

# WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 7.00 pm  
at the Parish Council Office, Williton

## Attendees:

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Councillors</b>                    | McDonald (Chairman), Peeks, James, Koch, Vaughan, Bennett, Beaver, Bigwood and Wood |
| <b>SCC</b>                            |   |
| <b>WSC</b>                            | Davies  |
| <b>Avon and Somerset Constabulary</b> |   |
| <b>Press</b>                          | Mrs C Webb  |
| <b>Clerk</b>                          | Ms J Johnson-Smith  |
| <b>Public</b>                         |   |
| <b>Other</b>                          |   |

## Apologies:

**Councillors** Woods, Troman, May and Trollope-Bellew and PCSO Rowe

12/179 **Apologies as noted above.** It was **resolved** to note the receipt of a letter of resignation from Cllr Gower and a letter of thanks would be written. The casual vacancy would be advertised.

### 12/180 **Declarations of Interest**

| Name       | Minute Item                   | Interest  | Action        |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Cllr Peeks | 12/182.1, 12/188.1 & 12/202.1 | Pecuniary | Participation |

### 12/181 **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes.

### 12/182 **Matters to Report**

12/182.1 (Item 12/163.1) Hinkley C Consultation It was **resolved** to note no further updates had been received.

12/182.2 (Item 12/163.2) Christmas Festivities One cheque was presented at the meeting to one of the prize winners. The trophy and other cheques would be delivered to the other winners. A vote of thanks was recorded to Ross James for all his work with the Christmas lighting around the village.

12/182.3 (Item 12/163.4) Venue for Meetings Cllr Koch advised that she had looked at the fire regulations which had slightly altered. Cllr Peeks advised that the fire officer was visiting the District Council on 12<sup>th</sup> February and it was suggested asking him to call in to the office to assess the situation. A decision would be taken at the next meeting.

### 12/183 **Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary**

It was **resolved** to note the written report detailing the crime figures for the month and advising what sites had been assessed for the Speed Watch training. The Clerk was asked to find out when the Speed Watch programme would be starting. It was further **resolved** to note the letter from Inspector Lisa Simpson asking for feedback on communicating information with the local beat team and the best method of disseminating information. The Clerk was asked to write back confirming that they valued the presence of the community officer at the meetings and found the information he gave relevant and helpful but would like to be updated with contact details of the local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators in order to communicate directly with them.

### 12/184 **Report from Somerset County Councillor**

There was no report as Cllr Trollope-Bellew was not present. The Clerk was asked to invite him to raise items for the meeting should he not be able to attend and to ask him to check when the pedestrian crossing would be installed and to chase again the letter of authority from David Peake.

### 12/185 **Report from West Somerset District Councillors**

Cllr Davies reported on the Council meeting when the grant for the precept and the Council Tax reduction on second homes were discussed.

A written report had been prepared from Cllr May with updates on highways issues and the faulty lights at Long Street. He advised that he had arranged a "walk about" the village with an Environment Agency representative on 7<sup>th</sup> February at 9am to look at the flooding issues. Cllrs Bigwood and Bennett had agreed to attend and report back to the next meeting and the Clerk agreed to invite Alex Johnstone for the Wyndham Estate. The Clerk was asked to report the blocked drain at Robert Street and the bad potholes at Highbridge on the A39 approach into Williton from Bridgwater and on the A39 between Williton and Tropiquaria.

### 12/186 **Chairman's Notices**

The Clerk drew attention to late correspondence for a request for responses to the Library review and asked members to bring their comments to the next meeting in order to meet the deadline of the end of March. She also drew attention to the notice that the £94m contract for the Connecting Devon and Somerset Programme for superfast broadband had been signed. Details of an interactive forum to discuss the progress made a year on from the Localism Act would take place in Central London on 7<sup>th</sup> March and Cllr Bennett agreed to attend and report back to the April meeting,

**12/187 Correspondence**

12/187.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log

**12/188 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

It was **resolved** to note the report

12/188.2 (Item 12/79.2B) It was **resolved** to agree the recommendations regarding the further details requested for the Top Five Priorities.

**12/189 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

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

12/189.1 It was **resolved** to note the Financial Reserve Estimated Provisions as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

**12/190 To approve accounts for payment**

It was **resolved** to approve the following payments

| Date     | Details      | Cheque No | Invoice No | Total £ | VAT £ |
|----------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------|-------|
| 4 Feb 13 | Miss S Price | 2408      |            | 10      | 0     |
| 4 Feb 13 | Mrs S Wilson | 2409      |            | 10      | 0     |
| 4 Feb 13 | Mr Edwards   | 2410      |            | 10      | 0     |
| 4 Feb 13 | Mr Gould     | 2411      |            | 30      | 0     |

**12/191 Precept 2013-2014**

It was **resolved** to note that a grant of £15,332.69 would be passed to the Parish Council from the District Council. Cllr Vaughan had circulated a spreadsheet detailing the implications to the Band D contributions by raising the precept to £90,000 in order to build up the reserves to cover the budget in the following year should the grant no longer be available to Parish Councils. This would mean more than a 10% increase. He put forward this proposal but a second proposal was put forward by Cllr Peeks, seconded by Cllr James to set the precept at £89,000 by reducing the grants budget. This motion was not carried (2 for, 5 against, 2 abstentions). The original proposal of £90,000 was put forward again by Cllr Vaughan and this was seconded by Cllr Bennett and carried by 6 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention. The precept form was duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**12/192 Report of Archie Project held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

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

**12/193 Report of WCH Programme Management and Pavilion Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

It was **resolved** to note the report and that the questionnaires would be circulated in March with feedback to the Parish Assembly in April.

**12/194 Report of meeting of Minehead Eye held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

It was **resolved** to note the report. Concern was expressed at the low number of attendees but it was suggested that as it could take time to build this up, members should wait one year to see if it could be regenerated. Cllr Wood agreed to check with Minehead on how they were promoting the youth centre and ask for ways that the Parish Council could help to promote it.

**12/195 Report of public meeting to discuss Parish Plan held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

It was **resolved** to note the report and that some interest had been shown. A further meeting had been scheduled on 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm.

**12/196 Report of meeting of Pupil Parliament held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013**

It was **resolved** to note the report. Cllr Beaver added that the West Somerset Community College had been invited and were being represented.

**12/197 Report of public meeting to discuss flooding issues held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Two reports had been circulated for this meeting which had been very well attended. Following on from the meeting a "walk around" the village had been scheduled on 7<sup>th</sup> February with Cllr May and a member of the Environment Agency. Cllrs Bennett and Bigwood agreed to attend this meeting and report back. The Chairman hoped to meet with the Environment Agency at a future date to look at ways of dealing with the problem and to help set up an emergency group. He added that the Parish Council should take the role in implementing a Flood Plan with help from the District Council and the Wyndham Estate and advice from the Environment Agency. A copy of a similar plan drawn up by Porlock Parish Council had been received. A survey with input from local people would be required in order to assess the situation and the community would be actively encouraged to help clear drains. It was **resolved** to set up display boards in the Parish Office from 5<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March with photos and maps as supplied to the public meeting.

**12/198 Report of meeting of Children's Centre Advisory Board held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

There was no report as Cllr Wood was unable to attend the meeting.

**12/199 Report of meeting of Local Choices Event held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

Cllr Wood reported on the Provision of Youth Services Workshop. Funding was available if youth centres registered as a charity. Youth service money needed to be prioritised by employing one good youth worker. The Parish Council were advised to put pressure on schools to use their facilities.

Cllr Beaver reported on the Community Warden workshop. As the £3000 offer for the scheme was a "one-off" payment to be shared between parishes, this was not considered to be viable. Lengthsmen schemes were running in other parishes and Karen Mills from both WSC and Porlock Parish Council agreed to attend a meeting to share their Council's experiences. It was **resolved** to invite her to a future meeting and to invite Cllr Hendersen from Bicknoller Parish Council who had shown interest.

Cllr McDonald reported on the Libraries workshop. He advised limited funding was available and that numbers of people going to libraries had dropped and Parishes were asked to encourage people to go.

**12/200 Report of meeting of West Somerset Voluntary Sector Forum held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

It was **resolved** to note the report and that £17m was available from EDF for West Somerset if the project went ahead. Cllr Beaver added that fuel poverty help was available from Forum 21 and it was suggested that arrangements should be made for those who did not use their fuel allowance to pass on to those who were in need. Funding was available for individual youth projects.

**12/201** It was **resolved** to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting.

**12/202 Report from Personnel Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013**

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

12/202.1 (Item 12/27.1C) After a proposition by Cllr James seconded by Cllr Vaughan it was **resolved** to seek professional advice by 7 votes with 1 abstention.

12/202.2 (Item 12/29C) It was **resolved** to offer the Groundsman a pension plan.

12/202.3 (Item 12/30C) It was **resolved** to offer first aid training to Councillors who were willing to attend public events.

12/202.4 (Item 12/32C) Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know of any planned holidays so that they could be included on the office calendar.

**12/203 Matters for the next meeting to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

Parish Assembly  
Parish Boundaries

Meeting closed at 9.15pm