



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN WILLAND VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 2020 AT 19.00

Present: Councillors Grantham, Little, Phare, Scott, Tobin, Warren, Whatley, Wilcox

In attendance: Clerk K Taylor 3 members of the public Stephen Johnson Project Leader of Connecting the Culm project and Tim Youngs Manager of the Blackdown Hills ANOB

Councillor Grantham opened the meeting at 19.00 and welcomed the visitors to the meeting.

1. Apologies were received from Councillor Glover
2. No declarations of interest were received from Members for any of the agenda items.
3. There were no items brought forward from the Chair
4. Residents raised the following questions:
 - a) Is there any further information regarding the digging of the holes in Jubilee Field, it was confirmed that the Parish Council had no further information to that on social media.
 - b) Was the Parish Council aware of the big potholes on the entrance to Barnes Close, it was noted that there were a number of deep potholes on the roads in Willand but it was not certain that they met the criteria for repair according to DCC. The Clerk agreed that she would put in a report to DCC the following day. ACTION: Clerk
 - c) The problem of parking in Meadow Park during school drop off and pick up times, and when there was a football match. It was reported that parking in the bus stop was causing people to miss the bus as they were unable to stop. The Parish Council confirmed that it was aware of the problems in the village at these times and were in ongoing discussions with DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer and the police about these matters. It was known that it was considered to be traffic calming by these authorities. It was suggested that individuals contact the County Councillor Ray Radford raising the problem with him.
5. Councillor Warren proposed that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday 28 November 2019 be signed as a true record, Councillor Whatley seconded the proposal and the minutes were signed.

6. Connecting the Culm

Stephen Johnson and Tim Youngs gave an overview of the three year project, the area it covered and its purpose. Looking at the whole river Culm and resilience to flood and drought, and with regard to the future and the effect of climate change. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be 80% less water in the river during low flows and during peak flows this could be over 50% more water. The project is looking at the impacts this will have on communities and asked for any thoughts on how it would affect Willand. They were using a national catchment model and potential solutions such as tree planting, restoring soils, storing water, improving leats and improving condition of the headwaters. They asked for any suggestions from the Parish Council and it was agreed that there may be the opportunity for the project to run a public meeting. It was noted that as the village did not really have free access to the river residents might not identify it as an important amenity. Councillor Grantham agreed to assist them identifying who owned the land in the surrounding area.

ACTION: Councillor Grantham

The Chair thanked Mr Johnson and Mr Youngs for attending the meeting and they left at 19.45.

7. Progress reports for information

- a) BMX track improvements.

There was a detailed discussion regarding the cost of any improvements to the current track as a quote of £65,000 had been obtained. It was noted that there was an S106 agreement for the 125

houses which would give a substantial amount of money for a track but it was not known when this would be available.

Councillor Warren proposed the Parish Council wait to find out when the development might start before taking any further action. Councillor Whatley seconded the proposal and it was passed with by 4 votes with 2 abstentions. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the handyman to inspect the BMX track each month to ensure that hazards such as wire, concrete and bricks were removed.

ACTION: Clerk

b) There was no progress on the cemetery fencing and the Clerk would chase and put on to the next agenda.

ACTION: Clerk

c) Play area repairs

The Chair confirmed that the handyman had completed the current list of repairs and was waiting for the weather to improve before he could work on the play area surface repairs. He was looking at possible replacement equipment for the Jubilee fenced play area and it was agreed that this should cater for children aged up to seven years.

d) It was agreed that Councillor Grantham would attend the Culm Garden Village members meeting on 25 February.

8. Councillors Roundtable

Councillor Wilcox informed that rubbish had been left from the works done by PenCarrie on the footpath. Councillor Warren would find out if the work was finished. **ACTION:** Councillor Warren

Council approved the attendance of Councillor Wilcox and the Clerk on the DALC training for Audit

ACTION: Clerk

Councillor Warren informed Council that a letter regarding Chestnut Drive play area had been sent to MDDC Officers and Councillors. The Clerk had copied to all Parish Councillors.

Councillor Tobin confirmed that the key to the composting site was only available to the volunteers.

Councillor Grantham closed the meeting at 20.16

Councillor Keith Grantham
Chair of Environment Committee