

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th February 2024 at 7.00 pm
In the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

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

Apologies:

Councillors	Howes and Whetlor (Personal reasons)
Somerset Councillor	Davies
Other	None

23/259 The Chairman advised that the meeting would be recorded

23/260 Conduct of Meeting

The Chairman reminded members to comply with standing orders and code of conduct during the meeting, in particular item 3(h) - speaking only once on an agenda item

23/261 Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved.
Proposed Cllr Angell, seconded Cllr Hooper – unanimously **resolved**

23/262 Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Aldridge	23/272.2	Personal	Advised meeting

23/263 Co-option of Councillors

No applications had been received

23/264 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th January 2024

After a slight amendment to item 23/231, it was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr White, three abstentions due to absence.

23/265 Approval of the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd January 2024

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr White, two abstentions, one due to absence, one as not read.

23/266 Approval of the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 30th January 2024

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr de Burgh-Thomas, three abstentions, one due to absence, two as not read.

23/267 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only

There were none

23/268 Potential Closure of Williton Household Recycling Centre

23/268.1 It was agreed to hold an Extra Ordinary meeting on Monday 12th February at 6.30pm to enable sufficient time to formalise a response to Somerset Council. It was noted the Public Meeting had been well attended, with over 200 people representing 17 communities.

23/268.2 Following the Public Meeting, a request had been received for a meeting with Parish Chairman and a date had been set for Tuesday 6th February 2024 - noted

23/269 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

It was **resolved** to note the newsletter which had been forwarded

23/270 Report from Somerset Councillors

Written reports had been received from Cllrs Davies and Woods and forwarded to members - noted
Cllr Woods advised the Capitalism Directive was being considered by Somerset Council.

Cllr Hooper asked what percentage Somerset Council could raise the council tax? Answer was just under 5%

Cllr Payne asked how the budget gap mentioned in Cllr Woods report had reduced from £100 million to £36.6 million? Advised this was due to the cuts being proposed.

Cllr Denton asked why Somerset had been granted below the National rate for the core spending settlement; why there was no extra funding, being a deprived area and what the local MP was doing about the issue? Cllr Woods would obtain the answer from Somerset Council.

23/271 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

23/271.1 Cllr Whetlor would be asked to write the article for the next edition of Williton Window, if unable, Cllr Payne would submit a report.

23/271.2 Changes to the dates for Editorial Deadlines for Williton Window had been received - noted

It was reported, despite being tamper proof holders being installed, the toilet rolls from the public conveniences had again been stolen

The dates of meetings in April would be put back by one week, due to the Bank Holiday on 1st April.

23/272 Correspondence

23/272.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log.

23/272.2 A request for a letter of support had been received from Citizens Advice West Somerset, for their application to the Hinkley Point Somerset Community Fund

Resolution: Write a letter of support, including figures for Williton that had been supplied
Proposed by Cllr Denton, seconded by Cllr Hooper, 8 votes in favour, 1 abstention

23/272.3 An invitation had been received from West Somerset Railway PLC to attend a meeting. A date was to be confirmed, Cllr Angell would attend if available.

Resolution: Accept invitation to attend
Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Denton, unanimously **resolved**

23/272.4 The Brewhouse Theatre in Taunton had offered to make a presentation to Full Council to request funding.

Resolution: Decline offer due to being out of area and limited funds available
Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Aldridge, 8 votes in favour, 1 abstention

23/273 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 15th January 2024

It was **resolved** to note the report

23/273.1 (Item 23/138B) The recommendation to re-locate the previously agreed flagpole onto Bellamy's Corner was considered.

Resolution: Accept recommendation
Proposed by Cllr de Burgh-Thomas, seconded by Cllr White, 7 votes in favour, 2 against

23/274 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 22nd January 2024

It was **resolved** to note the report

23/274.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 30th November and 31st December 2023.

23/274.2 (Item 23/121A) The recommendation to agree to the temporary storage of West Somerset Free Press archive files, until the space was needed for another purpose, subject to the Parish Council not being responsible for any damage, was considered.

Resolution: Accept recommendation
Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Peeks, unanimously **resolved**

23/274.3 (Item 23/122A) The recommendation to accept Parish Office Hire Charges from 1st April 2024 was considered.

Resolution: Accept recommendation
Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr de Burgh-Thomas, 8 votes in favour, 1 abstention

23/274.4 (Item 23/125A) The recommendation to adopt the Doniford Bus Shelter was considered. After a discussion, Cllr Peeks proposed that the recommendation was refused; seconded by Cllr Hooper. An amendment was proposed by Cllr Aldridge to accept the recommendation; this was seconded by Cllr Payne. A vote was taken on the amendment, to accept the recommendation, 3 votes in favour, 6 votes against. The amendment failed, so a vote was taken on the original proposal, to refuse the recommendation, 6 votes in favour, 3 votes against.

Resolution: Refuse recommendation and not adopt the Doniford Bus Shelter

23/275 Precept 2024 – 2025

It was noted an error had occurred on the scenarios presented at the January meeting, which had not considered the reduction in budget to £166,281.10. An amended form had been circulated. Cllr Payne proposed to agree to option F, and request a precept of £163,000.00, using £3,281.10 from reserves, with the Band D equating to £167.58, a 41.49% increase. It was noted the previous year's precept had been lower, due to using reserves. Seconded by Cllr Hooper, 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

Resolution: To request a precept of £163,000.00

23/276 Report from the Events Sub Committee held on 17th January 2024

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

A Councillor was requested to man a table to gather public thoughts for use of the Amenity Area and items of Play Equipment at the 'What's on in Williton' event on Saturday 24th February. Cllr Nye volunteered to undertake.

23/277 To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee

It was unanimously **Resolved** to pay the following invoices, Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Hooper

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
05/02/2024	Aurora FFE 6650 Welcome Back Fund	4363	50008663	348.78		0.00
05/02/2024	Countrywide Ground Maintenance 4560 SC Ground Maintenance	4364	553559	197.70		32.95
05/02/2024	Countrywide Ground Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	4365	553253	1,242.37		207.06
05/02/2024	Eljet Exterior Cleaning 4510 Office Cleaning	4366	01123	14.00		0.00
05/02/2024	Function 28 Ltd 4605 Website	4368	14561	12.00		2.00
05/02/2024	Function 28 Ltd 4605 Website	4369	14788	12.00		2.00
05/02/2024	Idverde 4590 Public Conveniences	4370	10903535	1,534.50		255.75
05/02/2024	N Ridge 4510 Office Cleaning	4371	35	123.08		0.00
05/02/2024	Parish Online 6105 Affiliation Fee	4373	40UF 039-0004	204		34.00
05/02/2024	Vision Office Technical Svs Ltd 4505 Printing & Stationery	4374	100216176	21.92		3.65
05/02/2024	WWMRG – Foxes Afternoon Tea 6625 Care in the Community	4375	285-288	1,032.50		0.00
05/02/2024	WWMRG – Foxes Lunches 6650 Welcome Back Fund	4376	280-284	1,071.00		0.00
05/02/2024	WWMRG – Talking Café 6625 Care in the Community	4377	294-297	256.00		0.00
05/02/2024	WWMRG – Youth Club 6635 Youth Provision	4378	302-305	377.00		0.00
05/02/2024	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4561 Weed spraying	4379	556763	1,800.00		300.00
05/02/2024	Glenmore Bakery 6720 Christmas Trees, 4520 1 st aid training	4380		254.00		0.00

23/278 Health and Safety

The Assistant to the Parish Clerk and the Memorial Ground & Pavilion Co-ordinator had attended a 1st Aid course, for cover within the parish office.

23/279 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Denton advised three sites had now been agreed by the police: North Road, Tower Hill and Long Street. Two new members would undertake training at the end of February; therefore, more speed watches will be undertaken. The Chairman thanked Cllr Denton for his work with the volunteers and police.

23/280 Local Community Network

The next meeting would be held on 7th February 2024. It was confirmed the Williton Household Waste Recycling Centre had been included on the agenda. Cllr Payne would attend at the Parish Council representative; all were reminded that anyone can attend.

23/281 Speed Indicator Devices

23/281.1 Use of post, opposite Roughmoor Industrial Estate – Cllr White advised he had spoken to the Highways officer who had verbally agreed the post was not suitable and instead there was a possibility the extending sign, near Glenmore Bakery could be used. Cllrs Aldridge and White would discuss options, including possible lampposts, noting this would first need permission.

23/281.2 Cllrs Aldridge confirmed brackets had been received and it was anticipated the SID would be installed later in the week.

23/282 Community Review Project

23/282.1 Further to the register of interest, submitted in November 2023, it had been confirmed that Williton Parish Council had been successful in being accepted. The requirements were considered. Cllr Denton volunteered to become the project lead; Cllr Peeks would offer help when available.

Resolution: Chairman to sign the agreement and for Cllr Denton to become the project lead
Proposed by Cllr Denton, seconded by Cllr Angell, 6 votes in favour, 2 abstentions and 1 against

23/283 Report from Somerset Rivers Authority Public Workshop seminar held on 9th January 2024

It was resolved to note the report that had been forwarded

23/284 Flood / Village Response Group

An event was being held in the pavilion of Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 6pm, which will include attendance from outside agencies. More volunteers were needed to enable the group to move forward.

23/285 Assets of Community Value Nomination Form

Somerset Council had confirmed receipt of the application and advised a decision would be made within 8 weeks from receipt – noted.

23/286 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 4th March 2024

When updates were available: Amenity Area, Williton's Postal Service, Youth Council, CCTV

23/287 A resolution was passed to exclude the Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting due to personnel and commercial sensitivity – Proposed Cllr Angell, seconded Cllr Denton

23/288 Increase to hours for Memorial Ground and Pavilion Co-ordinator

It was confirmed the Trustee had agreed to fund the extra hours. The Clerk had produced a paper explaining the need for the extra hours, to cover the existing workload.

Resolution: To agree to 4 extra hours per week, for the position of Memorial Ground & Pavilion Co-ordinator. Proposed by Cllr Denton, seconded by Cllr de Burgh-Thomas, unanimously **resolved**

23/289 Recommendation from EPC to award the WPC and SCC Ground Maintenance Contract 2024-2025 to Quotation Two

Resolution: To accept the recommendation, due to previous good service provided
Proposed by Cllr Denton, seconded by Cllr White, 8 votes in favour, 1 abstention

23/290 Recommendation from EPC to award the Weed Spraying Contract 2024-2025 to Quotation Five on a one-year contract

Resolution: To accept the recommendation, due to certifications and paperwork received
Proposed by Cllr Denton, seconded by Cllr White, 8 votes in favour, 1 vote against

Meeting closed at 8.44 pm

Signed as a true and correct record ... Cllr Payne Dated 4th March 2024