

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 1st December 2014 at 7.00 pm
at the Council Chamber, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors	McDonald (Chairman), James, Koch, Denton (left during item 114.3), Vaughan, Bennett and Woods
SCC	Davies (left after Presentation)
WSC	May (left after item 14/138.5)
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	Nine members
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors Stiven, Bigwood and Peeks

Before the start of the meeting Sue Shapland was presented with a Chairman's Award by Cllr Davies. Cllr McDonald introduced Ms Shapland, read out her citation and congratulated for her volunteer work with 'Exmoor Extroverts'

14/130 Apologies as noted above.

14/131 Declarations of Interest - none

14/132 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd November 2014

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

14/133 Matters Arising from the Minutes

14/133.1 (Item 14/114.1) Hinkley C Consultation No further correspondence had been received. Cllr Woods reported she would be attending the Transport Forum on 11th December 2014. Councillors were asked to contact Cllr Woods with any issues they would like raised. Cllr Bennett commented on emails he had sent to Cllr McDonald regarding his scepticism on whether the scheme would go ahead, Cllr McDonald reported no correspondence had been received regarding this, but if anything was received it would be distributed and debated.

14/133.2 (Item 14/114.2) Flood Plan Cllr McDonald reported that he and Cllr May had met with a representative from Wyndham Estate regarding the stream that runs parallel to Doniford Road. Photos were distributed to Councillors as evidence of work that had been carried out. The Clerk confirmed that salt was now available from the Parish Office and it was **resolved** to advertise this in the Parish Office window.

14/133.3 (Item 14/114.3) Weekend Car Park Charges It was reported that West Somerset Council have confirmed that Free Car Parking will be available in the car-parks on the 13, 14, 20 and 21 December. It was **resolved** the Clerk would write to thank them. Cllr Vaughan was in receipt of a letter stating that Anchor Street in Watchet would have free parking for the next 12 months to mitigate impact on town. After a discussion that Williton will have the biggest impact on businesses a proposal from Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Woods was put forward to ask District for EDF mitigation fund to offer the first two hours parking, free of charge. It was **resolved** the Clerk would write to District to request this proposal. (Cllr Denton left during this item on a fire shout)

14/133.4 (Item 14/114.4) Youth Council Cllr Denton had just been called out. It was **resolved** to defer this item to the next meeting.

14/133.5 (Item 14/114.5) Meeting to look at public Toilets After a discussion it was **resolved** to write again to Taunton Deane to request a site meeting, stating that Watchet, Porlock and Dulverton all have time locks fitted and that it is not acceptable for the playgroup to witness the offense of urinating.

14/133.6 (Item 14/114.6) Christmas festivities It was reported by Cllr James that a total of 33 Christmas Trees would be displayed on the shops and they would be erected between Thursday 4th and Saturday 6th December. Due to roadwork issues and a school event, it was reported the route would now start from the White House, proceed through the main street, down Robert Street and back to Council Offices. A temporary events license had been received. The toilets would be open for the evening. Waterproof lights had been arranged for Belamy's Corner. It was the turn of the Gentleman Councillors to judge the Christmas light competition.

14/133.7 (Item 14/114.7) Community Health and Well Being. It was **resolved** to remove this item from the agenda.

14/133.8 (Item 14/114.8) Mobile Youth Projects update – It was **resolved** to defer this item to the next meeting.

14/134 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

No report had been received. It was reported that PCSO Thompson had attended the Christmas Festival meeting. Cllr McDonald reported the issue of vagrants that had started appearing around the village had been reported to the police as they were causing obstruction on the highway. Cllr Bennett reported one had visited the Parish Office asking for their letters to be received, he was directed to the Post Office. It was requested all Councillors keep vigilant.

14/135 Report from Somerset County Councillor

There was no Report.

14/136 Report from West Somerset District Councillors

Cllr May's 'Highway Walkabout' report had been emailed to Councillors. Cllr May was told the bench at Tower Hill was still in discussion and ownership was still trying to be ascertained. Regarding the Market, Cllr May pointed out Watchet and Minehead were different as they do not use car parks. Cllr May requested to be kept informed of any meeting with Highways. An increase in car parking fees is likely, yet to be confirmed. The local plan discussion would be published shortly from Martin Wilsher regarding consultation. Cllr McDonald confirmed discussions were held approximately 6-8 months ago, but nothing had been received since. It was **resolved** the Clerk would write to District and County expressing concerns that Parish Council not being kept informed. Cllr Vaughan thanked Cllr May for his vote against the reduction of the Precept. A discussion regarding the Precept took place. Cllr Vaughan questioned the legality of the proposal to cut the precept. Cllr Woods noted the wording from SALC as '*could be passed onto Parish not that it would be*', and therefore it was within the law. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would write to Secretary of State and Mr Liddell-Grainger with Parish Councils concerns and to request which other Councils had decided that no grant would be paid to their Parish's.

14/137 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

The Chairman raised the issue of the checking of the Defibrillator now that ex Cllr Bruford has stood down. Cllr Bennett volunteered to take on responsibility for the checking the defibrillator on a regular basis. Cllr Koch requested training be looked into, to include staff at Spar and the football club. Cllr Bennett would arrange a date.

The Clerk informed the council an email had been received from Cllr May asking for a remembrance plaque to be placed by the tree planted on Bellamy's Corner by the May family and paid for by them. This was unanimously **resolved**.

14/138 Correspondence

14/138.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log.

14/138.2 It was **resolved** to note the letter from The Trustee of WWMRG and discuss under Finance.

14/138.3 It was **resolved** to note the letter from The Trustee of WCH and discuss under Finance.

14/138.4 It was **resolved** to note the letter from Sue Debens regarding the roadworks around North Road. Mrs Debens had not requested to speak but Cllr McDonald stated that everything that needed to be done legally had been and that it had been published in the papers. The concerns had been raised at meetings the Councillors had attended. Cllr James stressed it was not the Parish Council decision and they had tried to 'get best solution possible'. It was noted that individual letters had not been sent. Mrs Debens was asked to contact Highways and County Council with her concerns. The public members left after this item.

14/138.5 It was **resolved** that Cllr Woods will organise and display a Nativity crib at St Peter's Church. It was **resolved** the Clerk would inform Tracey Copp.

14/139 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 10th November 2014

Cllr Vaughan enquired if all budget requirements and requests had been covered, to which the reply was yes. Cllr Woods disputed the Doniford car park was not fine. Cllr James agreed to look again; if any work needed to be carried out Cllr Vaughan suggested doing so before March. It was suggested to obtain quotations for street lighting and apply via mitigation fund. As the next EPC meeting would not take place until January it was **resolved** to form a working party for Doniford footpath and report back at next Full Council meeting. It was **resolved** to note the report.

14/140 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 17th November 2014

It was suggested to reduce emergency reserve by £4,000 to £40,000 and put towards precept loss. It was **resolved** to note the report.

14/140.1 (Item 14/63.2A) It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 31st October 2014.

- 14/140.2 **Budget Considerations 2015/2016 –**
It was noted a decision had been received by West Somerset Council stating that no grant would be paid to Parish/Town Council in respect of the 2015/16 financial year. After a proposal from Cllr Vaughan, seconded by Cllr Koch, it was **resolved** to agree amendments to budget figures which included a £1,000 reduction to Care in the Community, a £1,000 reduction in play equipment maintenance and a £2,000 reduction in WPC ground maintenance budgets. £1,500 needed to be added to the budget for election costs. With the reduction in budgets and £4,000 from reserve it was anticipated the precept would increase by 9%. A letter from The Trustee of WCH requesting £2,000 had been received, after a proposal by Cllr James and seconded by Cllr Vaughan, it was unanimously **resolved** not to fund. It was unanimously **resolved** to give The Trustee of WWMRG the subsidy of £7,000 that had been requested
- 14/141 **To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee**
There were no payments.
- 14/142 **Verbal report from MWS Stakeholders' Conference**
It was **resolved** to defer this item to the next meeting due to Cllr Denton's absence.
- 14/143 **Review of Risk Assessments**
It was **resolved** to note the report.
- 14/144 **Verbal report from Public Meeting held on 12th November 2014**
It was reported that unfortunately the meeting was poorly attended. The concerns that were brought to meeting were genuine and were able to be acted upon. It was **resolved** to hold another meeting in the future, a date to be arranged.
- 14/145 **Report from Pavillion Working Group meeting**
Cllr McDonald and Cllr Vaughan would address the planning meeting on 4th December.
- 14/146 **Doniford Footpath**
A site meeting would be held with Mr Edward Down and Sarah Littler on 4th December at 10am. Cllr Woods suggested forming a working party. After a discussion, Cllr McDonald expressed concern regarding costs and financing the project, after a proposal by Cllr McDonald and seconded by Cllr Vaughan it was resolved to form a working party. If the meeting on the 4th was positive to then obtain costs, approach Doniford Farm, Doniford Bay and local residents regarding funding. Cllr Woods expressed concern at approaching residents as they already pay rates. It was **resolved** to report back to EPC to review.
- 14/147 **Traffic Wardens**
It was reported this had been addressed in a letter to Taunton Deane, still awaiting a reply. It was **resolved** the Clerk would follow up..
- 14/148 **Pedestrian lighting by Danesfield School**
It was **resolved** the Clerk would write to Danesfield School and suggest they apply for street lighting from the mitigation fund.
- 14/149 **Venue for Parish Council Meetings**
After a discussion Cllr Woods proposed future meetings were held in the Parish Office and after a vote 3 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention, it was **resolved** to accept the proposal but to keep the item on the agenda for review.
- 14/150 **Planning applications for consideration**

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/28/14/005	Land at Aller Farm, East of Woodford and North of Monksilver, Williton, TA4 4HH	Resubmission of 3/28/13/005	Objections on the grounds of the comments raised by the neighbouring parishes as it did not support the Government advice regarding location within an outstanding natural environment and on the grounds of the implication of heavy traffic that would need to access the site at Bridge Farm.
3/39/14/034	Tropiquaria	Removal of existing cage and play equipment and replacement with 3 new cages	Noted

14/151 Notification of planning decisions - Noted

Application No	Location	Comment
3/39/14/027	Abbey Barn, A39 Washford, TA23 0NS	Refused
3/39/14/028	Abbey Barn, A39, Washford, TA23 0NS	Refused

14/152 It was resolved to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting

14/153 Personnel matters

14/153.1 It was unanimously **resolved** to pay the Assistant Clerk 12 hours overtime for November at the rate of time and a half, after a proposal from Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Woods.

14/154 Matters for the next meeting to be held on 5th January 2014

Precept

Provisions

Working party for Doniford footpath

Meeting closed at 9.10pm