

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on
Monday 9th June 2025 at 7.00pm, in the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton.

Attendees:

Councillors	Peeks (Chairman), Nye, Payne, Aldridge (arrived at 7.09pm item 25/11.4B) Rutter (arrived at 7.11pm item 25/22.5B)
Public	None
Other	Mrs Charlotte Hirst (Committee Clerk)

Apologies:

Councillors	None
--------------------	------

It was advised the meeting would be recorded

25/18B Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved as indicated (LGA 1972 s85 (1)).

25/19B Declarations of Interest

None

25/20B Approval of Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee meetings held on 12th May 2025

It was **Resolved** approve the Minutes **Proposed Cllr Payne Seconded Cllr Nye** unanimously resolved.

25.21B Matters from the Minutes

Streets for weed spraying – it was noted that an email had been sent out to Councillors to adopt street to be checked for weed spraying and not many responses had been received – Committee Clerk to chase.

25/22B Correspondence

25/22.1B Letter received from Somerset Council regarding 3/39/25/004 amendments – Noted.

25/22.2B An Email had been received from a Parishioner reporting that a section of Station Road had not been mown, Committee Clerk had reported this to the Grounds Maintenance Contractors and this had been rectified – noted.

25/22.3B A report had been received that the static caravan at Wibble Farm Business Park had a person in residence permanently and a query was raised if they were paying Council Tax. The Committee Clerk had reported this and Somerset Councils response was **Noted** Cllr Peeks was stated that she was disappointed that this matter was seen as a low priority by the Planning Enforcement Officer.

25/22.4B Following the report from Somerset Council no longer accepting third party reporting sites such as Fix My Street.

Resolution Committee Clerk to write to Somerset Council to request that Somerset Council continue accepting reports for Fix My Street.

25/22.5B A parishioner called into the office to enquire if there was an update from the Environment Agency on the works due to be carried out on the overgrown property, Committee Clerk had contracted the Environment Agency who had responded to say they would no longer be carrying out the scheduled work.
Resolution a letter be sent to residents in the surrounding areas reminding them of their Riparian Responsibilities.

25/23B To Consider the Following Planning Applications

25/23.1B The following applications and if a request for Section 106 Funding is appropriate were considered.

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/39/25/007	12 Catwell, Williton, Taunton, TA4 4PF	Demolition of a uPVC conservatory and erection of a single storey linked side and rear extension, incorporating replacement of a flat roof with a pitched roof on a single storey extension and canopy to the front elevation.	No Objection. Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Payne Unanimously Resolved
CMA/39/25/001	5 Long Street, Williton	Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) into 6 No. dwellings (Use Class C3).	Comments below

Williton Parish Council Object on the following grounds:

1. Williton Parish Council feel that this is substandard accommodation as there is no onsite parking and no convenient route to the public car parks. It is known that users of the Killick Way car park opposite the application site cross the road on the blind corner. Work has been carried out by the Highway Authority on moving the pedestrian crossing in Fore Street to be nearer this bend but in a safe place where users will be able to cross safely. The design review by Somerset Council dated 30th January 2025 which supports this is ATTACHED
2. Williton Parish Council consider that there is significant fire risk with the bike storage located at the only exit from the property onto Long Street. The passageway is at risk of becoming blocked, the bin storage for 6 flats would not only increase fire risk but also cause dreadful odours especially from the food waste bins.
3. The lack of private areas or a communal area outside for all flats will be detrimental to mental health as seen in COVID. If the double doors could be made available to the rear outdoor space by all the flats and that space was made larger so there is sufficient space for the use of the occupiers of the 6 flats, this would overcome the Parish Council's concern on this point. We realise this may mean the loss of one flat.
4. With the lack of outdoor space for the flats, living costs would be higher as for example there is no outside space to dry clothes so all flats will have to use energy to dry the clothes.
5. The collection of the refuse would cause risks and inconvenience to the pedestrians using the pavement and road users that use Long Street when carrying out their collections as Long Street will be blocked. The pavements are too narrow to leave wheelie bins and recycling boxes especially for pedestrians using mobility scooters and pushchairs.
6. Williton Parish Council see this as a ghetto of the future as it seems to be a matter of number of properties rather than quality homes.

If this application is approved Williton Parish Council request that Section 106

Funding for recreational use is required as set out in the adopted Planning Obligations SPD (West Somerset)

Williton Parish Council requests that this Planning Application be considered by the Planning Committee.

Proposed Cllr Payne Seconded Cllr Nye unanimously resolved

25/23.2B Decision to be made as to whether a request for any of the above applications are to be considered by Planning Committee – CMA/39/25/001 **Proposed Cllr Payne Seconded Cllr Aldridge unanimously resolved.**

25/23.3B To Note the Following Planning Decisions

Application No	Location	Outcome
3/39/25/003	23 Catwell, Williton, TA4 4PF	Grant
3/39/24/013	Land to the West of Williton, Off Priest Street, Williton	Grant
3/39/25/001	Doniford Holiday Village, Sea Lane, Doniford, Williton, TA23 0TJ	Grant

25/23.4B A response following the approval of the reserved matters regarding planning application 3/39/24/013 was considered **Resolution** Cllr Peeks had kindly formulated a letter in response the approval was considered by the Committee and it was resolved to send this letter to the Planning Officer, the CEO of Somerset Council and Head of Somerset Council Planning Department and to request a response within 7 working days.
Proposed Cllr Payne Seconded Cllr Aldridge unanimously resolved.

25/24B **Highway Matters**

A report from Parishioner at the Parish Assembly that the bridge on Station Road had become very fragile, the bridge signs were also deteriorating – the bridge could be in potential danger with heavy vehicles passing. The Parishioner also asked the Committee to consider traffic calming measures at the junction from Roughmoor Industrial Estate on to Long Street towards the village centre, due to speed of vehicles which are travelling on the A39 from Bridgwater direction – to consider the possibility of moving the SID before the railway bridge in order to slow the approaching traffic.

Resolution to write to highways and the police to inform them of the Parishioner and Committee's concerns regarding this junction and the bridge on Station Road to include information regarding the two recent collisions and cite the article in the West Somerset Free Press. An update to be given to the Parishioner.

25/25B Items to Report on Footpaths/Pavements

25/25.1B Blocked footpath Aller Mead: Committee Clerk to Chase Alpha Housing for their response.

25/26B Items of Report from Grounds Maintenance Officers

25/26.1B **Bellamy's Corner** – Cllr Rutter had recommended that the tubs were not replanted until the autumn due to concerns of the shrubs failing due to lack of water. Cllr Rutter informed the Committee that he had some shrubs left over from the Parish Office Planters and was happy to plant the Shrubs in Bellamy's Corner this was agreed and a solution would be sort for the watering of the Shrubs.

Bellamy's Corner – Tree Survey it was suggested that the proportion of the Tree Survey bill be sent to Somerset Council for settlement as the landowner and ask what their plans would be for any works that would need to be undertaken.

25/26.2B **Street Furniture – Cllr Payne Proposed** to order the Irwell 2 seater bench to replace the Bench on Killick Way **Cllr Aldridge Seconded**
Cllr Peeks Counter Proposed to Purchase the Wooden bench – No Second
 Cllr Payne's motion was passed to purchase the Irwell 2 seater bench with 3 votes for and two against the proposal.

25/26.3B Flower Tubs/Planters outside the Parish Office had been replanted with thanks to Cllr Rutter and the Community Payback Scheme - **Noted**.

25/26.4B The Committee Clerk had updated the Committee that she had not yet found a location for the notice board in Doniford – **Noted**.

25/26.5B Hanging baskets – Cllr Aldridge had kindly undertaken the replanting on the hanging baskets as the Community Payback Scheme were unable to do this, the Committee thanked Cllr Aldridge.

25/27B Grounds Maintenance

The weed spraying had been undertaken on the 30th May 2025 – **Noted**.

25/28B Flooding Matters

Cllr Rutter updated the Committee that he had received an email from Bel Deering of Somerset Rivers Authority regarding a joint resilience group and was happy to represent the Committee at this event the Committee were in agreement.

25/29B Play Equipment in Recreation Ground

25/29.1B An update from the Committee Clerk following the resolution to concentrate on Ninja Play style and to ensure compliance of Public Contracts Regulation 2015.

25/29.2B It was noted that the ROSPA play equipment would take place this month (24/53.1B).

25/29.3B Removal of the 4 tower play unit following the resolution of Full Council (25/36) an update was given by Cllr Payne that he had visited the site and was informed by the contractor that four of the post were completely rotten and disintegrated whilst he was removing them and there was a lot more rotten wood underneath the structure. It was agreed that a laminated poster be placed in the play area explaining the removal of the play tower and also that the Parish Council were looking into a replacement item.

25/30B Matters for the next Meeting to be held on 14th July 2025.

Cllr Aldridge – Loss of Commercial Properties

Meeting closed at 20.52pm

Signed as a true and correct recordCllr Aldridge..... Dated14th July 2025.....