

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd December 2024 at 7.00 pm
In Williton Pavilion, Robert Street, Williton, Somerset

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Aldridge, Angell, Hooper, Howes, Peeks and Rutter
Somerset Council	Woods (left after item 24/217 at 7.21pm)
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	None
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Denton (work commitments)
Somerset Councillor	McDonald, Schmieder and Whetlor (personal reasons)
Other	Davies
	None

24/210 It was advised that the meeting would be recorded.

24/211 Conduct of Meeting including Code of Conduct and Respect for others at Meeting

The Chairman reminded members due to the long agenda, to speak only once through the Chair and to respect others whilst they were speaking.

24/212 Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved

- **Resolution:** To accept apologies listed above
Proposed by Cllr Howes, seconded by Cllr Angell, unanimously resolved

24/213 Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Hooper	24/219.4	Other Non-Registerable Interest	Left Meeting
Cllr Payne	24/219.2	Other Non-Registerable Interest	Did not take part

24/214 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th November 2024

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting.
Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Angell, with 2 abstentions due to absence and 1 against.

24/215 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only

Members were apologised too regarding any mis-understanding and clarification was given regarding item 24/185, only confidential session items should not be discussed out of the chamber.

24/216 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

24/216.1 A reply had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner, after intervention from West Somerset Free Press, and a meeting had been proposed for January 2025, confirmation was awaited.

24/217 Report from Somerset Councillors

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

Cllr Woods read her report and highlighted the Government had advised County Councils they could increase their precept request for Council Tax, which had been capped at 5%; confirmation was awaited until at Somerset Council had held their budget meeting.

(Cllr Woods left the meeting at 7.21pm)

24/218 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

24/218.1 It was noted the following Councillors had undertaken training: Aldridge, Angell, Payne, Peeks, Rutter and Schmieder

Remaining members were asked to contact the office to arrange a date to undertake the training.

24/219 Correspondence

- 24/219.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log. Item 62 from Maitland Walker was discussed, noting the advice. An invoice would be sent to SC to counter claim
- 24/219.2 A request had been received from St Peters Church to place a banner on Bellamy's Corner advertising Christmas church services.
- **Resolution:** As Somerset Council had previously advised "*SCC is content that your council can continue to occupy as per the terms of the expired lease*" it was **resolved**, with two abstentions, to give authorisation. Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Howes
- 24/219.3 A reply had been received from Rachel Gilmour MP, after intervention from West Somerset Free Press, with an invitation to attend a surgery, taking place on Saturdays until the 21st of December 2024. It was **resolved** to request that Cllrs Payne and Angell attend on Saturday 14th December.
- 24/219.4 (Cllr Hooper left the meeting room for this item at 7.36pm)
- Somerset Council had requested comments on an application for a Street Trading Licence, which was discussed by members.
- **Resolution:** No Objection
Proposed by Cllr Howes, seconded by Cllr Aldridge, two abstentions
- (Cllr Hooper returned to the meeting room 7.42pm)
- 24/219.5 A thank you letter had been received from Citizens Advice West Somerset for the Parish Councils recent funding.
- 24/219.6 A letter had been received from Somerset Council – reflection on year and advising "*to build contingency into budgets to be able to take on services that Somerset Council may not be able to continue*". It was noted that as the Parish Council do not know what services may be affected, then it would not be possible to do as suggested and build a contingency.
- 24/219.7 Notification from Somerset Council advising the reception desk at West Somerset House would permanently close at 3pm on Christmas Eve and re-open in Williton Library on 2nd January 2025 with a CAP Customer Access Point - noted
- 24/219.8 Consideration was given to a request that had been received from WWMRG Charity to cease paying for the Memorial Ground and Pavilion Co-ordinator, backdated to 1st October 2024 and for the financial year 2025/2026, citing concern of funds, and requesting the Parish Council to cover the employment costs.
- **Resolution:** The Parish Council agreed to cover all employment costs, with no reimbursement from WWMRG Charity, for the position of Memorial Ground and Pavilion Co-ordinator, for the period 1st October 2024 – 31st March 2025 and 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026. To be reviewed in November 2025, when budget setting.
Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Aldridge, 6 votes in favour and 1 vote against

24/220 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 11th November 2024

It was **resolved** to note the report

- 24/220.1 A draft letter had been forwarded from Cllr Peeks, regarding Aller Mead footpath, with a request to consider agreement to submit the letter to Somerset Council Highways, and to acknowledge acceptance of potential costs to the Parish Council for extra maintenance, eg, weed spraying.
- **Resolution:** To agree for the letter to be submitted and accept potential costs for extra maintenance.
Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Howes, unanimous

24/221 A request had been received from Cllr Rutter to discuss impact on Biodiversity in and around Outmoor Wood, following tree felling and to consider the following actions be undertaken:

- a) Make concerns know to Somerset Council Planning Department over the impact on the biodiversity in and around Outmoor Wood by the proposed housing development.
- b) Request an opportunity to comment on the Woodland Management Plan that Orchard Wyndham estate have informed the council they are updating for Outmoor wood
- c) To approach the County ecologist and be made aware of the site and its significance, which may need an Environmental Impact Assessment
- d) To write a stern letter to the Forestry Commission expressing concern over the lapse of adequate guidance and enforcement in the removal of mature trees from the wood, known to have a high probability of being bat habitat, in a wood where three other European Protected species have been recorded.

- e) To object to any changes in the original planning application that will reduce the mitigation of habitat loss and protection of species around the development site.
 - f) To object to any use of land to the east of the development for housing, suggested by Somerset Wildlife Trust that can be utilised for environmental benefit and enhancement
 - g) To extend Tree Protection Orders to a wider area and include hedgerow trees around the perimeter of the new development.
- **Resolution:** To agree for a letter to be sent
Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Angell, unanimous

24/222 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 18th November 2024

It was **resolved** to note the report

24/222.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 31st October 2024.

24/222.2 It was **resolved** to note the detailed receipts and expenditure analysis as at the 31st October 2024

24/223 A resolution was passed to exclude the press and the public from the remainder of the meeting, due to commercial sensitivity.

Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Hooper, unanimously **resolved**

24/224 To consider Grounds Maintenance Contract quotations for 2025/2026

Figures were considered for the purpose of budget setting. Unanimously **resolved** EPC would have the authority to appoint the contractor. Proposed Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Hooper one abstention

24/225 To consider Weed Spraying Contract quotations for 2025/2026

Figures were considered for the purpose of budget setting. Unanimously **resolved** EPC would have the authority to appoint the contractor. Proposed Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Hooper one abstention

24/226 Members of the press and public were invited to re-enter the meeting – There were none

24/227 Budget Considerations 2025 - 2026

It was noted rates would need to be included due to now being unable to claim for small business rate relief. The final budget would be set at the January 2025 meeting. The Clerk advised an email had been received from Watchet Town Council advising of a possible rise in costs relating the upkeep of the Cemetery, but pointed out to members that Williton Parish Council make a donation only to the closed Churchyard and had replied to Watchet Town Council to advise.

24/228 Report from the Events Sub Committee held on 13th November 2024

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

24/228.1 Children's Party – Saturday 7th December 2024. It was noted there had been a very low uptake on tickets, at least 25 children were needed for the event to continue.

24/229 To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee

It was unanimously **resolved** to pay the following invoices.

Proposed Cllr Howes, seconded Cllr Hooper

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
02/12/2024	AM PAT Testing 4525 H&S	4539	64-5	127.00		0.00
02/12/2024	Amazon - Shredder 4105 Purchase of Goods	4540		228.85		38.14
02/12/2024	Amazon 4505 Printing & Stationery	4541		12.37		20.07
02/12/2024	Aurora FE Ltd 6625 Care in the Community	4542	12652	271.99		0.00
02/12/2024	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	4543	604327	1,312.99		218.83
02/12/2024	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4560 SC Ground Maintenance	4544	604328	222.90		37.15

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
02/12/2024	Function 28 Ltd 4605 Website	4545	16291	12.00		2.00
02/12/2024	Lights 4 Fun 6720 Christmas Lighting	4546	1114546	84.96		14.16
02/12/2024	N Ridge 4510 Office Cleaning	4547	20	150.97		0.00
02/12/2024	Somerset Council 4340 Small Business Rates	4548	2023-24	2,102.67		0.00
02/12/2024	Somerset Council 4340 Small Business Rates	4549	2024-25	2,594.80		0.00
02/12/2024	Somerset Council Legal Costs	4550	300 46653	1,408.26		0.00

24/230 To Consider the Following Planning Applications

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/28/24/008	Tremont, 33 Tower Hill, Williton, TA4 4JR	Demolition of 1 No. dwelling with associated outbuildings and erection of 3 No. dwellings	Objection on same grounds as before – overdevelopment of site Proposed Cllr Payne, seconded Cllr Aldridge, one abstention
3/39/24/024	Brook Food Processing Equipment Ltd, The New Works, Roughmoor, Williton, TA4 4RF	Erection of a steel portal frame storage (Class B8) building	No objection , but would suggest solar panels on the roof, if possible. Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Peeks – unanimously resolved
3/39/24/025	Doniford Holiday Village, Sea Lane, Doniford, Williton, TA23 0TJ	Erection, with associated ground works, of a modular retail unit	No objection if sufficient litter bins are provided, and the loss of the car parking space would not have adverse effect. Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Aldridge – unanimously resolved
T/39/24/001	14 Catwell, Williton TA4 4PF	Application to carry out management works to one beech tree included in West Somerset District Tree Preservation Order T/3/115 at 14 Catwell, Williton	Objection to the crown being raised too much, excessive work which would lose the amenity value and health of the tree. Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Rutter, one against

24/230.2 It was **resolved** not to request any of the above applications be considered by Planning Committee
Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Payne, two abstentions

24/231 Health and Safety

24/231.1 Bleed Kits for installation outside the Parish Office – further information and costings would be sought

24/231.2 Undertaking of work and ensuring safe operating systems – this would be represented to the January meeting

24/231.3 The fence between the Amenity Area and the Children's Play Area had blown down – the Amenity Area had been locked and contractors had been contacted to remove the fence entirely.

24/232 Williton Window

An article had been submitted to the West Somerset Free Press and circulated via social media, with a plea for volunteers

24/233 Community Speed Watch

No report due to the absence of Cllr Denton

24/234 Speed Indicator Devices

24/234.1 Cllr Aldridge confirmed a bracket had been installed on the post, located on the verge opposite Sir Gilbert Scott Court, Long Street, and would now be used as an extra position for the SID device.

24/234.3 Dates of upcoming training had been received and forwarded

24/235 Community Review Project

The draft document had been received and forwarded to members

24/236 Local Community Network

The last meeting minutes had been forwarded.

A Highways meeting had taken place earlier in the day, but had not been attended, due to prior commitments.

24/237 Williton Chemist

No response had been received regarding the concerns raised, but it was noted that there had been improvements. It was unanimously **resolved** to remove the item from the agenda.

24/238 Bellamy's Corner

24/238.1 As no commitment was forthcoming from Somerset Council regarding the purchase of Bellamy's Corner, Maitland Walker had advised the closure of the client account and the invoice from Somerset Council be paid. This had been agreed under item 24/229.

24/238.2 Consideration was given regarding sending a letter of complaint to Cllr Revans, Leader of Somerset Council, regarding the above and to send an invoice to recoup costs, as Somerset Council did not proceed with the purchase of the land. It was resolved to include that the Parish Council continued to maintain the area, with no lease, just an email advising Somerset Council were happy for the Parish Council to continue under the terms of the expired lease.

Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Howes, unanimously **resolved**.

24/239 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 6th January 2024

Youth Council – February 2025

Cllr Aldridge requested it was acknowledged that it had been a difficult calendar year and thanked staff and councillors for everyone's hard work

Meeting closed at 9.06 pm

Signed as a true and correct record Cllr Payne Dated ... 6th January 2025