

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 26th April 2010 at 7.00 pm
at Council Chamber, Williton

Attendees:

Chairman	Woods
SCC Councillors	None
WSDC Councillors	May
Parish Councillors	Vaughan, Chadwick, Morse, Bigwood, Aldridge, Peeks
Clerk	Mrs J Johnson-Smith
Public	5 members

Apologies:

Councillors	Hooper, Saunders, Davies, Trollope-Bellew
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10/01 **Apologies as noted above.**

10/02 **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st May 2009**

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes after a proposition by Cllr Vaughan and seconded by Cllr Bigwood who were both present at the last meeting.

10/03 **Matters Arising**

It was proposed referring the request for a bus stop at Priest Street to the Environment and Planning Committee.

10/04 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman advised the public of the following activities that had taken place during the past year: Paul Pitchers had resigned both as Councillor and Chairman due to personal reasons and she asked that thanks be recorded for the work he had undertaken during his time as Chairman.

Cllrs Chadwick, Deputy Chairman, and Cllrs Saunders had been co-opted during the year. The employees remained the same as the previous year.

Work carried out at the Memorial Ground had including the installation of a new ventilation system in the Changing rooms to alleviate the damp and it was hoped to work with the Football teams in painting the inside of the building.

The Youth Club had moved out of the room which would allow for further lettings. A schedule of hire prices for both the ground and the changing rooms had been drawn up.

A Fundraising Group had been formed including members of the Parish Council, the Friends to the Memorial Ground, the British Legion and the Football clubs but unfortunately the planned Activities Day had to be cancelled through lack of support and interest.

The rocking horse in the Play Area had been repaired.

The Parish Council had been working with the County Council to make improvement to the junction of A39 and A358 at Egremont Corner and had made representation over the parking at Tower Hill and encouraged the placement of speed indicators.

The Environment and Planning Committee had been working on several schemes to improve the pedestrian access around the Parish including a Safe Route to School project looking at a route from Liddymore Estate to St Peters School.

The Committee were also looking at a footpath linking Doniford Car Park to Doniford Halt and were endeavouring to work with the owner of the Queen Bee site to tidy up this area.

Work had been done to make repairs to Doniford Car Park but it was hoped to get some external funding to improve the whole of the Parish's coastal access.

The Environment Committee had been active in getting trees planted on The Copse and were grateful to all those who sponsored trees. They were also looking to get sponsors for a Village Clock.

The Parish Council communicates with the community through the Williton Window and with various press reports, but their own website had now been published where minutes and news items will be available.

The Chairman advised of forthcoming items of interest and events:

The Parish Council would represent the views of the parishioners relating to any developments in Williton on the EDF proposals at Hinkley C.

The Council had tendered a bid to the District Council for the redundant IT building 3 in Williton and were awaiting the outcome of the bid.

Some members had been involved in discussions regarding the Inner Relief Road as part of the Williton Regeneration Group.

Two events planned for the coming year were the Christmas Festival, which was very successful last year and "Steams Up", a photographic competition in conjunction with the West Somerset Railway which would take place in September

10/05 Financial Report

The Chairman advised that the Parish accounts were available for inspection at the Parish Office and that the budget had been set at £84,000 for this year, an increase of £19,000 on the previous year. This was due to the Council wanting to undertake and invest in a range of community based projects and to an increase in operational costs. Funding for the memorial ground remained a challenge and the budget for this had been increased by 10%. It was estimated the annual maintenance cost for this was around £30,000. The precept had been set at £67,500 with the balance of the budget deficit being funded through available cash reserves. It was envisaged that the precept would have to grow by a similar percentage over the coming years as it was not possible to continue funding a deficit with no financial assistance from either the County or District Council.

10/06 West Somerset Council - Core Strategy Consultation

Toby Clempson from the District Council, explained how their policies were set and what factors were taken into consideration when making policy decisions eg low wages, high proportion of elderly, housing etc. It was felt that more people should be involved in the decision making process and a consultation document and questionnaire had been produced outlining 3 key strategies and policies. They welcomed responses from both individuals and Parish Councils. When all responses had been received a preferred strategy would be developed and it was hoped to adopt this plan in 2012. He added that any developments with EDF would have to be considered and other developments eg Inner Relief Road.

10/07 "Steams Up" – Photographic Competition with West Somerset Railway

David Chadwick outlined the details of the competition which would be held during the West Somerset Railway Gala Weekend in September and it was hoped that this would encourage visitors to the centre of Williton and benefit tourism and local businesses. He was looking for sponsors and prizes and more details would be available on the Parish website.

10/08 Corner Link

Shirley Allnut outlined the work that was being done by Corner Link. It was run by local volunteers and aimed at people dropping in. They worked with Somerset Active Living Centre for men and women over 50 and encouraged Healthy Living by giving advice on healthy eating and exercises. They organised coffee mornings and arts and crafts workshops. They were also host to Inspire, an informal church group. Work was required on their building and fundraising was ongoing to support this and the work they were doing. It was open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for community coffees.

10/09 Village Activities Day

The Chairman advised that it was hoped to organise a fundraising Activities Day on the Recreation Ground during the May bank holiday but due to lack of support this event had to be cancelled.

10/10 Any Other Business

Graham Bigwood advised that the first meeting for the Christmas Festival would take place on 20th May at 7.30pm in the Parish Office. He also added that it was hoped to encourage the Young Farmers back to Williton and it was suggested that they could use the Changing Rooms.

Meeting closed at 8.23 pm