

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 27th April 2015 at 7.00 pm
At St Peter's School, Williton

Attendees:

Chairman	McDonald
SCC Councillors	
WSC Councillors	
Parish Councillors	Bennett, Bigwood, Koch, Peeks, Stiven, Vaughan
Clerk	Mrs M Francis
Public	11 members
Press	
Others	PCSO Thompson

Apologies:

Councillors	Denton
Public	

15/01 Apologies as noted above.

15/02 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th April 2014

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes

15/03 Matters Arising

There were none.

15/04 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave details of one new member, Cllr Stiven, during the previous year and advised the up-coming retirement of Cllrs Woods, James and Stiven. The Parish Office continued to thrive with regular bookings from the community and artists exhibiting their work. The previous Clerk had retired in September 2014; Michelle Francis was announced as the new Clerk with Sarah Towells as Deputy Clerk.

Business discussed during the last year included the following:

- EDF – The roundabout at Washford Cross was an ongoing project due to be completed, at present on schedule, December 2015
- Bridge Green (The Copse) and Doniford Car Park – the Council continued to maintain these areas
- Bellamy's Corner – the Council continued to maintain this area, the bulbs were doing well, as was the Magnolia which had been planted for the Queen's Jubilee
- Verge at Casino Lane – this had now been planted with wildflowers
- Community Speed Watch – regular patrols were taking place throughout the village, but volunteers were needed to continue with the project
- Wyndham Charity – this charity makes small donations to those in need and the Chairman sat on the Committee
- Community Hall – The Parish Council is the Trustee of the Community Hall – it was reported there were ongoing discussions with a view to amalgamating the charities
- Youth – the Council continued to support the youth club which was run by Minehead Eye and numbers of attendees were increasing
- Pavilion Project – full details later in the meeting
- Website – this continued to be updated

Some of the projects that had been undertaken last year were as follows:

- Flood Plan – had now been completed and wardens appointed. Full details later in the meeting.
- Toilets – working with District Council to keep facilities open
- Defibrillator – this had been installed in Spar and training carried out
- Dog Litter Bin – had been installed at Watchet Hill
- Community Clean Up of Union Lane – Councillors and residents had given their time to clean this area twice this year
- Paul's Memorial Bench – this had been installed on 5th February 2015
- New road signs for Doniford

Projects presently being undertaken were as follows:

- Maintaining the work that had been carried out
- Community Hall
- Pavilion
- Flood Plan – to continue to monitor and improve
- New footpaths
- Memorial Event to mark VE/VJ Day and Armed Forces Day

The Parish Council also represented other outside bodies and attended regular meetings. These included

- West Somerset Voluntary Sector Forum – dealing with welfare issues
- Magna Housing
- West Somerset Council
- IPCC – liaising with police on community issues
- Watchet/Williton/Quantocks Area Panel
- Transport Forum
- Parish Council Open meetings
- West Somerset Flood Group/District Flood Board

The Chairman summed up his report by advising the meeting of the office opening hours and the availability of staff to help with any queries or issues the parishioners may have.

15/05 Financial Report

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Cllr Vaughan, gave the meeting a detailed breakdown of the accounts for the previous year and the budget for the forthcoming year. The year end at 31/3/15 total spend was £87,747.39, £14,352 under budget. The budget for 2015-2016 had been set at £103,137.00 with a precept of £86,000. Staffing costs were down by 13%. The subsidy for the Memorial Ground was down because of the way it was managed; the insurance was now paid by the Parish Council. Notification 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 letter received from Central Government the Parish Council were querying this decision. It was noted that Watchet Town Council were also doing the same.

15/06 Flood Report

The Chairman presented the Flood Report, with the following as the main points;

- A Flood Plan was available on the PC website
- Flood Wardens were listed in the plan and had regular meetings
- Work that had been completed, Sluice/Mamsey House, Doniford/Liddymore Road and parallel fields.
- Funding for equipment had been granted from the Environment Agency for £2,039.00 and items had been ordered
- Williton had been short listed by the government and EA for a future Flood Management Grant (the only village in West Somerset) because of our vulnerability to flooding in the past. It was reported the EA would be carrying out a feasibility study in the near future.

The Chairman thanked the volunteers for their hard work and encouraged parishioners to look at the work that had been carried out.

Questions were raised regarding the blocked drains on the industrial estate. It was reported that two properties, between Gliddons and Shutgate Meadow, had filled in the flood ditch at the bottom of their gardens, local residents were concerned this could be a flood problem. These matters would be taken to the next Parish Council meeting.

The voluntary group were thanked for the work done to date with regards to Robert Street, however, concern was expressed that when the Pavilion was built the land at the entrance to the Memorial Ground should not be raised due to increased flooding risk. It was reported that John Reed has been spoken to before planning had been granted and it was confirmed measures would be put in place. It was noted this would be properly looked at and considered.

15/07 Pavilion Project Update

Cllr Vaughan updated the meeting on the progress of the project. Since the last meeting it was reported the first planning application had been rejected, but once relocated to the site shown near the surgery, planning had been granted on the 4th December 2014. The widening of the entrance to Memorial Ground from Robert Street was discussed which would give the opportunity to look at the levels and should help/improve flooding issues by guiding the flow of water into the river. Drainage on the football pitch would be looked at; as would the remembrance garden with the Royal British Legion. The floor area had been changed to specification of Football Foundation, Sport England and EDF which allows the possibility of attracting £1 million funding. Local groups had been invited to join the Working Group Party; any other volunteers from the Parish were welcome. It was reported that CCTV would be installed shortly which had been funded by the Police. Questions were raised regarding the facility for parking on-site and the impact on the current carparks in Killick Way. It was suggested, from the floor, that most attendees would walk to the Pavilion, with the footpaths from various routes. Concern was raised regarding the increased traffic through Robert Street and it was suggested that 'no left turn' be implemented to guide traffic through Killick Way. It was questioned if the traffic plan in Williton could be addressed.

15/08 Parish Defibrillator and training details

The Chairman advised that more training was due to take place and if any parishioner wanted to be involved to contact the Parish office.

15/09 Any Other Parish Issues

A report from PSCO Thompson was read out and the latest crime statistics were noted. It was reported that Fly-tipping had become a problem and that one case had gone to court. 'Farmwatch' and 'Horsewatch' schemes were promoted and if anyone wanted to sign up to these schemes they were asked to contact PCSO Thompson or PCSO Bolton. 'Keeping in Touch' leaflets were distributed.

The following questions were raised;

- ❖ The street lights at Five Bells had been on during the day and had been since Christmas. It was acknowledged there had been a problem and contact had been made from the Parish Office on numerous occasions.
- ❖ Dog Bins – the emptying of bins at the Copse and Bridge Street was discussed - it was reported that full carrier bags of dog mess were being left by the bins.
- ❖ It was reported the alleyway and over the hedge between Danesborough View and Long Street was covered in litter.
- ❖ Requirement of planning permission to install a lamppost was queried, as the new lights by Butts Close were extremely bright - it was suggested to contact Magna.

Eddie May was presented with a Coat of Arms for his retirement after a collection from the Parish Councillors.

The Chairman thanked all for attending.

Meeting closed at 9.10pm