



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE FULL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 08 MARCH 2018 AT WILLAND VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 19.03

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

In attendance: MDDC Councillor Chesterton (part), MDDC Councillor Doe, MDDC Councillor Evans (part), 4 members of the public. The Chair advised that MDDC Councillor Chesterton and Evans would be late as they were at an MDDC meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Bartlett, Councillor Glover, Councillor Scott, Councillor Tobin, DCC Councillor Radford, Clerk K Taylor

2. To receive any declarations of interest from Members on any of the agenda items.

Councillor Grantham and Mander declared an interest as Trustees of the Charity re item 12 on the agenda. Councillor Wilcox declared an interest as a volunteer for the charity.

3. The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.03 and announced that it would be recorded. He also made the following statement: An entry has appeared on Facebook which commences with the following:

“An anonymous article appeared in the latest edition of the Village Magazine claiming to present the Parish Council view of the delays in moving forward on the Willand Health and Community Centre.”

The Facebook entry introduces an article from the Vice Chair of Trustees under a heading **Response to the article "PARISH COUNCIL VIEW ON DELAY" that appeared in the latest issue of the Parish Magazine**

which starts:

“It is a pity that the writer of this article did not append their signature, if they had the residents of Willand would have a better idea as to why it was written, however, judging by the choice of wording, it doesn't take many guesses to recognise the style.”

The comments made on behalf of the Parish Council were contained in the second and third paragraphs of a full article sent to the Editor of the magazine by the Chair of the Parish Council. The Editor decided to split the article for editorial reasons concerning the layout of the magazine – something which had happened in previous issues.

The article was clearly headed **PARISH COUNCIL VIEW ON DELAY** by the editor. It was a Parish Council response to articles in three issues of the magazine by the Vice Chair of Trustees – not the view of one councillor and the wording was approved by others before submission.

I have not responded to the article on Facebook or the website and have urged others who are aware of the facts not to respond.

4. Public questions

Mr Wood said “My question to the meeting is with reference to item 12 on the agenda. Why is the chair considering it necessary to seek resolution to exclude the public from a discussion relating to public assets owned by the community? As public assets they should be discussed in open forum by and with the public. Why the need for secrecy? Is there something to hide, if so, from whom?”

The Chair advised that the procedure was set out on the advice from the MDDC Monitoring Officer after enquiry by the Clerk as there were monetary and other confidential issues to be decided and discussed. The decision would be minuted. The wording on the agenda had been slightly amended on further advice. He then read the amended wording. He pointed out that it was normal procedure for a chair to make such a proposal. He advised that the final decision will be made by members when the item is reached. There was no intention to hide anything.

Mr Wood asked to speak regarding the article referred to by the chair and pointed out that he was unaware that the article had been moved by the editor as it should have been with the Parish Council article and not immediately following the article on WH&CC. He took offence at the way it

was written as all the articles he had written had not inferred that the Parish Council was the guilty party. He emphasised that everything in his article was true and reflects the current situation.

5. The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 08 February 2018 had been circulated. It was proposed by Councillor Wilcox seconded by Councillor Grantham, and unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true and correct record.

6. Progress Reports for information

a) The Identification of sites that might be turned into parking areas.

The Chair outlined the actions taken to date and the actions being taken by Councillors Chesterton and Evans

1920 MDDC Councillor Evans joined the meeting.

He outlined the detail of the meeting with officers re parking and enumerated issues which had to be considered. He advised that a site meeting was being arranged to which a representative of the Parish Council would be invited. He advised that care was being taken as it would be a 'first' for MDDC. He was thanked for his efforts.

b) Report on the meeting between the Chair, Clerk and Sgt Grimwood

The Chair gave detail of the points discussed with the Sergeant and the personnel changes and shortage of resources had been explained. It had been emphasised to her that a proper written response was expected to our letter but to date none had been received. Members agreed that the Clerk should send a polite reminder to the local Inspector. **ACTION:** Clerk

c) Missing Willand Village sign by the Esso station. The Chair updated members on action to date and information known. He also advised information from Councillor Glover as to possible input from school or brownies/scouts. Proposed by Councillor Grantham that the sign at the other end of the village be removed by handyman and be taken to Ken White signs to get an estimate for a replacement sign to be made. Depending on cost Council could then consider obtaining further estimates. Seconded by Councillor Sellick. Unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Councillor Grantham/Clerk

7. Reports

a) Devon and Cornwall Police

None received.

1926 MDDC Councillor Chesterton joined the meeting.

b) District Councillors Chesterton, Doe and Evans

Councillor Mrs Doe offered information on the following subjects:

a) Recycling was at 53% and although below target was still above national mean average;

b) New staff had been employed which should mean prompter responses to Freedom of Information enquiries;

c) A local doctor would be addressing the forthcoming Scrutiny Committee meeting on NHS issues which may be of interest to members who could attend;

d) She was a member of an Anaerobic Digester Working Group and advised that a Ward Councillor would be involved in any discussions on a site;

e) Potholes – £1.1m per mile was granted for the main road network yet DCC only received £21k per mile;

f) Council houses – details were given of three sites where MDDC were arranging the building of houses.

Councillor Evans gave details of a meeting at 2 Sisters where he had attended with DCC Councillor Radford and hoped that this would result in better liaison. He advised that they would be objecting, with veterinary support, to the importation of chicken waste to the anaerobic digester site.

Councillor Chesterton a) advised on the consultation regarding changes to the National Planning Policy Framework;

b) he responded to questions concerning 'council housing' with regard to building policy, workforce and 'pepper potting' as opposed to estates of only affordable housing. He further explained the 'viability' requirements of developers.

c) The Chair raised issues concerning the non-answering of correspondence to the Planning Department and he undertook to raise the issue with officers.

In response to comment and request for assistance by MDDC from members and public on the dog fouling problem Ward Councillors explained the MDDC policy, survey results and possible options for a way forward.

c) County Councillor Radford had sent a report which had been circulated to members. It covered information on the latest budget issues at DCC and information concerning the activities of Devon Norse. The Chair and MDDC Councillor Evans also advised on discussions being undertaken with DCC Education over numbers at the Primary School and planning contributions. Councillor Radford was leading this.

8. Finance

PAYMENTS TO	INVOICE FOR	AMOUNT	BUDGET
Barclaycard	Graff City Ltd pink chalk spray	35.56	village enhancements
XLN	Wifi rental	20.34	village enhancements
Astra Printing	Magazine March April	938.00	Magazine
Glasdon UK	replacement bin	213.66	Ground Maintenance
Countrywide	Jubilee Field grass cutting	172.50	Ground Maintenance
Willand United Charities	Allotment rent	330.00	Allotments
TOTAL		1710.06	
RECEIPTS IN February 2018			
Cemetery	Internments and memorials	2508.00	cemetery
Magazine	inserts and adverts	443.00	magazine
TOTAL		2951.00	

Councillor Phare proposed that the monthly accounts be accepted and actioned, Councillor Grantham seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed. **ACTION:** Clerk

9. Meeting dates

Thursday 08 March 2018 - Full Council and Planning Committee meetings
 Thursday 15 March 2018 - Finance and Administration Committee meeting
 Thursday 22 March 2018 - Planning and Environment Committee meetings
 Friday 23 March 2018 – Annual Parish Meeting 6.30pm Willand Village Hall
 Thursday 12 April 2018 - Full Council and Planning Committee meetings
 Thursday 26 April 2018 - Planning and Environment Committee meetings

10. Councillors Roundtable to receive any further information from Councillors and to highlight future agenda items.

Councillor Wilcox raised the following:

- A tyre had appeared in the Jubilee Field.
- The footpath between Durban Works and Bradfords was still flooding. It was agreed that the Clerk would be asked to contact DCC again. **ACTION:** Clerk
- Issues over the Willand Matters Facebook page were discussed and possible options considered. Proposed Councillor Wilcox, Seconded Councillor Manktelow that page be renamed as 'Willand Parish'. Unanimously agreed **ACTION:** Councillor Wilcox/Clerk

11. Communications

a) To consider:

- Request from the Blackdown Hills Transition Group for financial support for the repair café in Hemyock (email circulated 28 February 2018) To decide if any support should be given by Willand Parish Council.

After discussion where it was recognised that there was no provision in the precept for this it was Proposed by Councillor Phare and Seconded by Councillor Mander that we decline the offer and direct them to the TAPs funding. Unanimously agreed. **ACTION:** Clerk

ii) Devon Roads and Transport Team Traffic Sensitive Street Review (email circulated 28 February 2018). To decide if any response is required from Willand Parish Council.

Proposed by Councillor Grantham and Seconded by Councillor Mander that the Parish Council offered no response. Unanimously agreed.

iii) Invitation to the DCC Chairman's civic service at St Mary's Uffculme Sunday 8 April 3.00pm and for tea following the service. The Chair cannot attend, would any other Councillor be able to go?

After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Grantham would represent the Parish Council if it were permitted. Clerk to enquire and deal accordingly. **ACTION:** Clerk.

b) Communications received since 03 February and forwarded to Councillors by email:

5 MDDC Committee notifications

8 MDDC press releases including the Vote for Women Centenary Celebrations, the Refill Devon scheme, the brilliant work achieved by the Council's Housing Service in communicating with its tenants and consultation on the Local Plan sustainability appraisal.

1 NHS Healthy people brochure

3 DCC press releases including funding for flood resilience, and adult learning & skills for the homeless.

Letter from Jacobs on behalf of DCC letter regarding B3181 Silver Street bus stop relocation and safety barrier work on M5 bridge programmed for the end of February.

c) Communications not referred to Councillors

34 emails offering various services, seminars or equipment

Communications were noted

The Chair stated that on the advice of the Monitoring Officer the wording on the agenda would be slightly amended.

During discussion of the following item it may be necessary to pass a resolution from the Chair.

"Recommended that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and Willand Parish Council Standing Orders 1c, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that they are likely to involve confidential or commercially sensitive information which, if disclosed, might prejudice the public interest."

The Parish Council will need to decide whether it may be prejudicial to the public interest to discuss in an open meeting and decide accordingly.

The declaration of interests by Councillors Grantham, Mander and Wilcox were reaffirmed and they would not vote. The Chair proposed the motion and it was seconded by Councillor Phare. On a vote there were two votes in favour and two abstentions. The motion was carried.

Councillor Mander proposed that as there were members of the public present with an interest in the planning meeting we should suspend the Full Council meeting and reconvene it after the business of the Planning Meeting. Councillor Phare seconded and there was unanimous agreement.

The Chair suspended the meeting at 2034 hours.

12. Report from the Subcommittee meeting with the Trustees of WHCC.

To discuss the information provided by the subcommittee following the meeting and to agree the next steps in order to progress the matter to meet the planning application deadline of 1 July.

The meeting of the Full Council reconvened at 2108 hours.

Councillors Grantham, Mander and Wilcox reconfirmed their declarations of interest in respect of their connections with the Willand Health & Community Centre Charity.

Those members permitted to vote reconfirmed the decision to conduct the agenda item with the press and public excluded on the grounds that the discussions were likely to involve confidential or commercially sensitive information which, if disclosed, might prejudice the public interest.

At the conclusion of a comprehensive discussion on the recommendations of the Sub Group and other information brought forward it was proposed by Councillor Sellick and Seconded by Councillor Phare that: "The Parish Council write to their solicitor concerning Clause 15 of the Lease regarding the removal of the *Exclusion of Sections 24 – 28 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954* and seek advice as to a possible alternative which would protect the public interest of the property for the Parish Council and meet the concerns of the Charity. Alternatives such as the purchase of the lease or an annual ground rent to be considered. If at the end of the 99 years an

automatic renewal is granted a right for the Parish Council to renegotiate conditions should be available.”

Members permitted to vote unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Clerk

Meeting closed at 2223 hours.

Councillor Barry Warren
Chair of Willand Parish Council