

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 13th July 2020 at 7.00pm
Due to Covid-19 and following changes to the government rules during this period, the meeting was held via
Zoom video conferencing

Attendees:

Councillors: Woods (Chairman), Payne, McDonald, Nye. Cllr White joined the meeting at 7.03pm

Public: None

Other: Jo Holmes

Apologies:

Councillors: Peeks

20/01B The Chairman advised that the meeting would be recorded.

20/02B Apologies - as noted above.

20/03B Declarations of Interest.

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Woods	20/08.1B 3/39/20/011	Personal	No comment
<i>(Item 20/08.1B) Cllr Woods declared an interest in this item at start of discussion, no further comments were made and left view of screen.</i>			

20/04B Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 9th March 2020.

After a proposal from Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Nye, it was **resolved** to approve the minutes and was agreed by one other, Cllr McDonald abstained as he was not present at this meeting.

To note Cllr White joined the meeting at 7.03pm.

20/05B Clerks Notices – there were none.

20/06B Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only.

20/06.1B It was **resolved** to note the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance - Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge on 17th May 2020 had been cancelled due to Coronavirus COVID 19 pandemic.

20/07B Correspondence.

20/07.1B It was **resolved** to note the Great British Spring Clean on 28th March 2020 along Union and Watery Lane had been postponed due to COVID-19.
It was proposed by Cllr Woods, seconded by Cllr McDonald, and agreed by all that the Great British September Clean should be held on Saturday 26th September 2020, meeting at Union Lane entrance at 10.00am, Cllr Payne, Cllr Nye and Cllr Woods agreed that they were able to attend.
Prior to clean-up day the Clerk would contact Idverde requesting for the loan of the community litter packs again, if Idverde agree to the loan Cllr Payne offered to collect these from Minehead depot.

20/07.2B (Item 20/24.2) "Welcome to Williton" gateway signs – It was proposed by Cllr White, Seconded Cllr Nye, all in favour to defer any enquiry with County Highway SCC with regards to the updating and renewing of these four entrance signs coming into Williton, as they still have displayed the use of public toilets, Bakelite Museum which is now closed and the Twinning Group. It was thought changing these at the moment may be a little premature considering no decision has been made in respect of the public toilets, or the viability of continuing with the twinning group which would need to be discussed further with Cllr Aldridge.
The location of the gateway sign situated on the A358 from Sampford Brett was also mentioned, Cllr McDonald suggested this being better situated closer to the Williton boundary halfway up Tower Hill. It was agreed that the Cllrs could send their ideas in writing to the Clerk to collate, these then could be discussed at a later date after matters had been finalised in respect of the public toilets and the Twinning Group.

20/07.3B (Item 20/24.2) Bus Shelter at Tropiquaria – The poor condition of this bus shelter was discussed and the Clerk advised County Highway SCC had said they do not own this bus shelter, SWAT had also advised they had passed this enquiry onto their Assets Team, it was agreed to chase for a reply.
It was proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Nye, and all in favour, that if ownerships could not be identified and SWAT deny ownership of this bus shelter then for WPC to consider looking for a sponsor for this bus shelter, in a way of trying to move this matter forward.

- 20/07.4B It was **resolved** to note we are still waiting for a response from County Highway SCC despite having sent chaser emails requesting confirmation of the legal ownership of the Washford Cross roundabout, Cllr Woods advised she had requested for this to be added to the Transport Forum meeting Agenda which is to be held on Thursday 16th July 2020, to firstly ascertain ownership if ED or SCC, and to then request for this to be tidied up and for the maintenance of this roundabout to be continued.
- 20/07.5B It was proposed by Cllr Nye, seconded by Cllr Payne, all in favour to write to the owner of the flat above the Tattoo Parlour and also the owner of Wyndham Arms, advising them that the blocked guttering above their properties is causing problems on the footpath below, to also write to Spar requesting for the downpipe at the side of their building to be extended to ground level, as it is discharging rain water from half way up the wall which is causing problems to pedestrians passing.
- 20/07.6B The erosion to the riverside footpath between Townsend and Catwell was discussed and of Savills/Wyndham Estates reply stating the riverbank is not included in the registered title and is only registered with the Land Registry to the fence line.
It was **resolved** to investigate this further and gather proof, Cllr McDonald had mentioned about a previous site meeting that he had attended when Chairman, along with Savills/Wyndham Estates, Edward Martin, and the Rivers Authority, it was thought Savills/Wyndham Estates owned this piece of land, once documents have been located the Clerk would then forward these on to Savills/Wyndham Estates.
- 20/07.7B It was **resolved** to note Savills/Wyndham Estates had now attended a site visit at the property on Long Lakes where blocked drainage/gulley issues had been reported at the back of their property, this matter is now being dealt with between the resident and Savills/Wyndham Estates.
- 20/07.8B It was **resolved** to note a brochure received from Creative Play; the Clerk would file this.
- 20/07.9B It was **resolved** to note an email received from SWAT regarding sandbags for flood defence, noting residents are responsible for their own property.
- 20/07.10B It was agreed to note we are thankful to Hinkley Point C keeping us informed and updated in respect of the Permit Variation Application.
- 20/07.11B The Clerk would email County Highway SCC notifying them of the road defects on Bridge Street and Half Acre which had been reported to WPC by a Parishioner, and request for these areas to be checked when SCC next carry out their survey, it was agreed Cllr Payne would check the drain outside No. 22 Tower Hill before reporting this as this may now have been cleared since it being reported to WPC.
- 20/07.12B It was **resolved** to write to the property owners of Quantock View flats advising that the hedgerow adjacent to the footpath and grass is now very overgrown, to request that now nesting season has finished if they would please cut this hedge back and maintain these areas so that the public are able to use the footpath safely without having to step onto the road.
It was proposed by Cllr Nye, seconded by Cllr White, and agreed by all for the Clerk to produce a template letter that could be issued to other properties around Williton as and when noticed that the hedges outside their properties have become overgrown and is encroaching onto the footpath, gently remind them of their responsibility to maintain these areas of their properties.

20/08B Planning applications for consideration.

20/08.1B

Application No	Location	Details	Comments
3/39/20/006	62 Sir Gilbert Scott Court, Long Street, Williton, TA4 4RH.	Erection of a timber screen fence (retention of works already undertaken).	WPC reject this application and request for the wooden fences at the front of the site be removed, please also refer to additional comments on attached sheet.
<i>Cllr Woods declared an interest in planning application 3/39/20/011 and left view of the screen and gave no further comment, it was agreed for Cllr Payne to chair in Cllr Woods absence.</i>			
3/39/20/011	Doniford House, Doniford Farm, Doniford Road, Watchet, TA23 0TQ.	Removal of Condition No. 06 (restriction to holiday let use only) of application 3/39/19/001.	The Williton Parish Council object on the grounds that it is contrary to the Policy OC1: Open Countryside Development Policy.
<i>Cllr Woods re-joined the Zoom meeting and continued to chair the rest of the meeting.</i>			

Application No	Location	Details	Comments
3/39/20/012	Doniford Farm Park, Doniford Road, Watchet, TA23 0TQ.	Formation of extension to car park with associated works with erection of wall and landscaping (retention to part works already undertaken).	The Williton Parish Council do not object to this planning application as it is encouraging tourism, but are concerned how the entrance is developed and that it does not interfere with the fingerpost and listed monument, therefore request you incorporate landscaping that will be sympathetic in protecting these.

20/08.2B It was proposed by Cllr Woods, seconded by Cllr Payne, all in favour, to email SWAT planning department and re-iterate our disappointment of their previous performance and that we would like to see future emails from ourselves to them are opened and replied to and hope that they will be more diligent in the future.
The Clerk will keep monitoring this making sure that when dates have to be extended, to make sure there is sufficient time for us to return our comments, ensuring our comments will then be included within the planning application comments via SWAT online planning portal.

20/08.3B It was **resolved** to note that Planning Application 3/39/19/034 (Application for approval of reserved matters following outline application 3/39/18/009 for the erection of up to 90 No. dwellings with associated infrastructure, public open space and play area) has now been withdrawn on 30/06/2020.

20/09B Notification of Planning Decisions – Noted.

Application No	Location	Outcome
3/39/19/023	31 Long Street, Williton, TA4 4QN.	Granted
3/39/20/001	Doniford Bay Holiday Park, Sea Lane, Doniford, TA23 0TJ.	Granted
3/39/20/004	27-32 Sir Gilbert Scott Court, Long Street, Williton	Granted
3/39/20/005	Land to the east of Aller Mead Way, Williton.	Granted

20/10B Highway Matters.

20/10.1B Doniford Bus Shelter – It was **resolved** to note that we are still awaiting a reply from SCC Development Control Team, they are checking their archives investigating into why we never received the commuted sums as promised, these funds would have helped us towards the maintenance of the bus shelter as was agreed in the planning agreement previously.

20/10.2B Danesborough View streetlamp - It was **resolved** to note that both streetlamps are now working, however a couple of residents had mentioned how much brighter they were and appear to be shining into their properties at night. It was proposed by Cllr Woods, seconded by Cllr Nye, agreed by all to ask SWAT if this is the new policy that they will be using LED bulbs from hereon, once a reply is received to advise any further enquiries from parishioners of this, and advise any residents wanting to complain about the brightness of these LED bulbs would need to contact the relevant department themselves at SWAT.

20/10.3B Doniford Road Sustainable Verge – It was advised by Cllr Woods and Cllr White that they believed County Highway SCC had agreed for this licence to continue, to check this with the Clerk and advise and chase.
It was proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr White to ask Countrywide Grounds Maintenance to confirm the height of the wild flower seeds that they could supply us and if they are within the correct height stated in the licence, to purchase these and have them scattered this autumn, to also obtain confirmation that Countrywide Ground Maintenance will cut back and scarify the grass verge again which they had agreed to do again as they had not cut it back enough the first time in April 2020.

20/10.4B Gateway Markings A39 - It was suggested by Cllr White to email and remind County Highway SCC that all road signs must be able to be seen and all road markings must be visible to the oncoming traffic for the 30mph to be enforceable, if these signs which it is noted are totally obscured by vegetation and the lines are not visible to the traffic which they are very faded and missing then the 30mph limit becomes unenforceable, it would be appreciated if they could advise when the road markings will be re done.

- 20/10.5B Grit Bins along Five Bells, Bridge Close and Half Acre Close – It was suggested to keep pushing for an acknowledgement from County Highway SCC requesting their permission for us put grit bins along these roads.
- 20/10.6B It was **resolved** to note the reply from Traffic Management SCC regarding the vehicle speed and road safety along A39 and to note the parishioner had been advised of SCC reply.
- 20/11B Footpaths/Pavements.**
- 20/11.1B As there are no District Councillors on the EPC committee, Cllr Payne suggested for this matter to be transferred across to the Full Council meeting where the District Cllrs should then be present to report.
- 20/12B Finance and Budget.**
- 20/13B Weed Spraying.**
- 20/14B Items of Report from Grounds Maintenance Officers.**
- 20/14.1B Bridge Green (The Copse) – Cllr Payne - There was nothing to report.
- 20/14.2B Bellamy's Corner – There had been further reports of continued green waste being disposed, it was agreed to remain vigilant to see who is leaving the waste and to also put a sign up on the lamp post requesting 'please do not feed the birds'.
Cllr Nye noted that the Sun Flowers are still growing and had also advised she had asked Countrywide Ground Maintenance whilst on Bellamy's Corner to cut in the border as this needed sorting out.
- 20/14.3B Street Furniture – It was agreed to defer this matter as Cllr Peeks was not present at this meeting.
- 20/14.4B Grass Verges – Cllr Nye advised the grass verges were due to be cut Tuesday 14th July 2020 and that they are all being cut where they are meant to be, and all is going well.
- 20/15B Items of Report on Play Equipment in Recreation Ground.**
- 20/15.1B There were still concerns regarding the installation of a ground floor trampoline and Cllr Nye suggested it may be worth enquiring with ROSPA and with the company that carries out our playground inspection report of their comments and their opinion on the accident ratio for this type of equipment.
It was **resolved** for the Clerk to enquire with the insurance company what advice they could give in respect of our liability if we had a ground trampoline installed and does our public liability cover this type of equipment in an open air situation, or would it have to be enclosed for them to insure it?
- 20/15.2B It was **resolved** to note that the seats on the space orbiter in the children's' playground had now all been replaced and are now safe to use.
- 20/15.3B It was **resolved** to note Somerset Fields advised their Annual Playground Inspections are due to recommence week beginning 3rd August 2020 and our inspection would be carried out soon after, it was confirmed the cost for this would be the same as last year which was £80.
- 20/16B Flooding Matters.**
- 20/16.1B It was **resolved** to note that a reply is still awaited from the County Highway SCC regarding adding grooves/gulley's along the pavement on Long Street which would help alleviate any flooding issue on the footpath. It was suggested to write to them again asking why County Highway had not included this in the recent specification for works that had already been recently carried out by a contractor w/c 21/05/2020.
- 20/16.2B Cllr McDonald advised that it is not our responsibility as a Parish Council to form a working party to help clear the stream bank walls and that it is the residents riparian duties to do this themselves or to arrange for a contractor to carry this out on their behalf should they not be able to do themselves, and that the River Authorities advise against flood groups doing this, the flood group is there to manage before and after by ensuring that all residents are properly advised on what they should and shouldn't do.
- 20/16.3B It was **resolved** to note that the Clerk had notified the County Highways SCC about the resident's concern regarding public parking over the flood drain along Bridge Street, we are awaiting a reply.
- 20/17B Community Speed Watch.**
- 20/17.1B It was **resolved** to note the Committee agreed to have a SID device for Williton and that provisions had been made in the budget for this, Cllr White would obtain prices and ideas for location of the device and bring these back to the next meeting to discuss.
It was suggested to write to neighbouring parishes to see if they are interested in sharing with us in this scheme and costs.
- 20/17.2B Cllr White would obtain details on costs regarding training for SID Installation and discuss at the next meeting.

20/18B Empty Homes.

20/18.1B There was nothing to report.

20/19B Highway Finger Posts.

20/19.1B It was **resolved** to note West Country Blacksmiths advised that the Foundry could not offer the aluminium option that we had originally requested, however they have offered to produce the finger in cast iron instead, but at the same cheaper cost that they would have charged for producing in aluminium.

20/19.2B It was **resolved** to note the Clerk advised WPC may be required to obtain a licence for the contractor to carry out the renovation works on the fingerposts. It was agreed to contact County Highway SCC and enquire as there are three fingerposts to be renovated each in a different location so would we be required to fill out a separate licence form for each fingerpost and be charged for each. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact the contractor and request details on how they will be carrying out these renovation works whether it will be onsite or items taken away and whether any excavation works would be involved, this information will help us to ascertain what licence we would need to apply for and costs involved.

20/20B Outdoor Gym Equipment.

20/20.1B It had been requested for this be put onto the Trustees Agenda for them to discuss and agree on the continuation of this project first, however keep on the EPC agenda as it is to do with the MUGA area and the Parish would be responsible for the purchase of the kit.

20/21B Dog Bins.

20/21.1B It was **resolved** to note SWAT had requested for the 'Please Pick Up' dog mess stickers not to be put on the rubbish bins around the village, they felt the stickers were very small and these would detract from the look of the bin and they may also attract more unauthorised stickers and fly-posting.

20/21.2B It was **resolved** to advise Watchet Town Council request for a dog waste bin at the Doniford Car Park that we do not lease this piece of land anymore and have rescinded all rights to this piece of land. If they are interested in having a bin put on this area, it may be worth having a discussion with the District Council as it is thought they still own a piece of land there.

20/22B Village Notice Board.

20/22.1B It was agreed to defer this matter and request for information from Cllr Howes for the next meeting.

20/23B Green Initiatives.

20/23.1B This matter is to be discussed at the next meeting.

20/24B Matters for the next meeting to be held on 14th September 2020.

1. (Item 19/94B) Renewal of Spring Riders – await playground inspection report – *to be discussed at September 2020 meeting.*
2. Village Crosses (Item 19/172.1B) Cllr White – *to be discussed at September 2020 meeting.*
3. (Item 20/31) Discuss at September's meeting a demonstration to address 'Parish Online' once meetings in person re-commences.

Meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Signed as a true and correct recordCllr Peeks..... Dated14/09/2020.....