

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th April 2025 at 7.00 pm
In the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Hooper, Nye, Peeks, Rutter and Schmieder
Somerset Council	Davies
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	None
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Aldridge, Angell, Denton and Whetlor
Somerset Councillor	Woods
Other	None

24/315 It was advised that the meeting would be recorded.

24/316 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

24/317 Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved

No Councillor present would propose to accept the apologies; therefore, apologies were not accepted

24/318 Declarations of Interest

There were none

24/319 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd March 2025

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting.
Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Rutter, 3 abstentions due to absence

24/320 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only

There were none

24/321 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

The latest newsletter had been forwarded. The first beat surgery had been held in the Parish Office, the next date was Wednesday 9th April.

24/322 Report from Somerset Councillors

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

Councillor Davies highlighted news regarding the bus service and that the evening service into Minehead would remain. The recycling centre were now open longer hours for the summer months. A decision on its future had not yet been made. It was noted the Somerset Council tax had increased considerably.

Cllr Peeks enquired if a date was known when the double yellow line order would be in force – no date was known. The Chairman reiterated the Parish Council had not requested any increase to the lines, just that the current lines be changed from seasonal to consistent no parking all year

24/323 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

24/323.1 Dates of meetings for 2025-2026 had been circulated

The Chairman had attended the Minehead Male Voice Choir on behalf of the Parish Council had reported how good the evening had been. They would be performing in Williton and all were encouraged to attend.

Hayleys shop had advised they were in the process of forming a CIC, to provide a similar service for a safe space for women.

24/324 Correspondence

24/324.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log

- 24/324.2 Somerset Community Foundation had confirmed the covid funding could be used to fund the community lunches
- 24/324.3 A request had been received from the Royal British Legion to place a plaque in the Memorial Shelter to mark VE80 Day. It was confirmed the request was in relation to the shelter by the War Memorial
- **Resolution:** To agree for the RBL to purchase and arrange for a plaque to be placed in the Memorial Shelter after ownership was confirmed
Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Rutter, unanimously **resolved**
- Consideration was given to purchase a VE Day flag for Bellamy's Corner. Cllr Peeks proposed not to purchase and fly the flag; this was seconded by Cllr Hooper. An amendment was proposed by Cllr Payne to purchase and fly the flag as a Nationally significant day in memorial to the fallen; this was seconded by Cllr Rutter. A vote was taken on the first amendment, to purchase and fly the VE Day flag, three votes in favour and three against. The Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the proposal. The vote replaced the previous motion as substantive motion. As no further amendment was proposed a vote was taken on the substantive motion to purchase and fly the VE Day flag, which was passed with three votes in favour and three against, the Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the proposal.
- **Resolution:** To purchase and fly the VE Day flag on Bellamy's Corner
Proposed by Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Rutter
- Cllr Davies stated he was rather taken aback by the above discussion and offered to pay for the flag, which was gratefully accepted.
- 24/324.4 An invitation had been received from Somerset Council to attend a Teams meeting to discuss a necessary legal process re the B3191 Cleeve Hill, to which all councillors were invited to attend.
- 24/324.5 Somerset Council had forwarded a consultation on dog control orders – it was noted this was in South Somerset, so no response would be made, but an update would be requested on the order areas within Williton.
- 24/324.6 A letter of thanks had been received from West Somerset Citizens Advice regarding the extra funding that had been granted, which included highlights of how the service had helped Williton residents
- 24/324.7 A questionnaire had been returned to the Parish Office regarding view on 'A Different Crossing in Williton'. This had not originated from the Parish Council; however, it stated that Williton Parish Council are supporting this. This was factually incorrect as it would only be discussed later in the meeting under 24/325.2
- **Resolution:** To put a strongly worded notice on social media that this questionnaire had not originated from, nor supported by, the Parish Council and to try and find out where the questionnaire had originated from
Proposed by Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Nye, with 3 abstentions
- 24/325 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 10th March 2025**
- It was **resolved** to note the report
- 24/325.1 Consideration was given to the recommendation to accept an extended 3-year contract on the Grounds Maintenance contract, with the suggestion the CPI inflation rate for the month of December each year + 2.5%, however, the date could be November or January. Cllr Payne proposed the 3-year extension was agreed and the rate considered in November for budget setting. There was no seconder to this proposal.
- Cllr Peeks proposed that the extended contract was agreed, to consider the rate in November for budget setting purposes, but to ask the contractor to use November, December or January, which ever was the cheapest rate; seconded by Cllr Hooper.
- **Resolution:** To agree to the extended 3-year contract, basing the rate in November for budget setting, but to ask the contractor to use November, December or January, which ever was the cheapest rate
Proposed by Cllr Peeks, seconded by Cllr Hooper, 5 votes in favour and 1 vote against
- 24/325.2 Consideration was given to the recommendation to support J Gliddon and Sons Fore Street proposal and to request that Somerset Council investigate S106 funding from other areas. Cllr Peeks made the following comments: loss of at least 1 parking space; zig zag lines confusing for motorists; desire line not necessarily there; not enough homework to prove improvement.
- Cllr Payne proposed the recommendation from EPC was accepted, to support the proposal, seconded by Cllr Rutter, 3 votes in favour, 3 votes against. The Chairman used his casting vote to agree to the recommendation. **Resolved**

The clerk advised members this contradicted the decision under 24/324.7, members still wished to proceed with their decision

The Parish Council would highlight on all planning application responses to Somerset Council, that S106 money should be requested on every application, both current and future

24/326 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 17th March 2025

It was **resolved** to note the report

A query was raised regarding 24/142A Community Asset Register application for Children's Centre. Whilst it was noted the children's provision would be available at another location within the parish, the other users of the building should be considered. It was resolved to add this to the next Full Council meeting.

24/326.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 28th February 2025

24/326.2 It was **resolved** to note the detailed receipts and expenditure analysis as at 28th February 2025

24/327 Report from the Events Sub Committee held on 12th March 2025

It was **resolved** to note the report and agree to Parish Council events

24/328 Report from Somerset Bus User Group held on 25th March 2025

The report from Cllr Aldridge had been forwarded to members and noted

24/329 To receive accounts for payment not covered by Finance and Admin Committee

It was **resolved** to pay the following invoices. Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Hooper

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
27/03/2025	Aurora Group Ltd	4672	50015219	436.82		
	6625 Care in community					0.00
31/03/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	4673	624291	1,312.99		
	4555 WPC Ground Maintenance					218.83
31/03/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance	4673	624444	222.90		
	4560 SC Ground Maintenance					37.15
31/03/2025	Enhanced Group	4674	2121	185.17		
	4505 Printing & Stationery					30.86
28/03/2025	Function 28 Ltd	4675	16920	12.00		
	4605 Website					2.00
31/03/2025	Lyreco UK Ltd	4676	332756	40.20		
	4505 Printing & Stationery					6.70
24/01/2025	Spot on Supplies	4677	21602186	23.21		
	4570 Consumables					3.87
19/03/2025	WWMRG	4678	380-24/25	16.25		
	4575 Hire of rooms Flood Group					0.00
31/03/2025	HMRC	4679	10 – 12	1,664.16		
	4210 HMRC					0.00

24/330 Health and Safety

24/330.1 It was confirmed the annual audit had been undertaken; concern was raised regarding the large play equipment which was being reported to the next EPC meeting

24/331 Parish Newsletter – replacement of Williton Window

24/331.1 The first newsletter had been distributed, and excellent feedback had been received

It was noted a safe operating guidance had been received from the H&S advisor and distributors would be asked sign stating agreement.

The previous Williton Window contact would be asked to clarify what the situation was regarding any properties that had no junk mail displayed and whether they were delivered to.

24/332 Community Speed Watch

A member advised the solar panel with the SID device at Tower Hill glared in the sun.

24/333 Community Review Project

24/333.1 Cllr Denton would be asked for an update, regarding the proposed Steering Group meeting

24/334 Local Community Network / Somerset Council

24/334.1 Draft minutes of the Highways Subgroup had been forwarded - noted

24/334.2 The next LCN meeting would be held on Thursday 10th April 2025 - noted

24/335 Somerset Council

24/335.1 A response to the Parish Council's letter regarding the closure of the reception desk at West Somerset House had been received and forwarded to members. Members felt the response did not adequately answer the concerns raised, therefore, it was resolved another letter would be sent requesting the face-to-face service was continued, with a member of staff present and available. The letter would include it was not just the older demographic that the closure would affect and ask if the Equalities Act had been considered

24/335.2 A response had been received regarding the sale of Williton buildings, stating Somerset Council needed to obtain the best value by advertising on the open market. It was resolved to respond stating that it was understood Wells cinema was sold before going on the open market, as reported on the radio.

It was further resolved to register the Public Conveniences as a community asset – proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Hooper and unanimously **resolved**

24/336 Annual Parish Assembly

24/336.1 Members were reminded the Parish Assembly would be held on Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at Williton Pavilion. Unfortunately, Rachel Gilmour MP was unable to attend due to Parliament sitting; as notice had been included in the Newsletter, it was resolved to continue and invite the Chief Planning Officer or Portfolio Holder for Planning to attend

24/337 Councillor Surgeries

24/337.1 The clerk had forwarded dates for councillors to consider and volunteer for, in conjunction with the Police Pop Up Surgery and Talking Café, including a weekday and a Saturday, monthly. Three members volunteered, for April, May and June – all were asked to consider filling the other dates.

24/338 A resolution was unanimously passed to exclude members of the press and public from the remainder of the meeting, due to Personnel matters

Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Nye

24/339 To receive recommendation from Personnel meeting

This item was deferred due to no members of the personnel committee being present and further information required regarding undertaking audit of employment roles

24/340 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 6th May 2025

Meeting closed at 8.37 pm

Signed as a true and correct record Dated