

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 14th September 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: Peeks, McDonald, White, Aldridge. Woods & Nye joined the meeting at 7.04pm

Public: None

Other: Jo Holmes

Apologies:

Councillors: Payne

20/25B The Chairman advised that the meeting would be recorded.

20/26B Apologies - as noted above.

20/27B Declarations of Interest.

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Peeks	20/31.10B	Personal	Advised other members at meeting

Cllr Woods and Cllr Nye joined the meeting at 7.04pm.

20/28B Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 13th July 2020.

After a proposal from Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Woods, it was **resolved** to approve the minutes and was agreed by two others, Cllr Peeks and Cllr Aldridge abstained as they were not present at this meeting.

20/29B Clerks Notices – there were none.

20/30B Matters from the Minutes – there were none.

It was agreed to pass a resolution to move to item 20/41B at 7.05pm to enable Cllr Aldridge to discuss this matter and then leave to attend a meeting at the Watchet Town Council.

20/41.1B It was **resolved** to note SCC Highway had emailed copies of the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement, Updated SIDs Guidance July 2020 and SIDs Questions and Answers update from November 2018 on 14/09/2020, the Clerk agreed to forward this to all EPC Cllrs.
It was agreed for Cllr Aldridge and White to do background work regarding the pros and cons of SID installation, re location, costs and if any other Parishes express an interest in hiring the equipment from WPC, to also liaise with SCC Highway via the Clerk to gain further information if required in order to help prepare this report.

20/41.2B It was agreed for Cllr Aldridge and White to source further information on Chapter 8 Road Safety Training along with costs and provide a report on this for discussion at the next meeting.

Cllr Aldridge now left the meeting at 7.10pm.

20/31B Correspondence.

20/31.1B (Item 20/07.1B) It was **resolved** to advertise the Great British 26th September 2020 at 10am Clean-up day on Social Media and Next door, to put posters up on Union and Watery Lane entrance and by the steps leading from Union Lane into Long Lakes, requesting for everyone to bring their own equipment and PPE gear, such as gloves, boots, hand sanitiser, goggles, and secateurs, as Idverde had advised that they are unable to loan the Community Litter Packs out at the moment due to COVID-19 restrictions.

It was also agreed for the Clerk to produce leaflets for Cllr Peeks to drop off through letter boxes around the surrounding areas notifying them of the intended clean-up day.

It was **resolved** to note that the poster and leaflets need to state everyone that would like to attend would be required to contact the Clerk at the Parish Office by the 23rd September 2020 latest, leaving their name and contact details, in order for the WPC to adhere to the track and trace system and no more than 6 in a group new legislations set by the Government.

It was **resolved** to note Wyndham Estate had been contacted and advised they would try to do their best with the clearing and cutting back the overgrown vegetation prior to the clean-up day.

20/31.2B (Item 20/07.2B) "Welcome to Williton" gateway signs – It was proposed by Cllr Woods, Seconded by Cllr White, with 3 Cllrs in favour and 1 Cllr abstaining, agreeing that as long as the signs are correct in what they are saying then to leave the signs as they are, but to update the Parishioner that the signs had been discussed and it was agreed that no action would be taken to renew these signs at the

present time, advising the public toilets are still an ongoing issue and the Twinning Group is still going on and hope to form again in the future.

It was agreed to however contact SCC Highway asking if we would be allowed to put some sticky tape over the 'Bakelite Museum' part on the sign as this is now closed.

- 20/31.3B (Item 20/07.3B) Bus Shelter at Tropiquaria – Due to the poor condition of this bus shelter and both SCC Highway Department and SWAT denying responsibility of the upkeep of this, it was proposed by Cllr Peeks, Seconded by Cllr McDonald, and all in favour to contact Tropiquaria asking if they have any knowledge of who may own this bus shelter, and to contact SCC Highway requesting information on who got permission to put the bus shelter up in the first place, before taking any further action regarding looking into sponsorship for this bus shelter.
- 20/31.4B (Item 20/07.4B) Cllr Woods advised Hinkley had confirmed at the Transport Forum Meeting that they had now passed ownership onto SCC Highways of the Washford Cross Roundabout.
It was proposed by Cllr Woods, seconded by Cllr Nye and all in favour to obtain confirmation of this from SCC Highway Department, and ask if they have any plans for the future upkeep and maintenance of this, and if they do not would they be willing for WPC to investigate looking into obtaining a sponsor for this.
- 20/31.5B (Item 20/07.5B) The Clerk advised letters had gone out to the tenants above the Tattoo Parlour and Spar, and also Wyndham Arms regarding the blocked guttering above their properties which has been causing the excess rainwater to over flow from the guttering pouring on to the footpath below causing problems to the pedestrians passing below, Cllr Peeks suggested checking to see if the guttering is still blocked and if so, as most of these flats are privately owned to contact the tenants/and owners again reminding them that the outside of the property is the responsibility of the property owner and if they could please sort this out.
In the meantime, contact SCC Highway advising them of the problems experienced and ask if there is anything that they can do.
- 20/31.6B The erosion to the riverside footpath between Townsend and Catwell was discussed and the Clerk advised she had been unable to locate documents that Cllr McDonald had been referring to that was from Wyndham Estate/or the Managing Agents acknowledging ownership of this riverbank, the Clerk had again contacted Savills advising of this latest information and is waiting a reply.
It was **resolved** to contact Edward Martin and ask how much of the land he rents and whether it goes up to the riverbank.
- 20/31.7B Cllr Payne confirmed on 14/07/2020 the blocked drain outside No. 22 Tower Hill had been cleared. Cllr McDonald also confirmed that the road defect on Half Acre had now been repaired.
It was requested to contact the Parishioner advising these repairs had now taken place and to request a location of the defect on Bridge Street as Cllr Nye could not find the location of this.
The Clerk reported 03/09/2020 the faulty streetlights along North Street being on throughout the day, upon checking to date these had not been repaired, the Clerk is to report this through SCC Highway online website again.
- 20/31.8B The Clerk had confirmed letters had been sent to the property owners of Quantock View flats advising of the overgrown hedgerow and grass, requesting for this to be cut back, to date there had been no change and Cllr Peeks suggested passing this on to SCC Highway Department.
Cllr Nye had proposed at the last meeting for the office to provide a template letter that can be left at properties where their hedges and grass had become overgrown, gently reminding them of their responsibility to maintain these areas of their properties. The Clerk would provide this at the next EPC meeting for it to be agreed on, Cllrs would then be able to obtain this template letter from the Clerk instead of it having to be discussed at a meeting before being actioned, this was proposed by Cllr Peeks and seconded by Cllr McDonald, unanimously agreed by all.
- 20/31.9B It was agreed to defer discussing the Walking and Cycling Manifesto for Somerset email until everyone has had time to look at it and form ideas that can then be discussed further at the next meeting.
- 20/31.10B The report from a parishioner regarding the increasing seagull problem had been discussed, Cllr Peeks also declared a personal interest in this matter as the seagull problem is also extending as far as the adjoining housing estate, where it has been advised there are a significant amount of seagulls around the adjoining roads causing problems, as the seagulls are protected it was agreed that there is not a lot that can be done.
It was **resolved** to contact Idverde asking if there is anything else that they can do through their practices to help deter the seagulls, it was noted that some areas used netting or an artificial buzzard on a cable to try and deter them.
It was agreed to update the parishioner of our intentions and keep them informed.
- 20/31.11B BT phone box removal and Defib relocation – This was discussed, and it was agreed that none of the locations of these boxes would be any good for the defib and that the BT phone boxes cannot be relocated.

20/31.12B The Two Valleys tree planting funding which is due to end in December 2020 was discussed and it was **resolved** by Cllr McDonald, seconded by Cllr Peeks, and unanimously agreed by all for Cllr McDonald to take on the project of promoting the “Tumulus Field” and preparing a report to apply for funding. Cllr McDonald suggested contacting Wyndham Estate to see if they would be interested in helping to develop the “Tumulus Field” into a cultural area as part of the future development, Cllr McDonald would obtain further information in respect of this and prepare a report on costings etc, to be discussed at the next EPC meeting.

20/32B Planning applications for consideration.

20/32.1B There were no planning applications to be discussed.

20/33B Notification of Planning Decisions – Noted.

Application No	Location	Outcome
3/39/20/006	62 Sir Gilbert Scott Court, Long Street, Williton, TA4 4RH.	Refused
3/39/20/009	Mamsey House, 30 Priest Street, Williton, TA4 4NJ.	Granted
3/39/20/010	Mamsey House, 30 Priest Street, Williton, TA4 4NJ.	Granted
3/39/20/011	Doniford House, Doniford Farm, Doniford Road, Watchet, TA23 0TQ.	Refused
<i>Cllr Peeks advised that the wrong address of Doniford Farm Park, Doniford Road, Watchet, TA23 0TQ had been typed on the Agenda for Application Number 3/39/20/011, the address has now been corrected and is shown above.</i>		

20/34B Highway Matters.

20/34.1B Doniford Bus Shelter – It was **resolved** to note SCC Development Control Team advised that they would be checking their archives later next week, and hope to locate papers in respect of the commuted sums for the maintenance of the bus shelter so that this matter can be investigated further.

20/34.2B Doniford Road Sustainable Verge – SCC Highway confirmed that they are happy for us to continue carrying out the works under the current licence to the grass verge. Cllr Woods advised that the grass verge had now been cut and scarified, and that Countrywide Grounds Maintenance had done a good job.
The Clerk advised the seeds had now been purchased and are awaiting delivery of these. Cllr Woods suggested putting together a working party to scatter the wildflower seeds, a date would be arranged between Cllrs Woods, Peeks, McDonald and Nye.
Cllr Peeks suggested the Clerk write to all Cllrs at WPC asking if they would like to join the working party.

20/34.3B (Item 20/10.4B) Gateway Markings A39 – The Clerk advised that Traffic Management had replied on 04/08/2020 that they would visit the site and assess what needs refreshing and then submit a works order, the Clerk chased this on 08/09/2020 and awaiting a reply.

20/34.4B Grit Bins along Five Bells, Bridge Close and Half Acre Close – It was suggested to send a further email chasing this matter, as no reply has been received to date.

20/34.5B Email regarding Grit Bin Survey – It was advised that two grit bins had disappeared from the hill up to West Quantoxhead and SCC Highway advised that if we wanted new grit bins then we would have to purchase these, at our own cost.
It was proposed by Cllr Woods, seconded by Cllr McDonald, with 3 other Cllrs in agreement with 1 abstention, to contact Highways requesting for signs to be put up saying, ‘when cold the road is very slippery, please do not use these roads’, or have something there to make people aware that this road is not suitable to use when the weather gets colder as it becomes very slippery.
It was **resolved** to write to West Quantoxhead Parish Council first asking if they are happy for WPC to write to Highways and request for these signs to be put at the top and bottom of the hill so that drivers are aware of how slippery these roads become during the colder weather, as this is partly in their Parish.

20/34.6B A Parishioner had reported another road accident along Long Street and had requested for the double yellow lines to be increased from Sir Gilbert Scott Court to Station Road entrance, it was proposed by Cllr Nye, Seconded by Cllr Peeks, 2 in favour and 2 against to ask the Highways if this would be possible.

20/35B Footpaths/Pavements.

20/35.1B There had been no update on the meeting between the District Councillors and SCC Highway Department regarding the poor footpaths around the Parish.

20/36B Finance and Budget.

20/36.1B The Ground Maintenance Contract renewal for 2021/22 was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Woods, Seconded by Cllr McDonald, with 3 other Cllrs in agreement and with 1 abstention, for the grass cuttings to be picked up, removed and be disposed of at an agreed price with the contractors after the first cut of the year in the Memorial Ground, Children's Play Area and Bellamy's Corner, and for the cut before the Summer Fete, the grass cuttings are not to be disposed of in the MUGA area as agreed in the previous year's contract.

The specification sheet was discussed:

- (1.d.iii) It was suggested to write to the new owners of the property that is next to the Pavilion asking if they are intending to apply weed treatment to their wall which is adjacent to the Pavilion footpath, if they say yes then we can take this off of our specification, however if they say no then we would then have to ask them if they would allow us to apply weed spray to this 4 times a year obtaining their consent to do so, once we have received a reply to adjust the specification accordingly. Also weed spray treatment should not be applied to the weeds by the hedges on the left hand side of Robert Street entrance, as this may kill the hedges, the specification should read 'hand weeding only adjacent to the new hedge' at the Robert Street Pavilion entrance.
- (1.g.i) Change the wording regarding removing the conkers to the following: 'to remove conkers as and when required, and the removal of leaves as and when required around the whole ground, including paths and under the trees.'
- (4.b.) Strim internal perimeter. To add on the description 4 times a year, April, July, September, and November.

20/37B Weed Spraying.

20/37.1B The weed situation and how bad it has become was discussed, as the next weed spraying treatment is due very soon, it was agreed for the Clerk to notify the Cllrs when this has taken place and to remind Cllrs two weeks after this date for them to check their designated areas to see if the weed spray has taken effect and report their findings back to the Clerk.

20/38B Items of Report from Grounds Maintenance Officers.

20/38.1B Bridge Green (The Copse) – In Cllr Payne absence there was nothing to report.

20/38.2B Bellamy's Corner – Cllr Peeks reported there is an issue with brambles in the right hand side of Bellamy's corner and Cllr Nye reported that there is still a lot of crab apples on the ground, it is assumed that when the grass is cut these will be picked up, the Clerk is to check with CGM the following:

1. When they are due to be cutting this area including under the tree.
2. If they could sort out the right-hand side corner where the brambles are overgrowing.
3. The border also needs to be cut in as mentioned to CGM by Cllr Nye last Month.
4. As stated in the specification, (2.f.) Weed of Flower Beds and Flowerpots – can they advise when they will be carrying this out.

20/38.3B Street Furniture – Cllr Peeks reported no issues around the village.

20/38.4B Grass Verges – All are being cut where they are meant to be cut, except on the corner of Larviscombe and North Croft as it is full of nettles, the Clerk is to find out who is meant to be cutting this area, whether it be Magna or SCC and ask for this to be done.

20/39B Items of Report on Play Equipment in Recreation Ground.

20/39.1B It was **resolved** to note an email received from Somerset Fields in respect of Ground Trampolines, advising of the pros and cons on having a ground trampoline and of the safety issues, it was discussed that one of the biggest problems with these items is vandalism and destroying the nets. It was suggested that if this idea has not come from the parishioners and is entirely an idea from a Cllr then it may be worth not carrying on with it until further interest is shown, Cllr White is to provide a final report which is to be issued to the Clerk to then forward to Cllrs to read before the next meeting, so that a formal decision on whether to continue with this idea or not is decided on.

20/39.2B It was **resolved** to note the Children's Playground Inspection Report had been received, however as Cllr McDonald had not received his copy of the report it was agreed to defer this matter until the next meeting.

20/40B Flooding Matters.

20/40.1B 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 could help alleviate any flooding issue on the footpath when experiencing heavy rain downpours, it was again suggested to chase for a reply.

20/40.2B It was agreed to defer the discussion regarding the overgrowing vegetation along the river at the back of the properties along Bridge Street, Blacksmith Close, Roberts Street and behind Catwell until the next meeting when the letter from EA can be forwarded around to the Cllrs.

- 20/40.3B It was **resolved** to note that the concern with the public parking over the flood drain had been forwarded to Highways for their consideration and this matter can now be taken off the agenda.
- 20/41B Community Speed Watch.**
- 20/41.1B This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 20/42B Empty Homes.**
- 20/42.1B Cllr Peeks suggested requesting an update from District Council on the empty homes situation and how they are dealing with them.
- 20/43B Highway Finger Posts.**
- 20/43.1B It was **resolved** to note West Country Blacksmiths advised they had started work on the Five Bells Fingerpost and had now collected the Finial from the Parish Office.
- 20/43.2B It was **resolved** to note the Clerk had been advised by Fingerpost Department SCC that the fee for the Licence to renovate the fingerposts would be waived and we will not be charged for this under the Fingerpost project.
- 20/44B Outdoor Gym Equipment.**
- 20/44.1B This matter is to be deferred until we can obtain a report from Cllr Howes.
- 20/45B Dog Bins.**
- It was proposed by Cllr Peeks, seconded by Cllr McDonald, all in favour that as there are no matters to discuss on this item, this can now be taken off the agenda.
- 20/46B Village Notice Board.**
- 20/46.1B This matter is to be deferred until we can obtain a report from Cllr Howes.
- 20/47B Village Crosses.**
- 20/47.1B This matter is to be deferred, Cllr White is to prepare a report on how to move forward with this matter and is to be discussed next month.
- 20/48B Green Initiatives.**
- 20/48.1B Cllr Woods would like to see if there are any volunteers that would like to form a small group of no more than 6 that can meet up and work alongside her in applying for the SCC Emergency Community Fund, it was agreed to try for wild flower meadows around the village where we can if we can find areas to do this. It was suggested for the Clerk to send an email around to all Cllrs, attaching Cllr Woods email giving details of the link in respect of Climate Change Initiatives, asking for Cllrs to read this link and if they were interested in joining this small group with Cllr Woods to contact her - Cllr Peeks and Nye are interested in joining this so far.
- 20/49B Matters for the next meeting to be held on 12th October 2020.**
1. (Item 20/31) Demonstration to address 'Parish Online' once meetings in person re-commences.
 2. Improving the Pondhead Cross Junction of Station Road and Long Street.

Meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed as a true and correct record Dated