

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 29th May 2019 at 7.00 pm
At Williton Pavilion

Attendees:

Chairman	Perrett
SCC Councillors	None
SWAT Councillors	Aldridge
Parish Councillors	Aldridge, Hooper and Howes
Clerk	Mrs M Francis
Public	7 members
Press	None
Others	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Payne, Peeks,
Public	PCSO Thompson, Mrs Troman, Rev Gilbert

19/01 Apologies as noted above.

19/02 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th April 2018
It was **resolved** to approve the minutes

19/03 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

19/04 Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed all for attending and explained how the Parish Council is the Corporate Trustee of the Memorial Ground – which is run by WWMRG Charity.

The Chairman gave details of new members, Cllrs Payne and White during the previous year and advised the resignation of Cllrs Pearson, Vaughan and Bramall. It was with regret that Cllr Mike Bennett had passed away. There were currently five vacancies on the Parish Council. The Parish Office continued to thrive with regular bookings from the community and artists exhibiting their work. Agendas and notices continue to be displayed in the Parish Office window. Countrywide Grounds Maintenance was contracted for the maintenance of Memorial Ground.

Business discussed during the last year included the following:

- Bridge Green (The Copse) the Council continued to maintain this area.
- Doniford Car Park – Due to advice from Health and Safety advisor the car park had been closed and we are in the process of trying to surrender the lease.
- Bellamy's Corner – the Council continued to maintain this area. The area was enjoyed by the community.
- Community Speed Watch – more volunteers were needed.
- Wyndham Charity – this charity makes small donations to those in need and the Chairman sat on the Committee.
- Youth – the Council continued to support the youth club which was run by Minehead Eye. They meet on a Thursday night in the Pavilion.

- Grants – these have been awarded to the Talking Café, WASPS and a group providing a Christmas lunch for certain members of the community to tackle loneliness.
- Website – this continued to be updated it could be accessed to obtain up to date information on what had been happening in the meetings
- The Finger Posts were being refurbished – we are very grateful to the volunteers for their time in undertaking this work. We have also been very lucky to have been given a grant of £2,000.00 from Magna and £450 from CPRE, towards the cost of the refurbishment.
- Cllr Peeks continues to lead walks around the local footpaths.

Some of the projects that had been undertaken last year were as follows:

- Flood Plan – a new group is up and running, but it is low on numbers – looking for new members.
- Toilets – The District Council closed the toilets. Somerset West and Taunton Council have been asked to provide a copy of their budget for the toilets.
- Defibrillator – this was located in Spar and has been used to save a life.
- The Parish Council continue with ways of enhancing our community, ie, Information boards and festive lights at Christmas time. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Other Information

- It is with regret that vandalism is still occurring, mainly on the Memorial Ground. Unfortunately this has an impact on every tax payer.
- Cllr Davies had successfully secured funding from SIS (Small Improvement Scheme) this had been installed and completed.

Forthcoming Events

- Williton Fete – Saturday 6th July
- Christmas Festival – Wednesday 11th December

If you are able to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office

Projects presently being undertaken were as follows:

- Maintaining the work that had been carried out
- Flood Plan – to continue to monitor and improve

The Parish Council also represented other outside bodies and attended regular meetings. These included

- West Somerset Voluntary Sector Forum – dealing with welfare issues
- Magna Housing
- West Somerset Council meetings
- Watchet/Williton/Quantocks Area Panel
- Transport Forum
- Parish Council Open meetings
- West Somerset Flood Group/District Flood Board

The Chairman summed up his report by advising the meeting of the office opening hours and the availability of staff to help with any queries or issues the parishioners may have.

19/05 Financial Report

A written report was handed out. The ex-Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Mr Vaughan, gave the meeting a detailed breakdown of the accounts for the previous year and the budget for the forthcoming year. The budget for 2019-2020 had been set at £132,531.10 with a precept of £92,000.

Williton Youth Club is funded by the Parish Council – funding was no longer available through Somerset County Council. It was regularly attended by more than 20 children per session.

19/06 Pavilion Presentation

PROJECT SUMMARY

- Pavilion Completed – 23rd November 2018 (1 week late)
- Old Building Completed – 22nd March 2019 (1 month late)
- Minor Build Issues Arising During Warranty
 - To be address November 2019
 - Retention of £20,310.00
- Project Phase 1 Final Costs
 - Pavilion and Old Building £1,488,477.00
 - War Memorial Improvements £ 27,400.00
 - Total Cost £1,515,847.00

Cost Management

- Initial Operating Issues were explained
- Utility costs, such as Electric, Water and Gas were given

Expenditure

- Operational Overheads
- Usage generated costs
- Estimated costs for 2019-2020 - £18,000.00 to £22,000.00 (for the Pavilion and Memorial Ground)

Income

- Rental average around £900 per month based on regular users
- Fund Raising average around £800.00 per month
- Precept subsidy £6,500.00 per annum
- Estimated Total Income 2019-2020 - £24,000.00 - £28,000.00

Hire Rates 2019 (parishioner rates)

- Hall £10.00 per hour
- Brendon Room £7.00 per hour
- Quantock Room £7.00 per hour

Regular Users included:

- Football Club – Senior and Junior
- Youth Club
- Talking Café
- Wasps
- Zumba
- Aikido
- Pilates
- Village Bingo
- Film Club
- Table Top Sales
- Badminton
- Family History Group

Proposed Improvements / Investment

- Entry Sign and Village Finger Posts
- Data Link Protection Parish Office – Pavilion
- Quantock Room – Wall monitor for projection
- Part time janitor
- Strengthening Bollard Lighting
- Internal Door Opening Sensors
- Outdoor Gym Equipment

Old Building Facilities

- Kitchenette – with water heater
- Disabled unisex toilet
- Small amenity area
- Two equipment storage areas
- Electricity supply suitable to provide power for the MUGA lighting
- Issues: Requires new wall heaters, damp in the rear wall in the main store

Questions

- Does the CCTV help with vandalism?
 - Answer – Sometimes, but the cameras do not cover all areas.
- Are there any plans to install a Defibrillator on the Pavilion?
 - Answer – The Trustees are looking into this.
- The Old Building – grass is growing out of the guttering, please can this be cleared – can a net be put over the top of the top to stop future issue.

The Chairman thanked Mr Vaughan for his reports and spoke about his dedication to the Pavilion project. As a result Mr Vaughan had been recommended for an award for Community Service.

19/07 Any Other Parish Issues

The following points were raised;

- ❖ Concern was raised regarding the overgrown Union Lane and how the vegetation was growing out into the main footpath.
- ❖ Wyndham Estate would be written to and asked to clear – photos would be sent
- ❖ Would another litter pick be possible? This depended upon volunteers.

The Chairman thanked all for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.06 pm

Signed as a true and correct record Cllr Payne Dated28th April 2021