bits of the multi play equipment and the new dog signs were also in progress. He confirmed that the re painting of the goal posts was also on the list of work for the handyman and he would prioritise the one by the air ambulance landing site.

b) Jubilee Benches Jaycroft Councillor Grantham reported that the benches would be pressure washed and oiled. **ACTION:** Councillor Grantham

c) Planters

Councillor Grantham reported that the residents in Dean Hill Road had asked that the planter be removed and it was agreed to ask the handyman to do this. It was also agreed that he would be asked to replace the retaining posts on the remaining planters where they were rotting. **ACTION:** Clerk

It was agreed that 72 trays of bedding plants and one larger plant for the planter on the corner of Townlands would be purchased. **ACTION:** Councillor Warren

d) Councillor Phare reported that the Mallow Court play area had been cut, but would need to be done again soon, he would find out if Councillor Tobin knew who had done this. **ACTION:** Councillor Phare

Councillor Warren reported on two small areas of land in Mallow Court that are DCC responsibility and had been allowed to deteriorate. **ACTION:** Clerk

e) Councillor Warren had prepared a paper outlining the cost of redoing the path in the Jubilee Field. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would explore this further and Councillor Warren undertook to further develop the proposal. **ACTION:** Councillor Warren

Councillor Radford agreed to explore possible contributions towards the funding from DCC. It was agreed to put this on the F&A agenda in June. **ACTION:** Clerk

The paper had included a recommendation that the short bit of fencing at the entrance from the village hall currently covered by vegetation is removed. This was agreed and would be referred to the handyman. **ACTION:** Clerk

The lease was being progressed for the South View play area and there was some work that the Parish Council would require to be done before they signed it. **ACTION:** Councillor Warren

The leaflet to request volunteer help with managing the area was agreed and that it would be distributed at the appropriate time.

Councillor Tobin joined the meeting

6. Improving the state of the village campaign

a) An idea had been put forward at Full Council for an action group to be set up to do some of the practical tasks around the village. None of the Councillors could commit to spending time on this at the moment so it was agreed that this would be brought forward at a later date.

b) A report about a blocked drainage ditch in Jaycroft had been brought forward from Full Council. None of the Parish Councillors had been able to examine this and Councillor Tobin undertook to investigate and report back. **ACTION:** Councillor Tobin

c) Councillor Warren reported that he had toured the village with an officer from MDDC and had pointed out areas that had not been cut. Councillor Radford had held a meeting with officers from MDDC and the DCC Highways Neighbourhood Officer. MDDC had indicated that if the Parish Council contributed £2500, which would match a DCC contribution then it would be able to cut all of the grass in the village. It was not clear exactly which grass was included in this. Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Radford would obtain a map and clear costs for the work. The Parish Council could then consider the proposal. **ACTION:** Councillor Radford

The Chair thanked Councillor Radford for the work he was doing on behalf of the Parish with regard to grass cutting and Councillor Radford left the meeting.

7. MDDC 10-year plan to de-fence children's playgrounds

This item had been raised following emails circulated from Cullompton Town Council with regard to a playground in Culm Lea. There had been information in the press and it was known that other play areas in the District had had fencing removed. The policy was to go to the Environment PDG in July, but no one had seen the report to the Council yet.

Following discussion Councillor Wilcox proposed that the Parish Council wait to consider the report and then decide what action to take. Councillor Phare seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

8. Councillors Roundtable

Councillor Wilcox reported on the requests from users of the village hall that there should be WI Fi available. User groups were being asked for a contribution towards this and it was agreed that this would be put on the F&A agenda in June. **ACTION:** Clerk

Councillors Warren and Grantham gave a brief report on the Environment PDG meeting they had attended. They were to meet with officers and the District Councillors to discuss some issues about the dog bins and litter bins. (this meeting was subsequently cancelled)

The Clerk had received some information about boundaries for the Orchard Way play area which would help as part of the decision-making process for taking on further play areas in the future.

Councillor Warren had received a response to his letter about Junction 27 to the Head of Planning and Regeneration. He felt there was further work to be done to receive clear answers to the questions he had raised and the Parish Council agreed that he would pursue this.

ACTION: Councillor Warren

Councillor Grantham had been asked about grass cutting Jaycroft and overhanging trees. He would identify the trees on the TPO map in order to respond.

ACTION: Councillor Grantham

There had been an offer from a resident to cut some of the grass in Orchard Way and it was agreed that this would be noted for any future action group. There was also an offer to put a bench in the cemetery and it was agreed that the principle of this would be acceptable but further information was required.

ACTION: Clerk

The meeting closed at 20:50

Councillor Keith Grantham
Chair of Environment Committee

22 June 2017