

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Aldridge, Hooper, and Rutter
Somerset Council	Woods
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	None
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Denton, Nye, Peeks, Schmieder and Whetlor (all for personal reasons)
Somerset Councillor	Davies
Other	None

25/72 It was advised that the meeting would be recorded.

25/73 Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved

Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Rutter – unanimously **resolved**

25/74 Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Payne	25/85	Other non-pecuniary	Advised would leave the meeting

25/75 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd June 2025

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting.
Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Aldridge

25/76 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only

There were none

25/77 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

The recent newsletter had been circulated - noted

25/78 Report from Somerset Councillors

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

Cllr Woods advised she had been contacted by a parishioner with concerns regarding difficulty accessing the public car parks, for disabled badge holders and asked for comments from the Parish Council. Cllr Woods was asked to approach Somerset Council Highways with a request to look at the parking issues within Williton and to respond with suggestions for improvement.

A presentation had been given at Somerset Council regarding Asian Hornets, which Cllr Woods offered to present to members. This would be taken to the EPC meeting to consider a public presentation.

Cllr Woods had sent an email earlier in the day, in relation to community funding available – this would be discussed at the EPC meeting.

25/79 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

Cllr Payne reported the sad passing of Mrs Maureen Mossman, who had been a long supporter of the Parish Council and WWMRG Charity. It was resolved the Chairman and Clerk would attend the funeral to represent the Parish Council and it was asked for condolences to be passed on.

25/80 Correspondence

25/80.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log

25/80.2 A letter had been received from WWMRG advising that the Formation of a Management Committee for the day-to-day running operations for the Pavilion, Barn and parking areas on the Memorial Ground was being considered. Due to lack of councillors present, it was resolved to defer discussion until the August meeting.

- 25/80.3 A letter had been received from WWMRG advising they had been asked to hold a First Aid Training Course, but as it was outside of their remit, they requested the Parish Council consider holding a course
Resolution: To ask in the next Newsletter if anyone would be interested in attending a course, and to consider further if there was sufficient interest
Proposed Cllr Payne, seconded by Cllr Aldridge, unanimously **resolved**
- 25/80.4 A letter had been received from WWMRG requesting the Parish Council consider opening the toilet facilities in the Barn, for the use of anyone on the Memorial Ground
Resolution: To obtain costings from the existing contractor and when received, refer to the meeting for further consideration. A reply would be sent to the Charity advising it was being investigated
- 25/80.5 A letter had been received from WWMRG to request the Amenity Area Working Group was reformed – noted and confirmed the working group would be reinstated
- 25/80.6 A letter had been received from WWMRG asking the Parish Council to join CCS (Community Council for Somerset) and for the charity to be allowed access to the service
Resolution: To agree to join CCS (Community Council for Somerset)
Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Aldridge, with one abstention
- 25/80.7 Electoral Review of Somerset Council: Draft Recommendations were considered. The proposal is for Williton and Watchet division to be together (currently Williton's division runs from Stogursey to Sampford Brett), for divisions to be of roughly same size and reduce from two, to one Councillor per division.

Concern was raised that the proposed division boundary followed the railway line, effectively splitting Williton Parish. Members expressed the view that the entire parish should remain within a single division, as a split could lead to confusion over councillor responsibilities and diminish effective representation

The main objections raised were as follows:
- The division should follow parish boundaries – despite some discrepancies in population on numbers
 - Not representative of management
 - Parishes should not be divided solely to meet numerical targets
 - Significant new development is planned for the area, including 350 new properties beyond Mamsey and the Mill Site in Watchet, which will affect future population distribution.
 - The area of the parish east of the proposed boundary (the railway line) should be retained within the same division, and if necessary, the Washford settlement could be grouped with Old Cleeve to compensate if necessary
- Resolution:** To object to the draft recommendation, for the above reasons
Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Rutter, with one abstention
- 25/80.8 Somerset's new Local Transport Plan for consultation was considered. Cllr Aldridge advised he had made comments at the last meeting, expressing concern that West Somerset was being forgotten. The proposed Local Transport Plan does not address the issue that West Somerset only has one bus service. Cllr Woods would forward a briefing from Somerset Council, which she received earlier in the day. It was noted, the grant application for trains to Bishops Lydeard, from the main line, had not been successful.
- 25/81 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 9th June 2025**
It was **resolved** to note the report
- 25/82 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 16th June 2025**
It was **resolved** to note the report
- 25/82.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 31st May 2025.
- 25/82.2 It was **resolved** to note the Receipts and Expenditure Analysis as at 31st May 2025, as presented to the FAC meeting
- 25/83 Report from the Events Sub Committee held on 11th June 2025**
It was **resolved** to note the report. It was noted a VJ Day service would be held on the Memorial Ground on Sunday 17th August at 3pm, so as not to clash with the Burma Star Service at Minehead

25/84

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

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

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
07/07/2025	Aurora FE Ltd 6625 Care in the Community	4616	50016223	395.20		0.00
07/07/2025	Core Synergy Ltd 4605 Website	4617	17354	12.00		2.00
07/07/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4560 SC Ground Maintenance	4618	639214	468.28		78.05
07/07/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	4618	638831	1,389.31		231.55
07/07/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4561 Weed Spraying	4618	637633	970.20		161.70
07/07/2025	Danfo UK Ltd 4590 Cleaning public toilets	4619	8867	1102.66		183.78
07/07/2025	Enhanced Technology Solutions Ltd 4505 Printing & Stationery	4620	2374	419.73		69.96
07/07/2025	SALC 4520 Councillor Training	4621	2080, 2095	58.00		0.00
07/07/2025	Somerset Council Pension Fund 4220 Pensions	4622	June	1116.06		0.00

25/85

Planning Application Appeal

This item could not be discussed as the meeting would have become inquorate, upon the withdrawal of Cllr Payne

25/86

Health and Safety

The play equipment had been removed and found to have been in a worse condition than first thought.

The Chairman raised a concern that a councillor had removed flags without the necessary authority or a risk assessment in place. Whilst it was understood that this action may have been taken with the best of intentions, it was important to note that, should any incident have occurred, the Parish Council's insurance would not have covered it, as the proper procedures had not been followed. In such a case, the individual would have been personally liable.

Members were reminded that no unilateral decisions should be made in these matters; all actions must be approved by the Council following the proper procedures.

25/87

Community Speed Watch - No Report

25/88

Community Review Project - Cllr Denton would be asked for a progress report for the next meeting

25/89

Local Community Network

The Highways Subgroup had taken place, where it was reported the closure of the B3191 was discussed at length. The next LCN meeting would be held on the 16th of July

25/90

Parish Newsletter

The latest edition has again received favourable feedback. Some volunteers had approached the office, details of which would be passed to Cllr Aldridge

25/91

A resolution was passed to exclude members of the press and public from the remainder of the meeting, due to commercial sensitivity. Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Hooper

25/92

The sale of the buildings was discussed, and it was **resolved** to explore further the financial implications and purchase options open to the council.

25/93

Members of the press and public were invited to re-enter the meeting

There were no re-entries

25/94

Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 4th August 2025

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed as a true and correct record Cllr Payne Dated 4th August 2025