

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st November 2021 at 7.00 pm
in The Brendon Room, Williton Pavilion.

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Aldridge, Cook, Denton (left at 7.15pm during item 21/174) Hooper, Howes, Johnson, Naylor and White
SCC	Cllr Davies
SWT District	Cllrs Aldridge, Davies and Whetlor (arrived at 7.15pm during item 21/174)
Avon and Somerset	None
Constabulary	
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	None
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Peeks
Other	PCSO Thompson

21/167 It was advised that the meeting would be recorded.

21/168 Apologies as noted above

After a proposal from Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Cook, it was **resolved** with one abstention to grant a dispensation for absence at meetings, to Cllr Denton due to health reasons.

21/169 Declarations of Interest

There were none

21/170 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th October 2021

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting, after one slight amendment on item 21/148. Proposed Cllr Howes, seconded Cllr White

21/171 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only

There were none

21/172 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

The Chairman read out the report that had been received

21/173 Report from Somerset County Councillor

It was **resolved** to note the report and press releases that had been forwarded, which included:

Making our streets safer for women and girls
Multi-million-pound transport schemes in Somerset
Green light for green initiatives to slash County Councils carbon footprint.
A39 Carhampton roadworks had been completed ahead of schedule

News was awaited of Local Government Reorganisation

21/174 Report from Somerset West and Taunton District Councillors

Cllr Aldridge had questioned what would happen with local authority housing when the new unitary authority took over, explaining West Somerset and South Somerset had given housing stock to housing association, but Sedgemoor and Taunton Deane had retained houses. A response was awaited.

Cllr Whetlor advised she had attended a meeting regarding Taunton Bus Station – a report would be forwarded. Bus Back Better were campaigning for the station to be re-instated. Cllr Aldridge raised concerns with the questionnaire the previous month, which had caused confusion.

Cllr Davies reported on a District Council which had a motion to turn Taunton into a Town Council, after a discussion a further motion was passed to give the opportunity to outlying parishes to be involved. This was passed, so the decision would be delayed until responses received.

21/175 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

The Chairman addressed members regarding protocol and the code of conduct. The Chairman read out a statement from himself and Cllr Cook.

21/175.1 Cllr White volunteered to write the next article for Williton Window. It was agreed Cllr Cook would not be included on the rota due to being involved with the Williton Window.

21/175.2 A verbal report was given on the Councillor Surgery held that morning, comments raised would be addressed at future relevant meetings

21/175.3 It was **resolved** the Chairman would lay the Remembrance Wreath on Armistice Day, 11th November 2021

It was noted the Royal British Legion would carry out the annual poppy appeal display in the Parish Office window.

It was noted the Lone Soldier would be erected on Bellamy's Corner on the 3rd of November.

Cllr Naylor advised she would be unable to attend the SCOP26, Cllr Aldridge would attend as a District Councillor and would be able to assist with transport.

21/176 Correspondence

21/176.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log

21/176.2 Email from Cllr Howes regarding Flagpole on Bellamys Corner – discussed under item 21/177.1

21/176.3 Letter from parishioner regarding Flagpole on Bellamys Corner – discussed under item 21/177.1

21/176.4 An invitation to attend Rewilding Somerset Event on 19th November for a donation, had been received. Cllr Naylor requested to attend online. This was agreed after a proposal from Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Howes.

21/176.5 SWT had decided to re-introduce a separate Standards Committee and were looking for two Town and Parish councillors to become non-voting members. Cllr Johnson volunteered to apply. The Clerk would forward details.

21/176.6 An invitation had been received from Somerset Water Forum to attend an event on Friday 19th November 2021 – no volunteer to attend. Noted

21/177 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 11th October 2021

It was **resolved** to note the report.

21/177.1 (Item 21/97B) A discussion took place regarding the request for a flagpole, the recommendation from EPC and the correspondence that had been received. A named vote was requested before the vote took place.

Cllr Hooper proposed the EPC recommendation to decline the request; this was seconded by Cllr Naylor. An amendment was proposed by Cllr Howes 'To erect a flagpole in a prominent position to be agreed, but not on Bellamys Corner'; this was seconded by Cllr Aldridge. A vote was taken on the amendment, 'To erect a flagpole in a prominent position to be agreed, but not on Bellamys Corner'; Cllrs Aldridge, Cook, Howes, Johnson and Payne, voted in favour with Cllrs Hooper, Naylor and White voting against. The vote replaced the previous motion as a substantive motion. As no further amendment was proposed a vote was taken on the substantive motion 'To erect a flagpole in a prominent position to be agreed, but not on Bellamys Corner', which was passed with Cllrs Aldridge, Cook, Howes, Johnson and Payne, voting in favour and Cllrs Hooper, Naylor and White voting against. **Motion passed.**

21/178 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 18th October 2021

It was **resolved** to note the report

21/178.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 30th September 2021.

21/178.2 (Item 21/65A) After a proposal from Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr White, it was unanimously **resolved** to adopt the Risk Management Policy

21/179 Report from the Events Committee held on 13th October 2021

21/179.1 Santa Sleigh Ride – Cllr Howes advised the cost should be covered by the stands and funds already raised

- 21/179.2 Christmas Trees – a discussion took place regarding employing a lengthsman to enable to Christmas Trees to be offered to businesses. It was **resolved**, with one against, to invite businesses to have a tree at a cost of £25.00, employ a lengthsman to fix the lights, erect the trees around those businesses who respond, remove the trees, remove lights and dispose of the trees in January, to include the large tree for Bellamys Corner. A budget of £750.00 was set for these works to be undertaken. Proposed Cllr Howes, seconded Cllr Hooper, one against. **Motion carried.**
- 21/179.3 The Queens Platinum Jubilee – it was agreed to set up a separate committee with local groups and businesses to plan events for the Jubilee. Proposed Cllr Howes, seconded Cllr Cook, unanimously **resolved.**

21/180 To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee

It was **resolved** to pay the following invoices. Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Howes, unanimously **resolved.**

Date	Details	Cheque	Invoice	Total Bank	Cash	VAT
01/11/2021	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	3837	201577	820.86		136.81
01/11/2021	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4560 SCC Ground Maintenance	3838	201576	189.00		31.50
01/11/2021	Function 28 Ltd 4605 Website	3839	10337	12.00		2.00
01/11/2021	Eljet Exterior Cleaning 4510 Office Cleaning	3840	292	14.00		0.00
01/11/2021	Cllr Howes – HCS Crafts 6625 Care in the Community	3841	100011826	15.60		0.00
01/11/2021	Somerset Playing Fields Association 2020 6035 Playground Maintenance	3842	INSP-17160	80.00		0.00
01/11/2021	Somerset Playing Fields Association 2021 6035 Playground Maintenance	3842	INSP-17160	80.00		0.00

21/181 End of Year Audit 2019-2020

- 21/181.1 Notice of conclusion of Audit form PKF Littlejohn - noted

21/182 Report from Town and Parish Conference regarding the new Unitary Council held on 7th October 2021

It was resolved to note the report that had been forwarded

21/183 Report from JAC Meeting held on 19th October 2021

It was resolved to note the report that had been forwarded. As the Parish Council had no voting rights, Cllr Payne recommended that the Parish Council became a correspondence member, rather than attend the meetings, as all reports were published and forwarded.

Proposed Cllr Johnson, seconded Cllr Naylor; unanimously **resolved.**

21/184 Health and Safety

- 21/184.1 Due to increased cases of covid-19, it was suggested that the Parish Council hire the pavilion for all future meetings to enable distancing and ventilation, to be reviewed in six months. In addition, all attendees would be requested to take a Lateral Flow Test the day before the meeting, wear a mask on entry and whilst moving around. Proposed Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr White and unanimously **resolved.**

21/185 Welcome Back Fund – to be completed by 31st March 2022

Cllr Aldridge reported decisions were needed which needed to come from the business community; an event for businesses to showcase themselves and a meeting with businesses to discuss hanging baskets, signposts – costings were required.

Cllr Naylor requested written reports

21/186 Emergency High Street Fund – To be completed by 31st March 2022

- 21/186.1 It was reported the tenders were being produced by JHC Surveying Ltd.

- 21/186.2 Options for unit behind Public Toilets and Storage Issues were discussed. It was agreed to leave as it was currently and revisit at a later date.

21/187 Youth Council

No update due to absence of Cllr Denton

- 21/188 Speed Watch and Speed Indicator Device**
- 21/188.1 Training courses – Cllr Aldridge advised he had a meeting scheduled with Highways on the 16th of November 2021 to look at the brackets and agree positions. Once this had been completed, training could be considered.
- 21/188.2 Speed Watch – only three of the volunteers had registered for the scheme, Cllr Johnson had sent a reminder asking all that were interested to register. If the minimum number was not reached, the scheme would be unable to proceed.
- 21/189 Parish and Town Council – Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund**
- Cllr Aldridge advised the Parish Council had been successful in both bids and that Foxes Academy had agreed to run lunches in the Pavilion. Cllr Aldridge would contact Foxes Academy regarding a start date.
- 21/190 S106 Funding**
- Cllr Aldridge requested that the funding available was noted
- 21/191 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 6th December 2021**
- To hold a Vote of Confidence in the Chairman (Cllr Cook)
- 21/192 A resolution was passed to exclude the Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting, due to commercial sensitivity and personnel matters**
- Proposed Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Howes, unanimously **resolved**
- 21/193 Climate Fund Grant Award – Wildflower Project**
- 21/193.1 After a proposal from Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Cook, it was unanimously **resolved** to accept the revised quotation and to commence with the project.
- 21/194 Report from Personnel Committee held on 4th October 2021**
- It was **resolved** to note the report
- 21/194.1 (Item 21/12C) After a proposal from Cllr Naylor, seconded by Cllr White, it was unanimously **resolved** to apply a one point pay increment for good service, back dated to the 1st of April 2021, in line with the Clerk's employment contract point 6.2.
- 21/194.2 (Item 21/12C) After a proposal from Cllr Howes, seconded by Cllr Naylor, it was unanimously **resolved** to apply a one point pay increment for the Clerk obtaining the CiLCA qualification, in line with the Clerk's employment contract point 7.

Meeting closed at 9.17 pm

Signed as a true and correct record ... Cllr Payne Dated 6th December 2021