

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 27th April 2016 at 7.00 pm
At St Peter's School, Williton

Attendees:

Chairman	McDonald
SCC Councillors	
WSC Councillors	Cllr A Trollope-Bellew
Parish Councillors	Bennett, Bigwood, Peeks, Perrett, Richards, Vaughan
Clerk	Mrs M Francis
Public	8 members
Press	
Others	Garry Austin-Thompson, Fire Brigade.

Apologies:

Councillors	
Public	Jenny Gibson

16/01 Apologies as noted above.

16/02 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th April 2015

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes

16/03 Matters Arising

Mr E May reported that dog mess was still a problem on the Memorial Ground.

16/04 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave details of new members, Cllrs Aldridge, Kirkham, Parbrook, Perrett and Richards, during the previous year and advised the resignation of Cllr Koch. The Parish Office continued to thrive with regular bookings from the community and artists exhibiting their work. West Somerset Council was contracted for the maintenance of all the grounds. The Parish Council was grateful that members of the community had been giving their time and resources in maintaining the areas such as Bellamy's Corner and Union Lane. It was reported the Clerks were currently undertaking their CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration).

Business discussed during the last year included the following:

- EDF – The roundabout at Washford Cross had been completed.
- 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
- Community Speed Watch – regular patrols were taking place throughout the village and are now starting to see the successful effects of the work done by the volunteers, but we, 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
- Youth – the Council continued to support the youth club which was run by Minehead Eye and there is a regular programme published detailing the activities that are taking place. We are presently talking to the organisers with regard to the children engaging more with the Parish Council through the Youth Council.
- Pavilion Project – The project continues, full details later in the meeting
- Website – this continued to be updated you can access it to obtain up to date information on what has been happening in our meetings.

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 is located in Spar and training carried out. This had recently been used and were pleased to announce it had saved a life.
- Dog Litter Bin – is being well used at Watchet Hill.
- Community Clean Up of Union Lane and Doniford – Councillors and residents had given their time to clean this area twice this year.
- Danesfield School were taking on a project of cleaning and recycling.
- ‘Clean for the Queen’ – this nationwide scheme was undertaken on the 5th March in both Williton and Doniford.
- On 21st April the Beacon was lit to celebrate Queen Elizabeth’s 90th Birthday.
- The Flood Group had been shortlisted for the Prince of Wales Award; judges were visiting the following week. In recognition of the hard work, two members had been invited to have breakfast with HRH Prince of Wales at the Bath and West Show.

Forthcoming Events

- Duck Race and Car Boot Sale – May 29th
- Croft House 5th Birthday Garden Party – 11th June
- Williton Fete – 9th July
- Christmas Festival – 7th December
- Christmas Carol Service – 14th December

Projects presently being undertaken were as follows:

- Maintaining the work that had been carried out
- Pavilion
- Flood Plan – to continue to monitor and improve
- New footpaths
- Doniford Halt
- Armed Forces Day – 20th June 2016. Other commemorations this year will include remembering those who fell at the Battle of Jutland and the Somme.

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.

16/05 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 31/3/16 total spend was £81,583, £21,554 under budget. The budget for 2016-2017 had been set at £97,131.00 with a precept of £86,000. Ground Maintenance was down to 3% due to outsourcing and a better understanding managing tenders.

16/06 The Future of West Somerset Council – Cllr A Trollope-Bellew

Cllr Trollope-Bellew addressed the meeting on the future of West Somerset Council and gave the following comments

- West Somerset is the smallest District Council by population in the Country with 71% in protected landscape (Exmoor and Quantocks)
- No dual carriageways and no mail rail connection
- Highest % of over 65's in England
- West Somerset is unique.
- Advised unsustainable eight years ago
- 27% decrease cut in Government funding

Four years ago West Somerset were told to save money so amalgamated some areas with Taunton Deane and saved £300,000.00. In May last year, Hinkley Point B was re-rated and business rates decreased by £300,000.00 so all savings that had been made were gone. West Somerset Council had to pay £1.6m to the Government regarding business rates, which had not been received in the first place. A balanced budget had been set this year. After the funding of public conveniences ceases next year a saving of £200,000.00 per year would be made.

It was advised that the future of West Somerset Council looked bleak and three business plan options were being considered;

1. Option One - create a single, district council for Taunton Deane and West Somerset to replace the two existing councils.
2. Option Two – one team delivering services to both Taunton Deane and West Somerset
3. Option Three – continue separately

A question and answer session took place.

16/07 Proposed Pedestrian Crossings

The proposed crossing outside St Peter's First School had been recommended for inclusion in programme 2016 /2017.

16/08 Pavilion Project Update

KEY EVENTS

- Williton Community Hall Charity – closed September 2015
- Principle objectives now being addressed by the Pavilion
- All funds and assets transferred to the Williton War Memorial Recreation Ground charity.
- Sport England application £500,000.00. Criteria not met
- Funding priority this year – swimming projects
- Fund oversubscribed applications total >£74m
- Foundation appears to favour larger community projects
- Pitch improvement grant £10,000.00 – difficult to access.

- EDF community impact mitigation fund
Application £250,000.00 successful
- EDF leisure budget
Application £70,000.00 successful
- West Somerset Council S106 planning gain money
Application £149,000.00 successful
£21,000.00 time limited 15th September 2016
- Community Council for Somerset, Village SOS fund
Application successful £1,215.00
Money claimed to offset Big Lottery stage 2 application costs

PROJECT UPDATE

- Funding to be released to allow us to proceed with improvement to the War Memorial
 - Hard standing/assembly area
 - Footpath linking the long street entrance with the War Memorial seating and planting
 - Installation of a lamp standard & additional CCTV cameras
 - Charity will need to provide top up funding
 - Working with the Royal British Legion we have agreed a design with the intention of
 - creating an area of “quiet contemplation”

PROJECT TIMETABLE

- Big Lottery decision – May 2016
- Redesign grant awarded – June 2016
- Redesign work complete – October 2016
- Produce updated business plan and capital project delivery plan – November 2016
- Subject to a positive decision, stage 3 big lottery funding release Dec 2016
- Tender phase 1 qtr 2017
- Construction phase commence 2nd qtr 2017
- Complete phase 1 pavilion – 1st qtr 2018
- Complete phase 2 muga – 4th qtr 2018
- Complete phase 3 remodelling old building – 4th qtr 2019

16/09 **Any Other Parish Issues**

The following questions were raised;

- ❖ Myra Barratt enquired regarding the finger post sign outside the Co-op. County Council were responsible for the maintenance, however, due to budget restrictions were trying to roll out a programme to involve volunteers. The Parish Council may consider this project at Environment and Planning.
- ❖ Eddie May asked what was going to happen with the Lime Kiln – this had been raised at Environment and Planning and it had been agreed to contact the landowner with concerns.

The Chairman thanked all for attending.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm