

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th October 2025 at 7.00 pm
In the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Denton, Gatti, Hooper, Peeks, Rutter, Schmieder, Shattock and Whetlor
Somerset Council	Davies (left at 8.48pm at item 25/166)
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	None
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Aldridge (for personal reasons)
Somerset Councillor	Woods
Other	None

25/144 It was advised that the meeting would be recorded.

25/145 Co-option of Councillors

An application had been received by Maria de la Soledad Gatti-Pascual for the casual vacancy on the Council. After a proposal from Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Peeks, it was unanimously **resolved** to co-opt Maria de la Soledad Gatti-Pascual to the Council.

As Cllr Gatti was in attendance, she duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance, after which she was able to take part in the remainder of the meeting

An application had been received by Mr David Shattock for the casual vacancy on the Council. After a proposal from Cllr Hooper, seconded by Cllr Whetlor, it was unanimously **resolved** to co-opt Mr Shattock to the Council.

As Cllr Shattock was in attendance, he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance, after which he was able to take part in the remainder of the meeting

25/146 Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved

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

25/147 Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Denton	25/174	Other non-pecuniary	Informed meeting
Cllr Whetlor	25/167	Other non-pecuniary	Informed meeting

25/148 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th August 2025

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

Proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Peeks, with three abstentions due to absence

25/149 Approval of the Extra Ordinary Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th August 2025

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

Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Rutter, with five abstentions due to absence

25/150 Approval of the Extra Ordinary Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2025

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

Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Schmieder, with five abstentions due to absence

25/151 Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only

25/151.1 (Item 25/117) Bridge Street Road Closure – notification had been received from Somerset Council that Openreach had cancelled the road closure which had been scheduled for 28th August 2025, reasons had not been stated

25/151.2 (Item 25/128) Fix My Street – it was reported that Somerset Council were once again accepting reports from this platform – it was noted a member was still experiencing problems

25/152 Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary

The recent newsletters had been circulated – noted.

PCSO's would be asked if it would be possible for councillors to have their direct contact telephone numbers

25/153 Report from Somerset Councillors

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

Cllr Peeks advised that, during a recent submission to Fix My Street, it became apparent that Somerset Council were not accepting reports from this platform. As this contradicted previous information received from Somerset Council, Cllr Davies was asked to report the issue and seek confirmation either way.

Cllr Davies highlighted problems with the recent diversion on Bridge Street, caused to the closure of High Street, which had led to vehicles driving into a 'No Entry' area. Cllr Davies was asked to report this issue to Highways, requesting improved signage at road closures. Additionally, to ask if Highways had physically visited the site or if the diversion had been planned solely online.

Cllr Denton raised concern of the hump in the main road, and questioned whether the height of the pavement kerb edge had been raised too far, after the recent roadworks near Blacksmith Close

Within Cllr Woods report, it was stated that £20 million had been spent of consultants; Cllr Denton asked what this was for and raised concern of money being wasted.

Resolution: To write to Somerset Council stating due to the above expenditure, the Parish Council does not have confidence in Somerset Council's ability to carry forward a sensible budget, Proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Whetlor, **resolved** with one against and one abstention

25/154 Clerk's/Chairman's Notices

Members were advised a grant application would be submitted to Somerset Community Foundation Help Through Winter Fund for the hire costs of the rooms for the Talking Café and Community Lunches

The Chairman's Award nomination of Mr and Mrs Scott, had been accepted and they would attend the upcoming presentation with Cllr Payne

25/155 Correspondence

25/155.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log

25/155.2 Watchet Town Council had sent a copy of their letter to the Environment Agency, objecting to proposed withdrawal of maintenance from the Washford River. It was noted that Williton Parish Council had already submitted a similar letter to the Environment Agency, Somerset Council and Rachel Gilmour MP

Cllr Payne advised the Environment Agency had confirmed at the West Somerset Flood Group meeting, that there had been no change to the legal obligations nor the riparian duties, and stated the letter that had been sent to properties affected had been poorly worded. This would be discussed further at the EPC meeting on Monday 13th October 2025

Resolution: To write to the Environment Agency asking if they would provide the same level of response in the event of a flood and whether the overall budget for 2025/26 was the same or whether funding had reduced

Proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Gatti, unanimously **resolved**

25/155.3 Fire Safety Helpdesk had confirmed the maximum attendees for the office foyer is 23 - noted

25/156 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 8th September 2025

It was **resolved** to note the report

25/157 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 15th September 2025

It was **resolved** to note the report

25/157.1 It was resolved to note the provisions as at 31st July and 31st August 2025.

25/157.2 It was resolved to note the Receipts and Expenditure Analysis as at 31st July and 31st August 2025, as presented to the FAC meeting

25/157.3 (Item 25/62A) Recommendation to change email addresses from '.org.uk' to '.gov.uk' in line with recommended good practice

Resolution: To accept the recommendation and for the clerk to investigate options

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

- 25/157.4 (Item 25/68A) Recommendation to accept quotation for the window and door replacements at the Parish Office – to be discussed under item 25/173
- 25/157.5 Recommendation to reply to the Trustee, advising the cost of cleaning the Barn toilet was too onerous and therefore the Parish Council would not be looking to proceed with their request for the toilet to be opened

Resolution: To accept the recommendation
Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Whetlor, **resolved** with two abstentions

25/158 Report from the Events Sub Committee held on 13th August and 11th September 2025

It was resolved to note the reports

25/159 Williton Rockets Grant Funding Application

The application was considered. It was noted a copy of the club's constitution and accounts had not been submitted and there was a query on the percentage being requested

Resolution: To release the £300.00 previously allocated and suggest fundraising for the remainder, alternatively, re-apply for the balance with the inclusion of their constitution and accounts – to contact the office if support in filling the form was required

Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Hooper, **resolved** with two abstentions and one against

25/160 Proposal for formation of Management Committee

This item was deferred due to the absence of Cllr Aldridge, but would be included on the Trustee meeting agenda

25/161 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 Peeks, with one abstention

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
06/10/2025	Aurora FE Ltd 6625 Care in the Community	4728	50018718	403.08		0.00
06/10/2025	Core Synergy Ltd 4605 Website	4729	17792	12.00		2.00
06/10/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4560 SC Ground Maintenance	4730	653150	468.28		78.05
06/10/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	4730	653928	1,389.31		231.55
06/10/2025	Danfo UK Ltd 4590 Cleaning public toilets	4731	9025	1102.66		183.78
06/10/2025	Enhanced Technology Solutions Ltd 4505 Printing & Stationery	4732	2754	99.40		16.56
06/10/2025	Kedel Ltd 4105 Purchase of Bench – Killick Way	4733	PO4744	529.50		88.25

25/162 Health and Safety

Nothing to report

25/163 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Denton advised training for new volunteers was still pending

25/164 Local Community Network

The date for the upcoming Highways meeting would be confirmed

25/165 Parish Newsletter

- 25/165.1 Two individuals had volunteered for Speed Watch, and another had expressed interest in assisting with brochure production. Their details had been forwarded to Cllrs Denton and Aldridge respectively
- 25/165.2 Due to lack of space within the September edition, details on how to report issues to Somerset Council, via their website or via Fix My Street would be included in the next edition, after being checked to ensure the reporting platform was working correctly

The next edition was currently being produced, members were asked to contact the clerk with any items they wished to include

There were currently vacancies for delivering in some areas and volunteers were requested

25/166 Sale of Somerset Council buildings

25/166.1 Cllr Payne gave a verbal report from the Public Meeting held on 26th August 2025. The meeting had been well attended. Most attendees were in favour in principle, but would wait until financials were available

25/166.2 The next Public Meeting would be held on Tuesday 7th October 2025, 7pm in the Pavilion – a press release would be issued after the meeting

25/166.3 Formal agreement to apply for funding was discussed in detail

At the Williton Parish Council meeting of 6th October 2025 it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £330,000.00 over the borrowing term of 20 years for the purchase and refurbishment of the old library building, Killick Way, Williton, Somerset, for the purposes to create new Parish Council offices and the provision of public toilets. The annual loan repayments will come to around £28,000.00

It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 2% which is the equivalent of an additional £3.84 a year. This will be subject to a precept increase consultation.

Proposed Cllr Whetlor, seconded Cllr Hooper with one abstention

25/167 SALC Funding Application

The application to SALC Community Fund to support Hayley's CIC Booby Birds support group had been unsuccessful. The Chairman expressed his dismay in the process and assistance received from SALC. Spark Somerset would be contacted directly from Hayley's CIC regarding funding applications.

25/168 Williton Chemist

It was advised that JHoots had given the keys to the pharmacy to the Doctors, even though they do not own the building.

Resolution: To write Rachel Gilmour MP and request that she contacted the Health Secretary to see what could be done to ensure a pharmacy provision was available in Williton; in addition to ask the same directly to the Secretary of State

Proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Whetlor, **resolved** with two abstentions

25/169 (Item 25/119.4) Environment Agency withdrawal of Watercourse Maintenance

This item was discussed under 25/155.2, and members were advised responses were awaited from the letters that had been sent after the last Parish Council meeting

25/170 Complaint of Maize on the Highway

Debris from uncovered trailers, had been reported on the roads and pavements, which members discussed

Resolution: To write to Cannington Enterprises, Somerset Council, the Police and the Environment Agency highlighting the issues caused due to uncovered loads and request that the loads are covered

Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Hooper, **resolved** with one abstention

25/171 Report from West Somerset Flood (& Emergency Planning) Group meeting held on 17th September 2025

This item had been covered under 25/155.2

25/172 Community Forum held on 18th September 2025

A report had been forwarded. The main points raised were that it was estimated a further 400 staff would be employed from the surrounding area, anticipated that the majority would work from home

25/173 A resolution was passed to exclude members of the press and public from the remainder of the meeting, due to commercial sensitivity.

Proposed Cllr Gatti, seconded Cllr Whetlor, unanimously **resolved**

25/174 (Item 25/68A) Recommendation to accept quotation one for the window and door replacements at the Parish Office

Resolution: To accept the recommendation to accept the quotation from Castle Home Improvements, with the removal of the sliding hatch replacement

Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Gatti, **resolved** with two against and one abstention

25/175 To consider tenders for the Parish Maintenance Contract

Resolution: To accept the tender from Garden Care and Creation, to run until the 31st March 2026
Proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Shattock, **resolved** with one against

25/176 To consider Office Printer replacement

Resolution: To accept the quotation from Cannon, to rent a C5150 printer, at a cost of £153.78 per month, no costs per copy, no maximum or minimum guaranteed printing, unlimited support over telephone on a 5-year rental term

Proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Shattock, **resolved** with one abstention

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

There were no re-entries

25/177 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 3rd November 2025

Notification was given of an Extra Ordinary Meeting to be held on Monday 20th October, at 6.30pm, for the tender document to be agreed for submission.

Meeting closed at 9.19 pm

Signed as a true and correct record ... Cllr Payne Dated 3rd November 2025