

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th January 2020 at 7.00 pm
at the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton.

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Aldridge, Nye, Peeks, Stanford, White and Woods
SCC	Cllr Davies
SWAT	Cllrs Aldridge, Davies and Whetlor (left at item 19/214 at 7.41pm)
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	None
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Hooper and Howes
Other	None

19/204 The Chairman advised that the meeting would be recorded

19/205 Apologies as noted above

19/206 Declarations of Interest

It was **resolved** unanimously to allow the Council to grant dispensations for all Councillors residing in the Parish of Williton who had duly signed the dispensation form before setting of the precept.

19/207 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 2019

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting after two slight alternations to wording.
Proposed Cllr Woods; seconded Cllr White.

19/208 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only - There were none

19/209 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary No report had been received

19/210 Report from Somerset County Councillor

- Cllr Davies had been approached from the PCSO's requesting help with the parking problems outside St Peters School. It was hoped a meeting would be held on site.
- Williton Pavements – Cllrs Aldridge and Davies had both expressed concerns and made contact with Highways. Cllr Davies had been advised from Highways the issues would be addressed in the new financial year.
- Cleeve Hill Closure – update given. Disappointment noted at not being invited to attend the SCC meeting.
- Roadworks on Taunton Road in Bridgwater 8/1 – 15/1, 6.30pm – 11.30pm
- SCC had allocated £200K towards Dementia projects
- School expansions for Bridgwater College (£8m) and Bishop Foxes (£7m)
- Cllr Aldridge asked for confirmation how schools and in particular academies are funded. Concerned as public money being used and would like to know if public investment ends up on private assets and who ends up owning the buildings and the land. Cllr Davies will obtain an answer.

19/211 Report from Somerset West and Taunton Councillors – Watchet and Williton Ward

Cllr Whetlor reported on recent events at Cleeve Hill, Watchet which had an impact on diverted traffic through Williton. Advance warning that heavy loads will be passing through the Parish during repairs. Cllr Whetlor had attended the Ice Rink in Taunton 5 times to help. Official figures were awaited but it appeared to be a success and will not affect council tax bill. However, cannot confirm if there would be an effect on bills regarding the hole in the harbour wall at Watchet.

Cllr Aldridge had been unaware when he voted in favour of the ice rink that officers and councillors would be used to run the ice rink and had concerns regarding the additional wage costs.

Cllr Woods reported the Doniford Road had been cut off again recently due to flooding and please be aware of the problems regarding planning applications. Cllr Whetlor confirmed photographs had been taken of the flooding and would be presented to planning.

Cllr Davies would confirm if the lights at Long Street and Limpetshell Lane were working.

Cllr Payne commented on the EDF free bus that had been impacted due to the road closure at Cleeve Hill. Cllr Davies confirmed he had spoken to the company who supply the service and offered an alternative route; this had been tested and confirmed they would be happy to use the route if necessary.

19/212 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

- Cllr Aldridge would write the next Williton Window report.
- Somerset West and Taunton Council Local Plan consultation would take place from Monday 13th January until Monday 16th March 2020. A drop in session for questions would be held on 30th January 2020 at West Somerset House, 2pm – 7pm – information had been forwarded to members.
- SALC were requesting nominations of former Chairman to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 19th May 2020. It was **resolved** to nominate Mr Robert McDonald, if he was available on that date. **Action: Clerk**

19/213 Correspondence

- 19/213.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log
- 19/213.2 Citizens UK Somerset, Transport Committee, had requested information regarding problems experienced on the Number 28 bus. Comments were made which the Clerk would forward.
- 19/213.3 SWAT Planning Application 3/39/18/017 – An appeal had been made to the secretary of State against the District Council's decision to refuse planning; further comments or representation had been invited. After a proposal from Cllr Peeks, seconded by Cllr Stanford, it was **resolved** with an abstention from Cllr Aldridge to submit the following further comments including how the Council agreed with the officers report and the reason for refusal. The Parish Council wanted the bungalows kept as holiday bungalows; more reliance on cars would be necessary as public transport had decreased since the previous appeal in 2013; concern regarding flooding issues at the entrance and on Doniford Road. **Action: Clerk**
- 19/213.4 A letter of thanks had been received from Williton PCC for the donation towards the running costs of Williton Window.
- 19/213.5 SCC School Admission Arrangements 2021/2022 consultation – previously forwarded to members.
- 19/213.6 West Somerset Advice Annual Report – a copy was available in the office – noted.

19/214 Planning Applications for consideration - Cllr Aldridge left the room for this item. Cllr Whetlor left the meeting.

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/39/19/036	Kingsmead Farm, Williton to Bridgwater Road, West Quantoxhead	Erection of single storey extension on the front elevation	No objection

19/215 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee

There was no report this month

19/216 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee

There was no report this month

- 19/216.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 30th November 2019.

19/217 Final Budget and Precept 2020-2021

The budget had been finalised at the previous meeting – no alterations were made.

Members were presented with varying options due to the tax base being reduced to 906.10 from 937.69 the previous year. Cllr Peeks proposed to request a precept of £91,119.91, which would see an increase of 2.5%, equating to £100.56 based on a Band D property. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Nye and unanimously **resolved**.

The precept form would be duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk. **Action: Chairman and Clerk**

19/218 To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee

It was **resolved** to pay the following invoices. Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Aldridge – carried.

Date	Details	Cheque No	Invoice No	Total Bank £	Cash	VAT £
06/01/2020	WWMRG Pavilion booking for Youth Club	3512	188/19-20	300.00		0.00
06/01/2020	Somerset County Council Pension 4220 Pensions	3516	60837001	178.00		0.00
06/01/2020	Countrywide Ground Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	3517	90432	837.98		139.66
06/01/2020	Countrywide Ground Maintenance 4560 SCC Ground Maintenance	3518	90431	177.00		29.50
06/01/2020	Martin James Consultancy 4815 Consultants/H&S	3519	481	60.00		10.00
06/01/2020	Maitland Walker Doniford Car Park	3520	T01441	502.80		81.80
06/01/2020	Mervyn Hillier IT Support	3521	1729	84.00		0.00

19/219 Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed an asbestos survey had been booked and would be undertaken in the office the following day.

19/220 Difficulties of communicating with District Council

Cllr Aldridge, in District Council capacity, would establish if there was a charge to call the SWAT 0300 number.

Action: Cllr Aldridge

19/221 Growing responsibilities for staff

Cllr Aldridge requested the Personnel committee look at the extra responsibilities now requested from staff to ensure they are not overloaded and that the hours are reasonable. Extra calls were being received for the District Council – calls would be logged and monitored. Watchet and Minehead Town Council would be asked if they are also experiencing an increase in calls since the formation of the new District Council.

Action: Clerk and Personnel Committee

19/222 Events Sub Committee

19/222.1 Christmas Festival – Cllr Payne gave a verbal update on the Christmas Festival reporting the event was a success and thanked all for their time and effort.

19/223 Scam Marshalls

It was resolved Cllr Nye would obtain further information for the next meeting. Cllr Payne asked members to be extra vigilant on the origination of emails.

Action: Cllr Nye

19/224 Communication with Parishioners via Social Media

After a proposal from Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Peeks, it was **resolved** the Clerk would set up a Facebook page for the Parish Council as an electronic noticeboard, where no comments could be made. This would enable information to be published but would not require monitoring as it was felt this could take up too much time.

Action: Clerk

19/225 Public Conveniences

No update

19/226 Doniford Car Park

It was resolved to note the final Deed of Surrender regarding the Lease of Doniford Car Park had been completed and received. Cllr Peeks volunteered to return the padlock keys to the owner and at the same time ask if the information board that belonged to Natural England, could be relocated.

Action: Cllr Peeks

The Clerk would complete the client satisfaction survey – it was felt a good service had been received.

19/227 Bellamys Corner

There had been no further update.

19/228 Councillor Training

It was **resolved** Cllrs Payne, Nye and Stanford would attend the 'Code of Conduct Explained' course being held on Thursday 20th February 2020 at Somerton. Cllr Payne would attend the next available 'Being a Successful Chairman' course. **Action: Clerk**

19/229 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 3rd February 2020, Parish Office

There would be a presentation from Project Officer for the Steam Coast Trail regarding creating a cycle and pedestrian-friendly link between Watchet and Williton

Cllr Davies left at 8.54pm.

19/230 Personnel – staffing hours

After a proposal from Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Aldridge, it was **resolved** to keep the Clerks hours at the present level for an extra month to enable the Personnel meeting to take place and submit their recommendations back to Full Council. **Action: Personnel Committee**

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed as a true and correct record Cllr Payne Dated 3rd February 2020