

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 7th May 2024 at 7.00 pm
In the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Aldridge, Denton, Hooper, Howes, (left at 7.20pm after item 24/09), Nye, Rutter and Whetlor
Somerset Council	Woods (left at 7.40pm after item 24/14)
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	None
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Angell, de Burgh-Thomas, Peeks (personal reasons)
Somerset Councillor	Davies (due to attendance at another meeting)
Other	None

It was advised that the meeting would be recorded.

- 24/01** Cllr Payne was unanimously elected as Chairman and duly signed the Declaration of Office Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Whetlor.

24/02 Conduct of Meeting including Code of Conduct and Respect for others at Meeting

The Chairman reminded members to speak only through the Chair and to respect others whilst they were speaking.

24/03 Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved

A resignation letter had been received by Cllr White, which the Chairman read to members. The Chairman thanked Cllr White for all his work whilst on the council.

24/04 Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Aldridge	24/16.2	Personal	Advised meeting
Cllr Hooper	24/32	Personal	Advised meeting

24/05 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Aldridge was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman, proposed Cllr Whetlor, seconded Cllr Hooper.

24/06 Appointment of Councillors to Committees and confirmation of days and dates of meetings

- 24/06.1 Cllrs Denton, Hooper, Howes, were duly elected to the Finance and Administration Committee with Cllrs Aldridge and Payne as ex officio members.
Members not present would be confirmed at the June meeting.

- 24/06.2 Cllrs Nye and Peeks were duly elected to the Environment and Planning Committee with Cllrs Payne and Aldridge as ex officio members.
Members not present would be confirmed at the June meeting.

- 24/06.3 Cllrs Aldridge, Denton and Whetlor were duly elected to the Personnel Committee

- 24/06.4 Cllr Hooper was duly elected to the Grievance Committee, leaving two vacancies

- 24/06.5 Cllrs Howes and Nye were duly elected to the Appeals Committee, leaving one vacancy

- 24/06.6 Cllrs Aldridge and Howes were duly elected to the Events Sub-Committee

- 24/06.7 Cllr Aldridge was duly elected to the Village Emergency Response Group, leaving one vacancy.

Meeting dates had previously been agreed – noted

24/07 Appointment of Representatives to Outside Bodies

It was **resolved** to appoint representatives as follows:

Contractor Liaison Officers	Howes, Payne and Clerk
EDF/Hinkley Point Transport Forum	Whetlor
EDF/Hinkley Point Community Forum	Payne
Flood Group	Aldridge and de Burgh-Thomas

Cont/.....

Health & Safety Representative	Payne (one vacancy)
Highway Liaison Contact	Aldridge and Whetlor
Magna Housing Association	Payne
Press Officer	Clerk and Howes
Pupil Parliament / Youth Groups	Angell and Whetlor
Quantock Foodbank Management Committee	Payne
Rights of Way Representatives	Peeks
St Decumans Charity / Mary Huxtable Trust	Whetlor
Speed Watch	Denton, de Burgh-Thomas and Nye
Twinning Association	Aldridge
Watchet/Williton/Quantock Area Panel	Office as corresponding notification
West Somerset Voluntary Sector Forum	Payne
Williton Library & Friends Group Officer	Howes
Wyndham Charity	Payne

24/08 Confirmation of continued Eligibility and re-adoption of the General Power of Competence

Williton Parish Council resolves that having met the conditions of eligibility as defined in the Localism Act 2011 and S1 965 The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions Order 2012), resolves that the Council is eligible to adopt and to exercise the General Power of Competence due to having 2/3 elected members and a qualified Clerk.

Proposed Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Howes and unanimously **resolved**.

Resolution: To confirm and re-adopt the General Power of Competence.

Proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Howes, unanimously **resolved**.

24/09 Co-option of Councillors

An application had been received by Mr Paul Rutter for the casual vacancy on the Council. After a proposal from Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Howes, it was unanimously **resolved** to co-opt. Mr Rutter to the Council. As Cllr Rutter was in attendance, he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance, after which he was able to take part in the remainder of the meeting.

24/10 To re-adopt Standing Orders

Resolution: To re-adopt the Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Whetlor, unanimously **resolved**

24/11 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th April 2024

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

Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Aldridge.

24/12 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only

The Chairman advised a meeting had been arranged with Cllr Bill Revans, 10th June 2024

24/13 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

At the Parish Assembly, officers confirmed reports would be based on local issues.

24/14 Report from Somerset Councillors

Written reports had been received from Cllrs Davies and forwarded to members.

Cllr Woods read to members her yearly report, which included the current financial situation with Somerset Council selling investment properties; Suez waste contract was currently holding ongoing negotiations; roadside verges would be cut to 1m; Bus Fares would be £2 until December, noting Taunton had cheaper fares; Rural business grants were available; Storm Henk - Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme April 24 – details of which would be forwarded.

Members raised concern with lack of visibility regarding verge cutting – Cllr Woods would raise these concerns at Somerset Council and it would be discussed at the next LCN meeting.

24/15 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

Cllr Aldridge would write the next article for Williton Window, which would be submitted via the Clerk

24/16 Correspondence

24/16.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log

24/16.2 The report received from Citizens Advice West Somerset was noted

24/16.3 Williton Allotments had sent a thank you letter for the grant they had been awarded

24/17 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 15th April 2024

It was **resolved** to note the report

24/18 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 22nd April 2024

It was **resolved** to note the report

24/18.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 31st March 2024.

24/19 Report from the Events Sub Committee held on 10th April 2024

It was **resolved** to note the report

The lighting of the Beacon for the D-Day commemoration on Thursday 6th June 2024 was noted.

24/20 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 Whetlor

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
07/05/2024	Aurora FE Ltd 6625 Care in the Community	4420	50010053	195.89		0.00
07/05/2024	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4560 SC Ground Maintenance	4421	569040	222.90		37.15
07/05/2024	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	4422	569038	1,312.99		218.83
07/05/2024	Enhanced Group 4505 Printing and Stationery	4423	1467	196.99		32.83
07/05/2024	Function 28 Ltd 4605 Website	4424	15230	12.00		2.00
07/05/2024	Lyreco Uk Ltd 4205 Printing & Stationery	4425	6086/5027 C46079	72.96		12.16

24/21 Health and Safety - Nothing reported**24/22 Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 23rd April 2024**

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the evening, advising parishioners who had attended had since thanked the Parish Council for organising two very informative speakers and that it had been a successful evening. It was noted it was unfortunate the projector in the Pavilion Hall had not been working. In future years, parishioners would be asked to submit and questions seven days before the meeting to enable answers to be given.

24/22.1 A letter and an email from parishioners had been received. One thanked the Parish Council for all it had done over the past year. The other included criticism of the raising of the precept, also criticism of ways the Parish Council had looked into cutting costs. At the Parish Assembly the author had stated they would make contact for a meeting with the Chairman and Clerk. Members were asked if this was the way they wished to proceed. After a discussion, it was proposed that the parishioner be invited to attend a Finance or Full Council meeting to express their views, within the 3-minute allotted time in the public participation section, proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Whetlor.

An amendment was proposed by Cllr Hooper for the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk to hold a face-to-face meeting, with no seconder a vote was taken on the original proposal, to invite the parishioner to attend the public participation session of either the Finance or Full Council meeting, which was resolved with six votes in favour and one against.

24/23 Amenity Area

The Chairman advised three members of the working group had attended the last meeting and changes were discussed, however, these would not take place as Full Council had previously agreed the proposals presented. Quotations and funding would be sought on the plan as agreed.

24/24 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Denton gave a verbal update on the recent survey near Danesfield School – 59 cars had been in excess of 30mph, another survey would be undertaken when 20mph flashing lights were active. Tower Hill would be surveyed shortly. EPC committee would be asked to consider requesting Five Bells be altered to a 30mph zone. All involved were thanked for undertaking the speed watches, Cllr Denton was asked to pass thanks onto the volunteers.

24/25 Speed Indicator Devices

24/25.1 Somerset Council Highways had agreed in principle with the proposed sites for new posts but would confirm after consulting with other departments.

24/25.2 Cllr Aldridge advised the SID would be erected in North Road.

24/26 Community Review Project

Cllr Denton confirmed there were 5 members on the steering group: 3 parishioners, Cllr Denton and Cllr Peeks. A meeting would be held over the coming weeks.

24/27 Youth Council

There was no update

24/28 Local Community Network

The Chairman gave a verbal report on the recent meeting, which had focussed on the Highways Sub Group.

24/29 Flood / Village Response Group

24/29.1 Cllr Aldridge gave a verbal report on the Public Meeting held on 17th April 2024 which had been successful. Dulverton had sent two representatives who explained their experience and equipment they would recommend. More volunteers were required. Cllr Rutter and the Clerk would discuss contacting Orchard Wyndham Estate.

24/30 Verbal Report from West Somerset Flood Group meeting held on 24th April 2024 - Noted

24/31 Williton Chemist

Despite several reminders being sent, no response had been received from JHoots Pharmacy regarding the issues raised at a previous meeting. It was **resolved** to investigate a formal complaint and request JHoots withdrew their franchise to enable another to take over. Support would be requested from Williton Surgery and Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, also the overseeing body – General Pharmaceutical Council. Proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Whetlor and unanimously **resolved**.

24/32 Caravan in Killick Way

It was noted the caravan had been removed. Somerset Council would be written to, to thank them for their assistance. It was noted a motorhome had been parked in the car park and this would be noted within the letter. Proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Denton, unanimously **resolved**.

24/33 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 3rd June 2024 - Policies

24/34 A resolution was passed to exclude the Press and Public from the remainder of the meeting due to commercial sensitivity. Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Hooper and unanimously **resolved**.

24/35 Insurance Renewal

It was noted that only one quotation had been received. It was agreed to hold an extra ordinary meeting on 28th May at 6.30pm to enable other quotations to be received.

24/36 Play Area Equipment

Resolution: For EPC committee to have delegated authority to accept a quotation for the play equipment, as previously agreed, within the set budget

Proposed by Cllr Denton, seconded by Cllr Hooper, **resolved** with one abstention

24/37 Flagpole

Members were presented with quotations for a flagpole to be erected on Bellamy's Corner

Resolution: To accept quotation one, with a budget of £912.00 + vat.

Proposed by Cllr Aldridge, seconded by Cllr Whetlor, **resolved** with one abstention

Meeting closed at 8.57 pm

Signed as a true and correct record ... Cllr Payne Dated 3rd June 2024