

# WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 at 7.00 pm  
At Council Chambers of District Council, Williton

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## Attendees:

Chairman	McDonald
SCC Councillors	None
WSDC Councillors	May
Parish Councillors	Vaughan, Woods, Koch, Bruford, Peeks, Troman
Clerk	Mrs J Johnson-Smith
Public	16 members
Press	
Others	

## Apologies:

Councillors	James, Bigwood
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13/01 **Apologies as noted above.**

13/02 **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes

13/03 **Matters Arising**

There were none.

13/04 **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave details of the 3 new members, Cllrs Bennett, Troman and Bruford, during the previous year and advised the resignations of Cllrs Hall and Gower. The Parish Office continued to thrive with regular bookings from the community and artists exhibiting their work. The Assistant Clerk, Claire Richards resigned during the year and her position was taken up by Sarah Towells.

Business discussed during the last year included the following:

- EDF - Proposed roundabout at Washford Cross
- Devolution of Services – Parish Council have agreed to take over the grass cutting and weed spraying of SCC land
- Bridge Green (The Copse) and Doniford Car Park – a new lease has been signed with the landlords
- Bellamy's Corner - a magnolia tree and plaque were added to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee
- Wyndham Charity – this charity makes small donations to those in need and the Chairman sat on the Committee
- Community Hall – The transfer of the charity funds had taken place and the Parish Council was now Trustee
- Youth – a grant had been given from Somerset County Council to fund the youth service for one year which had been taken over by Minehead Eye

Some of the projects being undertaken last year were as follows

- Village Clock
- Village Signs
- Celebrations for the Queens Jubilee
- Street Art
- Exhibition of the history of Williton
- Christmas Illuminations

Projects presently being undertaken were as follows:

- Sustainable verges
- Community Hall
- Pavilion
- Parish Plan
- Flood Plan

**13/05 Financial Report**

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Cllr Vaughan, gave the meeting a detailed breakdown of the accounts for last year and the budget for the forthcoming year. The year end at 31/3/13 total spend was £88,500, £10920 under budget. The budget for 2013-2014 had been set at £102,099 with a precept of £90,000. The main consideration for the increase was ground maintenance for SCC land and the local tax benefit scheme risk contingency. The variance per household equated to an increase of £11.03 per household (increase of 13.3%).

**13/06 Williton Community Hall Update**

Cllr Vaughan gave an update of the financial position explaining that the opening balance on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 was £26,167 and the balance on 31/3/13 was £31,626. Parish Council also held £16,367 on account for the charity. He also gave a project update which included writing a new Business Plan.

**13/07 Improvements to the Recreation Ground**

Cllr Vaughan outlined the proposal to replace the existing changing rooms with a new building with separate toilets, improved accessibility and sporting and recreational facilities. Questionnaires had been circulated throughout Williton and some of the analysis had been completed with 83.5% agreeing for the replacement of the building. Plans had been shown to the meeting and there was some discussion on these with suggestions of either making the building larger or on 2 floors in order to accommodate more people.

**13/08 Flooding**

The Chairman updated the parishioners on the various meetings that had been held with professional bodies and that further consultations were being arranged. Some concern was expressed regarding the state of Union Lane and it was advised that a lot of work had been done in clearing the land but the neighbouring houses still continued to put debris into the ditch. The matter would be discussed at the next Environment and Planning Committee meeting.

**13/09 Parish Plan**

The Chairman advised that several meetings had been held and advice was being sought from a consultant. The group would like to canvass the village and ask for their views regarding its future and he urged the parishioners to respond.

**13/10 Any Other Parish Issues**

A proposal was made by Elizabeth Peeks, seconded by Diane Hooper to ask the Parish Council to consider merging the Williton Community Hall and Williton War Memorial Recreation Ground charities. This proposal was carried by 15 for and 5 against.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm