



WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Monday 22nd January 2024 at 6.30 pm at The Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Aldridge, Hooper, Nye, Peeks (left at 7.19pm during 23/250) and White (arrived at 6.36pm during 23/249)
Somerset Council	Hughes
Public	None
Clerk	Michelle Francis

Apologies:

Councillors	Angell, de Burgh-Thomas, Denton, Howes and Whetlor
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23/247 **Apologies were noted and approved as above.**

Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Payne with one abstention

23/248 **Declarations of Interest**

There were none

23/249 **To discuss proposal by Somerset Council to close Williton Household Waste Recycling Centre**

The Chairman advised that Cllr Davies had reported at the January Full Council meeting that 5 sites were being considered for closure, but no confirmation on which ones. At the Somerset Council Executive Meeting on Monday 15th January 2024, the five sites were announced as Castle Cary, Cheddar, Crewkerne, Dulverton and Williton.

Cllr Davies advised he had attended the Executive Meeting and had asked the following questions:

1. Whether Green Waste collection would continue – the answer was this would continue.
2. Would it be possible for Town and Parish Council to run the sites – the answer was every avenue was being looked at.

He had visited Minehead site and stated it was smaller than Williton, with the gates being shut regularly so waste could be moved around and concern regarding queuing cars blocking the main road, blocking business entrances and blocking a one-way system. Cllr Davies had contacted the lead councillor and had been informed the sites had not been visited, a copy of the subsequent email was handed to members, where it is stated no decision to close any recycling sites will be taken at the budget setting meeting of the Full Council on 20th February 2024.

A discussion took place where Councillors expressed concern that the Recycling Centre was being considered for closure. It was resolved to contact Somerset Council with the following questions:

1. Request a cost breakdown on all 5 proposed sites and Minehead.
2. What waste types can be disposed of at each site?
3. What information has been formulated on the catchment areas that each site covers?
4. How many are employed at each site and do they move around?
5. Would Minehead increase to 7 days a week and would hours increase?
6. What tonnage is being handled at Williton?
7. What will be the penalty for breaking the contract – what is the financial break clause?
8. How are the number of visits to each site calculated?
9. Do all sites accept commercial and domestic waste and how is it differentiated?

Cllrs Hooper, Nye and Peeks would undertake a monitoring session at Williton, asking where the users are travelling from to judge the area served. This would be undertaken outside the site.

Parishes within an 8-mile radius would be contacted to ask which recycling centre their parishioners use and advise them of the public meeting.

23/250 To note a Public Meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 7pm in the Main Hall, Williton Pavilion to give Parishioners the opportunity to express views on the proposed closure of Williton Household Waste Recycling Centre and consider response to Somerset Council

The evening would be run as an Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting. Members of the public would be invited to speak for a maximum of three minutes, names would be collected at the entrance and whether they wished to speak. Cllr Howes volunteered to collect names.

Cllr Revans and Cllr Leyshon had been invited to attend. Cllr Darch would also be invited.

Somerset Councillors had been invited to attend

Councillors were asked to prepare the room on Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 4pm

Meeting closed at 7.22 pm

Signed as a true and correct record Cllr Payne Dated 5th February 2024