

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 7th November 2011 at 7.10 pm
at the Parish Office, Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors	Woods (Chairman), Koch, Bigwood, Vaughan, Gower, McDonald, Wood, Peeks, Hall and Beaver
SCC	None
WSDC	May
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	PCSO Dave Rowe
Press	Mrs C Webb
Clerk	Mrs J Johnson-Smith
Public	2 members
Other	David Cameron and Granville Roberts, Environment Agency

Apologies:

Councillors James, Davies and Trollope-Bellew

11/119 **Apologies as noted above**

11/120 **Declarations of Interest**

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Peeks	11/134	Personal	None
Cllr Peeks	11/122.2	Personal	None

11/121 **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd October 2011**

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes after adding "7th October and" before "2nd December" in the last sentence in item 11/109.

11/122 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

11/122.1 (Item 11/99.1) Hinkley C Consultation The applications for environmental permits from the Environment Agency were discussed and Cllr Wood gave members details of some of the research that she had carried out. She had commented that the information was very confusing but her biggest concern was in the discharge of the radioactive material. After some discussion the Chairman asked members to consider the following response:

"As a parish within 15 miles of the proposed site our members have looked at the environmental permits and have come to the conclusion that we have to rely on the Environment Agency to check these permits to see that the residents and the area around the proposed power station site are safe and environmentally sound. In relying on the experts in these matters we acknowledge their expertise and the fact that they are professionals in their field and expect them to act in an impartial way for the benefits of our whole community. As tax payers we contribute to the statutory authorities in this matter and expect them to act accordingly." It was **resolved** to forward this response to all applications with the following addition "Our specific concerns relate to the discharge of the radioactive waste and results from recent research being carried out by other countries eg Germany and KIKK indicate that the radioactive waste was much more harmful than first expected. Members would like to receive your responses to these concerns". This proposal was carried by 6 in favour, 2 against and one abstention. It was further **resolved** to reply to the joint letter from Somerset County Council, West Somerset Council and Sedgemoor District Council regarding EDF's application to the IPC for a Development Consent Order and an explanation of the process stating that we wish to register our interest and be kept informed during the process.

Cllr McDonald reported on the meeting of the Transport Forum held on 25th October. He advised that consultations were still in progress and there was still concern over traffic congestion around Bridgwater. No decisions had been made.

An invitation to join the Stakeholders Group – Hinkley Point had been received and it was suggested members joined individually if they wished to be part of this group.

11/122.2 (Item 11/99.2) Friends of Somerset Libraries Campaign A member of the Friends of the Library campaign addressed the meeting and asked for support. It was proposed by Cllr Koch and seconded by Cllr McDonald that a £50 donation be given, however a second proposal put forward by Cllr Gower and seconded by Cllr Peeks proposed that this matter was deferred until more details were available. This motion was **resolved** by 6 votes for and 2 against.

11/122.3 (Item 11/103) Report of Forum 21 Meeting re Green Initiatives It was advised that this meeting had been cancelled.

11/123 **Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary**

PCSO David Rowe updated the meeting with the latest crime figures for Williton. He advised that speed detection would be taking place at Tower Hill and stops made to breathalyse motorists in the lead up to the Christmas period. Thefts had been reported through the Rural Watch Initiative and residents were advised to take care, particularly in farms. The anti-social youth problems had been reduced.

11/124 Report from Somerset County Councillor

There was no report.

11/125 Report from West Somerset District Councillors

Cllr May advised that the waste collection system was causing some confusion as collections were taking place at some houses and not at others. There would be a new survey coming out soon to Parishes and members were asked to respond as the results of the survey helped the District Council to improve their services. Some concern had been expressed on the closure of public toilets and where the money on the savings would be allocated. He advised that the work to the footpath outside the bank was scheduled to be done in the New Year and the manhole cover at the Mason Arms was being repaired.

11/126 Chairman's Notices

The Chairman had collected 10 x20kg of salt from Minehead which was being stored in the tractor shed. It was suggested adding this information in the Williton Window article and putting up a notice. It was further suggested holding Surgeries for members of the public to talk to Councillors. Cllr Wood agreed to attend the first surgery on 12th December where concerns regarding the Hinkley C applications could be discussed. The Clerk reminded members of the Police Authority meeting being held on 9th November at West Somerset House which was open to the public.

11/127 Correspondence

- 11/127.1 It was **resolved** to note the letter from Somerset County Council regarding the Electoral Review and members were asked to comment individually.
- 11/127.2 It was **resolved** to note the Winter Maintenance Open Depot Evening to be held on 15th November at the Somerset Highways depot in Minehead.
- 11/127.3 It was **resolved** to note the invitation to Magna Housing's Stakeholder Conference on 17th November and Cllr McDonald agreed to attend. He agreed to act as a representative for future meetings and report back to the Council.
- 11/127.4 It was **resolved** to note the Planning Obligations funding for the parish and to pass on the details to the Trustees of the Memorial Ground and the Environment and Planning Committee.
- 11/127.5 It was **resolved** to note the proposal from the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service to change the way it responds to calls from automatic fire alarm activations.

11/128 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 11th October 2011

It was **resolved** to note the report. Concern was expressed regarding the empty properties at Long Street between North Croft and Fore St and in particular Corner Cottage and it was agreed to place this on the next Environment and Planning Committee agenda. Cllr Gower confirmed that Magna had offered £500 towards the Village Clock project.

11/129 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 17th October 2011

It was **resolved** to note the report.

- 11/129.1 It was **resolved** to note the Financial Reserve Estimated Provisions and Current Account Expenditure.
- 11/129.2 (Item 11/68.8A) Cllr Woods advised that Ian Liddell-Grainger MP had agreed to officiate at the official office opening on 10th December at 10am. It was **resolved** to go ahead with this arrangement and the Clerk and Chairman would liaise regarding the invitations and the arrangements for the morning including the making of a plaque to commemorate the occasion. It was suggested writing to Croft House regarding the loan of their easel.
- 11/129.3 (Item 11/76A) It was **resolved** to donate a maximum of £500 to the Trustees of the Memorial Ground towards the costs of the Jubilee celebrations.

11/130 To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee

It was **resolved** to pay £397.66 to Cllr Vaughan as repayment of an invoice paid online with his credit card for the picture rails and fittings.

11/131 Budget Considerations

Cllr Vaughan explained the draft budget figures which could not be finalised until the Trustees had set their budget and more details had been received regarding the devolved services. There was some discussion regarding the contribution towards the Watchet Closed Cemetery and the Clerk agreed to get a schedule of prices for the burial ground. The budget for the bus shelter and sponsored telephone also needed to be reviewed at the next Environment and Planning Committee meeting.

11/132 Relocation of Notice Board

After some discussion it was **resolved** to leave it in its present location by the public toilets. The old notice board by the Pet Shop had been removed as it was in a poor state.

11/133 Devolvement of Public Toilets and Street Cleaning

It was **resolved** unanimously not to consider the use of S106 monies for the devolvement of services. It was **resolved** to note the correspondence regarding the proposed temporary closure of the public toilets during the winter and it was unanimously **resolved** to make the following response to the proposals:

Members suggested using the winter period to convert the existing disabled toilet and mother and baby changing areas to two unisex toilets. Whilst these changes were taking place members would be happy to see the closure of the men's toilets provided the ladies' toilets remained open as a unisex facility and provision is made for baby changing. Members would also like the District Council to monitor the use of the toilets during the winter months and advise on maintenance costs and would like assurance that the District Council intend to implement the agreed changes to convert the disabled and mother and baby areas to two unisex toilets and would maintain these reduced facilities from April 2012 to March 2013. It was further suggested that if the demand for the toilets exceeded the provision, the District Council would consider opening up their toilets to the public.

11/134 Williton Village Hall Partnership

It was unanimously **resolved** that the Chairman would sign the Transfer of ownership of land to the new charity and the Deed of Covenant documents. The Clerk advised that all signatures had been obtained and this document was now ready to be returned to the Solicitors. Cllr Vaughan advised that another document regarding charges on the land was required. When all documentation had been completed the Village Hall charity would close and the funds would be transferred into a new account.

11/135 Christmas Decorations Competition and Christmas Festival

It was agreed that it was the "ladies" turn to judge and it was decided this would take place on 19th December at 7pm. It was **resolved** to increase the prize money to £30 for 1st prize, £20 for 2nd prize and £10 for 3rd prize. Cllr Bigwood would arrange to put up the tree with help from other Councillors. Cllr Bigwood commented that the last meeting of the Christmas Festival working group was poorly attended. A further meeting was scheduled on 17th November.

11/136 Royal Jubilee Celebrations

It was **resolved** to defer this to the New Year. Cllrs Woods and McDonald agreed to meet to discuss the options.

11/137 It was **resolved** that due to the confidential nature of the following item to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting.

11/138 Report from Personnel Committee held on 17 October 2011

It was **resolved** to note the report.

11/139 Devolvement of Grounds Maintenance Services

It was advised that two options had been put forward to the District Council but neither of the options should impact on the budget.

11/140 Matters for the next meeting to be held on 5 December 2011 – Olympic Torch on 21 May 2012

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm