



## WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2020

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

**In attendance:** Clerk K Taylor, Administrator F Tucker, 1 member of the public

1. Apologies had been received from Councillor Whatley, DCC Councillor Radford, MDDC Councillors Chesterton and Evans.

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

Declarations would be made at the appropriate item on the agenda.

#### **3. Items brought forward from the Chair**

a) Councillor Warren informed the Council that the resignation of Andrea Glover had instigated the process for filling a Casual Vacancy. There were now two vacancies, one which could be filled immediately by co-option as the vacancy process had been started before the lockdown. If 10 electors requested that an election be held then this would happen under the COVID Act so be delayed until May 2021. Should such a request not be made then the co-option process would be extended to fill the second vacancy.

b) Councillor Wilcox asked that the Parish Council record a thank you to Andrea Glover for her contribution during her time on the Council and her community endeavours. In particular her efforts to ensure that the Community Watch and Speed Watch group progresses, her involvement with the setting up of the Volunteer network led by Chris Downing and her tireless work on managing one of the village Facebook sites. Members signified agreement.

#### **4. Public questions on any of the agenda items.**

The resident attending did not have any questions but expressed concern that there had been a large number of negative comments on the Facebook page WOW regarding the Parish Council. He was surprised that these people were not at the meeting or looking to join the Parish Council in order to make a difference.

#### **5. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 May 2020**

Councillor Tobin proposed that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 21 May 2020 by video conferencing be signed as a true record, Councillor Little seconded the proposal all agreed and the minutes were signed by the Chair.

#### **6. Reports from District and County Councillors.**

a) District Councillor Warren reminded that MDDC were consulting on two issues, the Planning and Design Guide and the proposed Public Spaces Protection (dog control) order Supplementary Planning Document documents and these were on the agenda. He reminded that the District Council budget would need to be redone as there is a shortfall due to lack of revenue from car parks, leisure centres etc. He reported that the District Council was trying to do business as usual and work such as the grass cutting was getting back on track.

b) County Councillor Radford had sent in a report which the Council noted, and it can be read on the Parish Council website.

#### **7. Items for Decision**

i) Two items of play equipment had been identified through the regular equipment inspections as being unfit for purpose in the enclosed area of the Jubilee Field. It was noted that all the black surface areas needed to be replaced as they were all at their end of life. The three quotes that had been received for the work and published with the agenda were discussed. Councillor Grantham proposed that the cheapest quote no 1 from Creative Play was accepted, Councillor Scott seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

**ACTION:** Clerk

ii) Councillors Little and Wilcox introduced the Planning Design Guide - Supplementary Planning Document which they considered to be overall a good and useful document. It overlaps with Building Regulations and Government guidelines, formalising what is already being implemented in planning. During the discussion the following points were made.

Councillor Little suggested that the Parish Council might want to support the aspiration to being carbon neutral, and also agree with the recommendation that the landscape be taken into consideration when a settlement is developed. He also suggested that with regard to the Mid Devon Landscape the motorway and major roads should be noted as being just as significant as hills and rivers. This affects Willand in particular as when the M5 is closed the B3181 becomes a diversion route. It was not clear if this is part of the emerging local plan.

Willand had been identified as being a Patchwork Settlement typology, and one of the recommendations for this type of settlement was to avoid creating a distinctive centre. The Parish Council were not convinced that this is something that would be true or desired. It would be an issue that the Neighbourhood planning would take into consideration.

Councillor Grantham questioned some of the wording that might need to be updated to include the climate change and other policies brought in by Mid Devon. It falls down on CP1 and CP11 regarding the commitment to Zero Carbon.

Councillor Grantham proposed that the Parish Council respond to this document including the observations made above in the response. Councillor Little seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed.

**ACTION:** Clerk

Councillors Phare, Wilcox, Little and Scott all declared an interest in the following item on the agenda as they are dog owners, and parents.

iii) Councillor Phare had studied the papers issued for the MDDC consultation on public open space protection (dog orders) and took the Council through each area indicating what was proposed. These were debated by the Council during the discussion and motions put forward. Councillor Warren contributed to the discussion but abstained from the voting as he is the current Chair of the MDDC committee that this will come before. A question was raised in the first instance as to how Mid Devon proposed to monitor or police this as there are very few enforcement officers for the district, how realistic was it as how often would they visit Willand? It was agreed that this would be for Mid Devon to decide if they went ahead with the proposed orders.

i) **Schedule B** Churchyards and Cemeteries. Dogs would have to be kept on a lead at all times. Plan 18 for St Marys churchyard was correct, plan 19 for the Cemetery looked to only include the current space and not the extension, this would need to be addressed in the response.

ii) **Schedule C** any Person in Charge of a dog, at any time, must put and keep the dog on a lead and under proper control at any time.

Plan 37 showed the part of the Jubilee Field that was leased from MDDC. It was referred to as Gables Lea, and a red line was drawn around it. There was a long debate about this as to whether the field should be classed as one and the red line drawn round it all. It was noted that Willand does not have an area on that side of the main road where dogs are allowed off the lead and families with both children and dogs do enjoy being able to use an area without the restriction of having to use the lead. Following this discussion Councillor Wilcox proposed that the area shown on plan 37 be removed from schedule C to allow dogs off the lead and that the area of the field owned by the parish be included in schedule C so that dogs should be on a lead in the area that contains the play equipment. Councillor Scott seconded the proposal and it was passed by 4 votes with one vote against and 2 abstentions. It was noted that in order for this to work a fence would need to be constructed to divide the field.

Plan 27 Chestnut Drive Councillor Grantham proposed that the red line was removed, and the area taken out of section C allowing dogs to be off the lead. The small fenced play area should be included in Schedule D. Councillor Phare seconded the proposal and it was agreed by 6 votes with one abstention.

Plan 63 Sycamore Close Councillor Grantham proposed that the red line was removed, and the area taken out of section C and allowing dogs to be off the lead. Councillor Little seconded the proposal and it was agreed by 6 votes with one abstention.

Plan 67 Victoria Close Councillor Grantham proposed that the red line was removed, and the area taken out of section C and allowing dogs to be off the lead. Councillor Phare seconded the proposal and it was agreed by 6 votes with one abstention.

Plan 70 Willand Moor Road it was agreed that this should be retained in this schedule but the small fenced children's area off Buttercup Road should be included in Schedule D.

iii) **Schedule D** a Person in Charge of a dog is prohibited from taking that dog onto, or permitting the dog to enter or remain on any enclosed children's play area (which are Public Spaces) It was generally agreed that should stand for all of the small enclosed areas.

Plan 70 Willand Moor road is in Schedule C but the enclosed play area accessed from Buttercup Road was not identified in Schedule D and should be added.

Plan 27 Chestnut Drive enclosed play area is not in Schedule D and should be added.

Plan 96 Harpitt Close also included the open area outside of the enclosed area. Councillor Wilcox proposed that the area in schedule D should be limited to the enclosed fenced area. Councillor Scott seconded the proposal and it was agreed by 6 votes with one abstention.

Plan 109 Mallow Court to be retained

Plan 113 Orchard Way to be retained.

Plan 123 Jubilee Field (Recreation Ground) to be retained

Plan 126 South View Close to be retained

Plan 141 Victoria Close play area it was noted that a footpath ran through and therefore dogs should be admitted on a lead to walk through the area on the footpath.

Plant 147 Worcester Crescent to be retained.

It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a response to Mid Devon based on the decisions taken in the meeting. **ACTION:** Clerk

## 8. Finance

a) Councillor Wilcox proposed that the monthly payments be actioned, Councillor Tobin seconded the proposal and it was agreed. **ACTION:** Clerk

b) Recorded income in May was noted

c) Income & Expenditure report e/o May 2020 noted.

## 9. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillors Little and Wilcox propose that the Parish Council resolve to support the Neighbourhood Planning Group to start the process of writing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish

- by formally notifying MDDC:
- by applying for the Grant of £ 9000 available towards the work, and
- by appointing a qualified consultant to assist them.

The proposal was unanimously agreed.

**ACTION:** Councillor Little

## 10. Meeting dates

Formal meetings at the village hall have been suspended in line with Government guidelines.

Notification of online meetings will be published on the Village notice boards, the Parish Council website and published on Facebook.

Finance & Administration Committee Thursday 18 June 2020

Full Council Thursday 09 July 2020

Full Council Thursday 13 August 2020

## 11. Councillors Roundtable

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

a) a) 20/00838/HOUSE Councillor Warren asked members to consider this planning application suggesting that there was no planning reason to refuse it. After discussion it was agreed to offer no objection. **ACTION:** Clerk

b) Councillor Warren asked that the Parish Council consider the planning application 20/00165/HOUSE revised details on front fence. The Clerk had circulated an email from the Planning Officer regarding this and Councillor Warren had received an email from the applicant outlining permitted development actions he would take if planning was refused, these were briefly discussed. Councillor Tobin proposed that the Parish Council resolve that it had nothing further to add to its comments on this matter. Councillor Scott seconded the proposal and it was agreed the voting being one against and six for the motion. **ACTION:** Clerk

c) Councillor Phare suggested that the Clerk put information on the website and Facebook informing the decision to replace the play equipment in the enclosed area of the Jubilee field and this was agreed. **ACTION:** Clerk

d) The surface of the skateboard area had been raised by a young person during the Facebook debate and Councillor Scott agreed to investigate this further. **ACTION:** Councillor Scott

e) It was agreed that a specification for a fence in the Jubilee Field should be investigated and Councillor Grantham offered to put this together. It was agreed that the Clerk and Councillor Wilcox would meet to look at the options. **ACTION:** Councillor Wilcox/Clerk

f) Councillor Tobin informed the meeting that the Community Composting Site would reopen on Wednesday 17 June. It was agreed that this would be put on the website and Facebook pages. **ACTION:** Clerk

g) It was noted that there was a hedge overgrowing the pavement on Willand Moor Rd, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Neighbourhood Highways Officer to ask him to arrange for it to be cut back. **ACTION:** Clerk

h) Councillor Scott and the Clerk had been in an E-meeting with the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer and a senior officer held under the 'Doing what matters' initiative. This was specifically to discuss areas of concern relating to the condition of roads, pavements/footpaths and drainage within the parish boundary. It had proved a useful meeting and it had been agreed that Station Road, Southview Road and Somerville Road were all priorities both for road, footpaths and drainage problems. DCC took on board that there were other issues within the village but these roads were prioritised because of heavy use by vehicles. A fuller report will be put on the website, but it was noted that there is a limited budget and the issues raised will be scored against those raised in other parishes. It is hoped that a timetable will be produced by the end of the year so that each parish has an idea of when work will be undertaken.

i) Councillor Wilcox reported that the hedge by the dog bin in Fir Close and Somerlea had been cut down by one of the residents who had done a really good job, and the councillors expressed their thanks. She would report another hedge that needs to be cut back to Mid Devon.

**ACTION:** Councillor Wilcox

## 12. Communications

a) Councillor Wilcox agreed to investigate further the suggestion put forward by a resident for a nomination for the Queen's Birthday honours list. **ACTION:** Councillor Wilcox

Councillors agreed that Mid Devon Councillor Bob Evans already acted as a representative for the parish on the Police & Crimes Commissioner Councillor Advocate Scheme. He had requested a page on the website and provided regular updates for residents. **ACTION:** Clerk

b) Communications received since 15 May 2020 and forwarded to Councillors by email: Newsletters.

a) Blackdown Hills AONB newsletter June 2020

b) Devon Climate Emergency June 2020

c) Hospice Care May 2020

d) Rural Bulletins for May and June

e) DCC Covid-19 Bulletins.

DCT Re-opening Village and Community Halls: Opening for Pre-Schools information

5 MDDC meeting agendas

6 Press releases on subjects including Food Hygiene, electrical safety, leisure on line videos.

MDDC Town & Parish newsletter for June

Letter from Robert Jenrick Secretary of State for Housing Communities & Local Government addressed to all Parish Councils.

c) Communications not referred to Councillors

60 plus emails offering various services, seminars or equipment.

Communications were noted.

## 13. Planning application received for consideration.

Councillor Warren participated in the discussion but due to being a member of the MDDC Planning Committee would abstain from any voting.

### [20/00792/FULL](#)

Proposal: Variation of condition 6 of planning permission 19/01513/FULL to allow highway works to be completed within 6 months from the date of the operation of the land

Location: Land at NGR 304436 112250 (Pitt Farm) Muxbeare Lane Willand.

The application was discussed in full and it was noted that conditions are put in for a purpose and that with the increase of large vehicle traffic in the area the highway works were necessary and should be in place as early as possible for safety reasons.

Councillor Grantham proposed that Willand Parish Council object to this application varying the condition 6 Councillor Wilcox seconded the proposal and it was passed by 6 votes with one abstention.

**ACTION:** Clerk

There being no other business the meeting closed at 21:09

Councillor Barry Warren  
Chair of Willand Parish Council

#### JUNE 2020 PAYMENT SHEET

PAYMENTS TO	INVOICE FOR	AMOUNT	BUDGET
<b>PREVIOUSLY PAID</b>			
F Tucker	admin assistance	202.50	office/admin
CHAT as agreed at Council 21/05/2020	donation to work during COVID-19	100.00	donations
A Deasington	cheque refund for allotments	12.00	allotments
<b>DIRECT DEBIT</b>			
Barclaycard	Payment for ZOOM software	71.94	office/admin
GiffGaff	mobile phone contract	6.00	office/admin
<b>BACS</b>			
Countrywide	Verge cutting	835.80	Ground maintenance
Countrywide	Jubilee Field grass cutting	303.19	Playarea maintenance
Countrywide	Orchard Way grass cutting	172.63	Playarea maintenance
Brightsea printing	June July Magazine	1096.00	Magazine
Quarlfox	Cemetery grass cutting & weed control	189.25	Cemetery
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2989.31</b>	
<b>RECEIPTS IN MAY</b>			
HMRC	Payment for VAT Reclaim	7428.41	
Various companies	Adverts in Magazine	221.00	
Deasington, McAlpine, Maylon, Kulpe	Allotment rentals	48.00	
Isca funerals	Collins funeral	972.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8669.41</b>	