

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th November 2023 at 7.00 pm
In the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Aldridge, Angell, de Burgh-Thomas, Hooper, Peeks, Whetlor and White
Somerset Council	Davies
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	None
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Denton (Work Commitments) Howes and Nye (Personal)
Somerset Councillor	Woods
Other	None

23/153 The Chairman advised that the meeting would be recorded

23/154 Conduct of Meeting

The Chairman reminded members to comply with standing orders on procedures during the meeting

23/155 Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved.

Proposed Cllr Whetlor, seconded Cllr Aldridge – unanimously **resolved**

23/156 Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Peeks	23/158	Personal	Advised meeting
Cllr Peeks	23/169	Personal	Did not take part and left meeting
Cllr Whetlor	23/164.3	Personal	Advised meeting
Cllr Aldridge	23/164.5	Personal – Trustee of Charity	Advised meeting

23/157 Co-option of Councillors - No applications had been received

23/158 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd October 2023

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Whetlor, one abstention

23/159 Approval of the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 23rd October 2023

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr de Burgh-Thomas, two abstentions

23/160 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only

There were none

23/161 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

It was **resolved** to note the newsletter which had been forwarded on the 19th October 2023

23/162 Report from Somerset Councillors

Written reports had been received from Cllrs Davies and Woods and forwarded to members - noted

Cllr Davies spoke about the press releases sent earlier in the day. He would attend the Executive Meeting the following day in Yeovil. Cllr Davies advised members that he had fallen on the path in the Memorial Ground, which was uneven due to tree roots and asked that this was passed onto the Trustee, to consider a warning sign.

Cllr Aldridge advised to consider any wording on sign carefully. Regarding the dire finance of Somerset Council, how much was contributed from assets from previous District Authority and what benefit did this have to all Council. Cllr Davies requested an email was sent, which he would forward.

Cllr Whetlor would forward to Cllr Davies, a response from Cllr Mike Rigby on social media, regarding the property from SWT.

23/163 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

23/163.1 Cllr Hooper would write the article for the next edition of Williton Window - noted

Cllr Payne advised he had received an email from Magna inviting himself, as Chairman, and the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Aldridge, to an open day at Orchard Brooks, on 27th November 2023 – it was agreed they would attend.

SALC AGM on 2nd December 2023 – Cllr Payne would attend

23/164 Correspondence

23/164.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log

23/164.2 A request had been received from WWMRG to officially appoint two councillor representatives to the Events Committee. It was noted Cllrs Payne and Aldridge were ex-officio so were delegated to attend. Cllr White volunteered to stand, proposed Cllr Whetlor, seconded Cllr Aldridge, unanimously **resolved**. If Councillors not in attendance did not want to stand, Cllr Payne would – proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Aldridge, **unanimously resolved**.

23/164.3 Somerset Bus Partnership – noted the number of services was under threat, not the route. After a discussion, it was **resolved** to respond with the following:

1. The service was essential for the community, in particular the late bus and ones used for school children.
2. Frequency in off-peak could be considered, but survey users to collate information.
3. Ask to consider a fast bus into Taunton early in morning and evening, for workers.
4. Request Somerset Council to subsidise the bus from car park revenue.

Proposed Cllr Whetlor, seconded Cllr de Burgh-Thomas, unanimously **resolved**.

23/164.4 Devon and Somerset Fire Service – no comment - noted

23/164.5 CAWS (Citizens Advice West Somerset) – Contact leaflet and half yearly report received and noted. Cllr Aldridge made members aware that there are two advice services in Somerset - CAWS (focus on face to face and outreach) and Citizens Advice Somerset (more technology contact).

23/164.6 Somerset Council Community Review project – after a proposal from Cllr Peeks, seconded by Cllr Aldridge, it was unanimously **resolved** to register an expression of interest to be involved.

23/164.7 Hinkley Point C – Apprenticeship & Recruitment Event, Wednesday 22nd November 2023 - noted

23/165 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 9th October 2023

It was **resolved** to note the report

23/166 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 16th October 2023

It was **resolved** to note the report

23/166.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 30th September 2023.

23/166.2 (Item 83.4A) Christmas Lights – purchase of new lights for Christmas Trees – noted this would be within budget

23/167 Report from the Events Sub Committee held on 11th October 2023

It was **resolved** to note the report. The Parish Council events had previously been agreed

23/167.1 Remembrance Day Service, 11th November 2023. Cllr Payne would lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and had been asked to take part in the service. Uniformed Youth Groups would parade on the day. Volunteers requested to set chairs up at 10am.

23/167.2 Joint RBL Concert, 11th November 2023. Volunteers to help set up and during the evening requested; Cllrs Aldridge, Hooper and Payne advised they would be available. Tickets were still available.

23/168 To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee

Unanimously **resolved** to pay the following invoices. Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr de Burgh-Thomas

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
06/11/2023	Aurora FFE 6650 Welcome Back Fund	4303	50007169	323.99		0.00
06/11/2023	Countrywide Ground Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	4304	538310	1242.37		207.06

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
06/11/2023	Countrywide Ground Maintenance 4560 SC Ground Maintenance	4305	538658	197.70		32.95
06/11/2023	Eljet Exterior Cleaning 4510 Office Cleaning	4306	1020	14.00		0.00
06/11/2023	Harris Bros & Collard Ltd Health and Safety	4307	28824	1482.14		247.02
06/11/2023	Idverde 4590 Public Conveniences	4308	10895696	52.75		8.79
06/11/2023	Idverde 4590 Public Conveniences	4309	10895692	1534.50		255.75
06/11/2023	DRS Gardening Health and Safety	4310	947	50		0.00
06/11/2023	Somerset Council 4220 Pensions	4311	Oct	754.91		0.00
06/11/2023	HMRC PAYE & NIC	4312		1921.37		0.00

23/169 Formal Complaint

Cllr Peeks left the room at 7.56pm

Appointment of Parish Council Representative for Hearing – Cllr Payne requested a named vote - it was resolved that Cllr Payne, as Chairman, would be appointed, proposed Cllr de Burgh-Thomas, seconded Cllr Angell. Cllrs Angell, de Burgh-Thomas, Payne and White in favour.

Cllrs Aldridge, Hooper and Whetlor abstained from vote as members of the Complaints Committee.

Cllr Peeks returned to meeting

23/170 Health and Safety

23/171.1 Certificates had been received for Cllrs Aldridge and White, regarding Chapter 8 Training, confirming completed and passed - noted

23/171 Community Speed Watch

No report but it was noted that speed watches were being undertaken

23/172 Local Community Network

23/172.1 A verbal report of the meeting held on Thursday 19th October 2023 at West Somerset House was given. It was hoped that more action and decisions would be made at the next meeting, as it was felt to more of a talking platform. It would be requested that the meetings were more structured with a proper agenda, with Parish Councils, representatives and public deciding on the content, not officers.

23/173 Speed Indicator Devices

23/173.1 Highways had confirmed two new posts had been installed, one on North Road and one on A358 Tower Hill. The A39 Long Street, at Bakery access, had been unable to be installed due to underground services. The Parish Council were asked if they would like to consider an alternative location for the 3rd post. The existing location on the A39, virtually opposite, Roughmoor Industrial Estate, would be requested, as it was reported the SID was too large for the existing pole, alternatively, possibly opposite Sir Gilbert Scott Court.

23/173.2 Cllrs Aldridge and White would discuss the installation of the device on the available locations and would report back to the next meeting. Suggested the devices were installed to monitor speed, then to turn on visual screen to monitor the impact. Highways would be asked if the SID's could be turned around to catch other directions.

23/173.3 Terms of Hire for SID device to other Parish and Town Council – resolved to consider at a future date, after used in Williton Parish and when used to device.

23/174 Youth Council

Nothing to report

23/175 CCTV

- 23/175.1 The CCTV had been repaired. It was resolved to write again to the Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable to request an update on the grant.

23/176 Community Payback Scheme

Nothing new to report

23/177 Amenity Area

- 23/177.1 There was no update from the Solicitors

- 23/177.2 The renaming of the Amenity Area was briefly discussed, with one suggestion being Queen Elizabeth II. It was agreed to wait until it was known what the area would be used for, before a name was given.

23/178 Williton's Postal Service

Replies were awaited; therefore, item was deferred.

23/179 Children's Play Area

Recent comments on social media were noted. Work had commenced on repair and removal today. The contractors had notified the office of a shard of stainless steel on the slide that needed to be rewelded or the slide removed. The cost of removal would be £500.00. A discussion took place regarding the welding required and possible contacts. Cllr Payne proposed to arrange for the slide to be fixed, before the contractors leave site and if this was not possible, to pay the £500.00 to remove the side and make good; Cllr Angell requested the addition that if the slide was removed it would be kept to one side, until it could be fixed.

Cllr Payne accepted this amendment, so proposed that the repair be undertaken before the contractors leave site, and if not repaired, remove the slide and put into storage for repair at a later date. Cllr Angell seconded the proposal.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Peeks, if the welding repair had not been undertaken before the contractors leave site, to leave the Herras Fencing in place for a further month to enable work to be completed; seconded by Cllr Hooper.

A vote was taken on the amendment, to allow up to a further month for work to be done; four votes in favour, 4 votes against. The Chairman used his casting vote against the motion. Motion failed.

With no further amendment, a vote was taken on the original motion, five votes in favour, 3 votes against. Motion carried.

23/180 Flood / Village Response Group

- 23/180.1 A verbal report was given from the recent meeting, where the flood plan had been updated. Flood wardens were needed. A public meeting would be held on the 16th November in the Parish Office. Consideration would be given as to whether the flood equipment should be moved to the car park store, for ease and centralisation for access.

- 23/180.2 Terms of Reference – amendments were discussed. This would be re-presented at the next meeting for ratification.

23/181 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 4th December 2023

- 23/182** A resolution was passed to exclude the Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting due to commercial and personnel sensitivity. Proposed Cllr Whetlor, seconded Cllr Aldridge

23/183 Verbal Report from Personnel Meeting

It was advised the lengthsman position would be readvertised in January 2024, self-employed basis preferred.

Councillors were reminded to contact the office to ensure staff availability, rather than just dropping in. If possible, to correspond by phone or email.

23/184 Post Office

An extra ordinary meeting would be held, in committee, before the Trustee meeting on 27th November 2023 to consider listing as a community asset. The proprietors would be invited.

Meeting closed at 9.31 pm

Signed as a true and correct record ... Cllr Payne Dated 4th December 2023