

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 7th March 2016 at 6.45 pm
at the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton.

Attendees:

Councillors Vaughan (Acting Chair), Aldridge, Bigwood, Denton (left during item 15/226.4), Kirkham, Parbrook, Perrett (left after item 15/231), Richards, Vaughan and White

SCC None

WSC Cllr Aldridge

Avon and Somerset Constabulary None

Press None

Clerk Mrs Michelle Francis

Public None

Other None

Apologies:

Councillors Bennett, McDonald, Peeks and Davies

John Turner from Visit Somerset addressed the council on what Visit Somerset are doing to encourage and attract more tourism and leisure / inward investment into the county of Somerset.

15/216 Apologies as noted above.

15/217 Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Richards	15/219.5, 15/222, 15/221, 15/226.5, 15/237, 15/241	Pecuniary, WSC Employee	Informed meeting
Cllr Richards	15/235, 15/239, 15/240	Pecuniary, WSC Employee	Left Room
Cllr Aldridge	15/235	Member WSC Planning Committee	Left Room

15/218 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st February 2016

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

15/219 Matters to Report from the Minutes

15/219.1 (Item 15/198.1) Hinkley C – There had been no further update, other than had been reported in the national press regarding the resignation of the EDF Finance Director. After a proposal from Cllr Vaughan, seconded by Cllr White it was unanimously **resolved** to move this to a standard item on the agenda. *(Since the meeting the Clerk had taken advice and the removal of this item was unlawful as the item had not been resolved. As the purpose of the item was to receive reports only, it would re-appear on the April agenda under matters to report).*

15/219.2 (Item 15/198.3) Regional Youth Council Cllr Denton reported that he had attended a meeting with Cllr McDonald and Kirstie Brown, Youth and Community Officer. As a result of the meeting the Parish Council were offered a discretionary grant of £500.00 towards the set up costs of a Youth Parish Council. The Clerk confirmed the offer had been verbally accepted and forms were ready for signature by the Chair. Cllr Vaughan proposed that this item was removed from the agenda; the Clerk advised it would not be good practise to take this item off the agenda as it had not been resolved; the proposal was seconded by Cllr Denton and it was unanimously **resolved** to remove this item from the agenda. *(Since the meeting the Clerk had taken advice and the removal of this item was unlawful as the item had not been resolved, therefore, it would re-appear as a standard item on the April agenda).*

15/219.3 (Item 15/186.3) Community Bus Service – Doniford to Williton – Cllr Aldridge informed the members this item could involve a risk to finances and advised it could not be seen as a profit making venture. Market research needed to be undertaken to ascertain how many parishioners would benefit and what the benefit would be to the community. Cllr Aldridge expressed his idea of seeing Williton as a rural service centre. It was **resolved** Cllr Aldridge would liaise with Cllr Kirkham and prepare a questionnaire. After a proposal from Cllr Vaughan it was unanimously **resolved** to move this to a standard agenda item.

- 15/219.4 (Item 15/186.3) Community Bus Service – Employment Hub – After a proposal from Cllr Vaughan, seconded by Cllr Aldridge it was unanimously **resolved** to link the two items of Community Bus Service into a single action.
- 15/219.5 (Item 15/208) West Somerset Local Plan to 2032 - It was **resolved** that Cllr McDonald had submitted the written response. It was **further** resolved that Cllr McDonald would attend the hearing session to be held on 14th March 2016.

15/220 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary / Emergency Liaison Officer

Cllr White reported that PC Ware had been on annual leave and had therefore been unable to obtain the latest crime statistics. Members discussed concern regarding the possible closure of Minehead Police Station and losing community policing.

15/221 Report from Somerset County Councillor

Cllr Vaughan read out a written report that had been received from Cllr Davies.

Cllr Davies advised EDF had noted the problem with the lack of footpath signs and would re-sign in the near future.

County Council Revenue Budget.

1. A Council Tax increase of 1.99%
2. Introduction of an additional Council Tax Precept equivalent to an increase on S.C.C.s Council Tax of 2% for “Adult Social Care” only.
3. A new Tax Precept for the “Somerset Rivers Authority” equivalent to an increase on S.C.C.s Council Tax of 1.25%.

Making a grand total of 5.24% highest in England. The opposition attempted to separate these recommendations thus able to vote on the merits of each item, sadly overruled.

Application for St Peters School pedestrian crossing I am very pleased to confirm it has been recommended for inclusion in programme 2016 /2017. Key decision to be made 9th March 2016 and decision comes into force 17th March 2016.

Community Transport - Great News. No reduction in the discretionary subsidy for Free Bus pass holders using Community Transport, i.e. Watchet & Williton Wheels, strong lobbying prove successful.

Devolution - Ambitious plans for the region were approved by full Council. The bid has been agreed by 23 local Partners including County Council and all 5 District Councils in Somerset.

Potholes - New initiative Public who report potholes can now receive email updates to track the repair process. Online at www.somerset.gov.uk/reportapothole This may not work with some devices and browsers. Also the email notification system is available through Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

The Cabinet meeting arranged to discuss the South West Devolution Bid did not go ahead because of the necessary paperwork was not available. Consequently, the special meeting to have taken place the following week has been delayed till February.

SCC has opted for an early exit from Southwest One contract (the joint venture between IBM, SCC, Taunton Deane Borough Council and the Police) ahead of its scheduled end date of November 2017 to save money. Circa 200 staff seconded into Southwest One will be returning to the Councils employment.

15/222 Report from West Somerset District Councillors – Williton Ward

Cllr Aldridge apologised for not attending the previous meeting, due to ill health.

Cllr Aldridge advised there had been a cut in grants to voluntary organisations, despite a proposal that had been put forward to amend the budget. Concern was expressed on the impact this would have on parishioners. West Somerset Council had been awarded an extra £159,000.00 from Central Government in recognition of services being more expensive to deliver in rural areas; it was reported this money had been put into reserves instead of considering the amendment that had been put forward.

Cllr Aldridge advised he had refused to vote on the District Plan as he felt it had been badly put together at the 11th hour. It was reported there was not enough land over the next 5 years to release for housing and land to the east of Watchet being proposed had not featured in the original 20 year plan.

15/223 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

- 15/223.1
- The Clerk reminded members of the Public Meeting to be held at Danesborough View Common Room, Tuesday 15th March 2016.
 - Dates of training sessions had been received from Sam Winter, SALC – members were advised
 - Temporary road closure notice had been received, West Street/Cleeve Hill from 8th March 2016
 - Structural maintenance/footway works A39 Fore Street, commencing 8th March 2016
 - West Somerset District Council car parks, public notice, which had been previously forwarded.
 - Somerset Choices website event, would be held on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at West Somerset Council offices

15/224 Correspondence

- 15/224.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log.
- 15/224.2 A request for a letter of support had been received from Ben Bryant, Coastal Wildlife Project Officer, after a proposal from Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Vaughan it was unanimously **resolved** the Clerk would respond with a letter of support.
- 15/224.3 It was **resolved** to note this item.
- 15/224.4 It was **resolved** to note this item.
- 15/224.5 After a proposal from Cllr Bigwood, seconded by Cllr Kirkham it was unanimously **resolved** to nominate Cllr McDonald for Volunteer of the Year 2016.

15/225 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee

It was **resolved** to note the report. Cllr Richards answered questions from Cllr Vaughan regarding the license to plant bulbs and the printing museum.

Prince of Wales Award – after a proposal from Cllr Richards, seconded by Cllr White it was unanimously **resolved** to nominate the West Somerset Flood Group for this award.

15/226 Report from Finance & Admin Committee

- 15/226.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 31st January 2016.
- 15/226.2 (Item 15/80.2A) Land between St Peters Close and High Street. The Clerk advised members a reply had been received from Magna Housing Association confirming they owned the stone arch, but nothing beyond it. Cllr Vaughan acknowledged it would be a 10 year process to claim the land. The Clerk advised members of the possible cost implications such as re-surfacing the asphalt, sorting the drainage and replacement of the barriers. After a proposal from Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Richards it was unanimously **resolved** to proceed to obtain further advice from NALC and refer back to EPC.
- 15/226.3 (Item 15/82.2A) A discussion took place regarding the request for match funding for the proposed pedestrian crossings to support the application for the CIM fund. After a proposal from Cllr Denton, seconded by Cllr Aldridge it was unanimously **resolved** to add to the provisions a total of £10,000.00 towards the proposed scheme.
- 15/226.4 (Item 15/87A) After a discussion regarding the running costs of the Parish Office it was unanimously **resolved** not to change the rates of hire, as proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Kirkham.
- 15/226.5 (Item 15/89A) This item would be discussed at item 15/238.
- 15/226.6 (Item 15/90A) After a proposal from Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Perrett it was unanimously **resolved** that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk would start the CiLCA qualification.
- It was unanimously **resolved** that Cllr Parbrook would join the FAC committee after a proposal from Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Perrett.

15/227 To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee

There were no payments

15/228 Highways

It was **resolved** to note the reply from David Peake regarding the carriageway surfaces and associated patching work.

- 15/229 Annual Parish Assembly**
The Annual Parish Assembly would be held on Wednesday 27th April 2016 at St Peters School. It was **resolved** to include on the agenda pedestrian crossings, Washford roundabout and the Pavilion. It was further **resolved** the Clerk would invite Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellow to speak at the assembly on the future of West Somerset Council. Cllr Aldridge gave his apologies for this meeting.
- 15/230 (Item 15/75.1A) Neighbourhood Plan**
The Clerk advised notification had been received from Keeley Rudd, CCS, advising 'it appeared West Somerset Council was not intending to adopt a CIL policy'. It was noted that no response had been received from the letter the Clerk had sent to West Somerset Council. Cllr Vaughan proposed this item was removed from the agenda; the Clerk advised it would not be good practise to take this item off the agenda. It was **resolved** to remove this item. *(Since the meeting the Clerk had taken advice and the removal of this item was unlawful as the item had not been resolved and no specific reason given for its removal, therefore, it would re-appear on the April agenda).*
- 15/231 Report from Events Committee**
A report from the meeting held on 29th February 2016 had been circulated. It was noted with regret that Love Williton had closed but had kindly donated £404.39 for the purpose of hanging baskets to enhance the village. It was **resolved** this amount would be added to the provisions list.
- 15/232 Report from Community Speed Watch Group**
It was **resolved** to note the report.
- 15/233 Report from Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee**
It was **resolved** to note the report.
- 15/234 Planning applications for consideration**
A discussion of the application took place, after which a named vote was held. Cllrs Bigwood, Vaughan and White proposed the refusal of the application. Cllrs Kirkham and Parbrook proposed the acceptance of the application. As the result of the vote of three for and two against, it was **resolved** to recommend refusal of the application on the grounds commented below.
- 15/235**
- | Application No | Location | Details | Comment |
|----------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 3/39/16/002 | Land at Bank Street, Williton | Erection of up to 480 sq.m. gross of flexible A1/A2 floorspace to include vehicular and pedestrian access and landscaping including pedestrian link to Fore Street (re-submission of 3/39/14/024). | The Parish Council maintains its current position of objecting to the application on the grounds as stated previously, which included the Inner Relief Road, concern of a further roundabout causing traffic gridlock and the loss of Lloyds Bank. |
- 15/236 (Item 15/213) Report from Williton Twinning**
Cllr Aldridge reported on the meeting he had attended and that an AGM would be held towards the end of April, however, the date was yet to be confirmed. Cllr Vaughan enquired after the articles of association and Cllr Aldridge reported he had been informed by Mrs P Bryant that it was believed the documents were destroyed in a house fire. Cllr Vaughan expressed his disappointment that no contact details were held between the Parish Council and the Mayor of Neung Sur Beuvron.
- 15/237 (Item 15/211) Repercussions of District Council decision to abolish free parking for Blue Badge holders**
It was **resolved** to defer this item to the next meeting due to time restraints.
- 15/238 It was resolved to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting**
- 15/239 (Item 15/170.5) Public Toilets**
There had been no further update. Cllr Parbrook referred to the recent article in the Somerset County Gazette regarding the toilets at Wiveliscombe and expressed caution at the cost of £1.20 per person, each time their toilets were used.
- 15/240 To agree contractor to carry out Ground Maintenance on Parish Council Land**
The Clerk distributed copies of the five tenders that had been received, with a brief report on each. After a proposal from Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Kirkham, it was **resolved** to award the ground maintenance contract to West Somerset Council for one year, at the cost of £6,850.00 plus vat on the basis they held the required valid qualifications. The Trustees had advised that the playground inspections would take place fortnightly. After a proposal from Cllr Vaughan, it was further **resolved** to set aside £1,500.00 in the provisions for the cutting of Somerset County Council grass. The removal of the Kier bin would be recommended to the Trustees.
- 15/241 To agree contractor to carry out Weed Spraying**
After a proposal from Cllr Bigwood, seconded by Cllr Parbrook it was unanimously **resolved** to award the weed spraying contract to Complete Weed Control at a cost of £700.00 plus vat for two treatments.

15/242 To agree contractor to re-render Parish Office

After a proposal from Cllr Parbrook, seconded by Cllr White it was unanimously **resolved** to instruct B Walsh & Sons Ltd to re-point and re-render around the small office window at a cost of £28.00 + vat.

15/243 Matters for the next meeting to be held on Monday 4th April 2016

Year End audit
Parish Assembly

Meeting Closed at 9.50 pm