

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st December 2025 at 7.00 pm
In the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors	Payne (Chairman), Aldridge, Denton (left at 9pm, during item 25/234) Gatti, Hooper, Peeks and Shattock (left at 9pm, during item 25/234)
Somerset Council	None
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	None
Press	None
Clerk	Mrs Michelle Francis
Public	Three members
Other	None

Apologies:

Councillors	Rutter and Whetlor (attending alternative council meetings) Schmieder (for personal reasons)
Somerset Councillor	Davies and Woods
Other	None

Before the start of the meeting one member of the public spoke during the Public Participation section regarding planning application 3/39/25/017

25/214 It was advised that the meeting would be recorded

25/215 **Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved**

Proposed Cllr Gatti, seconded Cllr Aldridge – unanimously resolved

25/216 **Declarations of Interest**

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Payne	25/238	Pecuniary	Did not vote on personal reimbursement
Cllr Aldridge	25/226.3	Other, non-pecuniary	Advised meeting

25/217 **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd November 2025**

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

Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Gatti, with one abstention due to absence

25/218 **Approval of the Extra Ordinary Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th November 2025**

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

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

25/219 **Matters from the Minutes – for the purpose of report only**

25/219.1 (Item 25/192) Confirmation had been received from British Telecom that emergency services numbers, such as 999 and 101, would continue to work when called after landlines switch to digital

25/219.2 Williton Chemist – it was noted that the chemist had re-opened. The assistance by Rachel Gilmour MP was acknowledged and gratefully received

Fix My Street – Somerset Council had previously given incorrect information; it had been confirmed they do not support Fix My Street and request any reports are made directly on their own website

25/220 **Report from Avon and Somerset Constabulary**

The recent newsletter had been circulated – noted.

Crime statistics – concern was raised with the high volume of violence against the person – the question would be asked whether this was Williton or Watchet

25/221 **Report from Somerset Councillors**

A written report had been received from Cllr Davies and had been forwarded to members

25/222 **Clerk's/Chairman's Notices**

25/222.1 Office opening times over the Christmas period were noted as closing 12 noon on 22nd December, re-opening on 5th January 2026. Cllrs Gatti, Hooper and Payne agreed to have their telephone numbers listed as emergency contacts.

- 25/222.2 A resignation had been received from Cllr Nye; it was noted the casual vacancy notice had been advertised
- 25/223 Correspondence**
- 25/223.1 It was **resolved** to note the contents of the correspondence log
- 25/223.2 A request had been received from WWMRG Charity for the Parish Council to take on the responsibility of the Tree Management for the whole of the Memorial Ground, which was considered. The current financial costs incurred by the Parish Council for the Memorial Ground were highlighted
- **Resolution:** To agree to the request to take on the responsibility of the Tree Management for the whole of the Memorial Ground, to a budget of £5,000.00
Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Gatti, with five votes in favour and two votes against
- 25/223.3 Consultation on proposed Charitable Collection Licensing Policy – noted - no comments made
- 25/223.4 Consultation of new electoral boundaries for Somerset Council
- Concern was raised that previous the parish would be split, and previous comments had not been considered
- **Resolution:** To repeat previous response
Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Denton, with one abstention
- 25/223.5 Notice had been received from Somerset Council with their intention that all local councils should pay the full cost of By-Elections Costs and cover full cost for Ordinary/Combined Elections and some of the shared costs. A discussion took place – members felt this was an unnecessary burden on parishioners, especially for the smaller councils which would be a major part of their budget. Members felt this was an attempt by Somerset Council to offload costs to parish and town councils; voting is the heart of democracy
- **Resolution:** To remain a budget of £1,500.00, but feel it is an unnecessary burden on the parishioners to absorb a legacy debt and do not agree to any further amount
Proposed Cllr Denton, seconded Cllr Gatti, resolved with two against and two abstentions
 - **Resolution:** To contact other parishes within the old West Somerset area with the aim to work together against the increase in costs and to include Rachel Gilmour MP
Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Aldridge, unanimously resolved

25/224 Planning Applications

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/39/25/016	Kingspan Water and Energy Ltd, Slade Way, Williton	Erection of ancillary surface-mounted industrial building anchored to hardstanding	No objections in principle if sufficient parking was available on site for employees and any flooding issues is overcome. Proposed Cllr Peeks seconded Cllr Hooper, 1 against and 2 abstentions
3/39/25/017	Land North of Doniford Stream and west of Doniford Road, Williton	Formation of a shared pedestrian and cycle footpath with associated drainage design, warning signage, means of enclosure and access over for the continuation of farming	Strongly against on the following points 1. Lack of link between Aller Mead and new development – currently the path is blocked, and pedestrians have to walk on the road – this needs to be opened. The Parish Council have been trying for many years for this to be undertaken (information will be sent separately) 2. Access for Agriculture Machinery should be prioritised, with larger gateways to accommodate combines etc 3. No site notices have been displayed 4. Disagree with removable bollards – the length of agriculture machinery needs to be considered, so as not to block roads 5. There should be larger grass verges, to protect the banks 6. Against the destruction of hedgerows – these should be maintained

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/39/25/021	11 Butts Close, Williton, TA4 4SB	Demolition of conservatory and erection of single-storey extensions to the side and rear with internal alterations and conversion of the garage	No objection on the understanding that being a 3-bedroomed property, there should be 2 parking spaces and that no other property is overlooked Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Aldridge One abstention

25/224.2 A request would be made for application 3/39/25/017 to be considered by Planning Committee
Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Aldridge, unanimously **resolved**

25/225 Report from the Environment and Planning Committee held on 10th November 2025

It was **resolved** to note the report

25/225.1 (Item 25/81.3B) Consideration was given to the proposal for Cllr Rutter and Director of Geckoella to become Parish Council representatives in relation to liaising with Lovells and Somerset Council in relation to nature mitigation on the Station Fields development and further consider inclusion of past flood warden.

- **Resolution:** To agree to the above proposal, but to include all areas of the development, such as planning and for any councillor with relevant experience to be involved, as required
Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Hooper, unanimously **resolved**

25/226 Report from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 17th November 2025

It was **resolved** to note the report

25/226.1 It was **resolved** to note the provisions as at 31st October 2025

25/226.2 It was **resolved** to note the Receipts and Expenditure Analysis as at 31st October 2025, as presented to the FAC meeting

25/226.3 (Item 25/100A) The recommendation on the service level agreement from Watchet Town Council regarding Watchet Cemetery was considered.

- **Resolution** to agree to pay the current annual contribution with a view to revisit the matter next year and a request for further information from Watchet Town Council as to the percentage of Williton Residents interred in the cemeteries and once we have been furnished with this information then Williton Parish Council will review the contribution for 2027/2028
Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Shattock, resolved with one against

25/226.4 (Item 25/101A) The recommendation to fund the staffing costs for the WWMRG Charity, for 2026/2027 financial year was considered

- **Resolution:** To accept the recommendation to pay the staffing costs for 2026/2027
Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Aldridge, one abstention; resolved

25/227 Report from the Events Sub Committee held on 13th November 2025

It was **resolved** to note the report

The Christmas trees had been erected on Saturday 29th November 2025; the tree for Bellamy's Corner would be erected shortly

The Santa's Grotto will be held in the Parish Office on Wednesday 10th December, 5pm – 7pm, volunteers to help were requested

The colouring competition had been circulated around the schools and entries were being received.

Cllr Denton would take photographs of the Business Christmas windows, which would be forwarded to all for judging 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

25/228 To receive accounts for payment

It was unanimously **resolved** to pay the following invoices. Proposed Cllr Hooper, seconded Cllr Gatti (Cllr Payne did not vote on his personal reimbursement)

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
01/12/2025	Core Synergy Ltd 4605 Website	4760	18116	12.00		2.00
01/12/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4555 WPC Ground Maintenance	4761	663989	1,389.31		231.55

Date	Details	Cheque No.	Invoice No.	Total Bank £	Cash £	VAT £
01/12/2025	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance 4560 SC Ground Maintenance	4761	663304	468.28		78.05
01/12/2025	Danfo UK Ltd 4590 Cleaning Public Conveniences	4762	423	1,102.66		183.78
01/12/2025	Hardwick & Sons 6720 Christmas Lighting, Festival & Comp	4763	227	396.00		66.00
01/12/2025	Cllr Payne 6720 Christmas Lighting, Festival & Comp	4764	Lights	259.70		43.28
01/12/2025	A M PAT Testing 4525 Health and Safety	4765		201.00		0.00
01/12/2025	Lights 4 Fun 6720 Christmas Lighting, Festival & Comp	4766		80.94		13.49

25/230 Health and Safety

It was reported the roller on the Memorial Ground was being moved – it would be arranged for the Grounds Maintenance team to padlock it to the large roller, next to the wall.

It was reported the wall surrounding Bellamy's Corner appeared to have been 'blown' and would require inspection by either Somerset Council or the neighbouring property. Cllr Denton would provide photographs to the Clerk for passing on, with the request that the wall's structural integrity be assessed

25/231 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Denton advised volunteers were currently awaiting training sessions

25/232 Local Community Network

The newsletter had been forwarded. Cllr Payne outlined the Highways meeting, which focused on blocked drains

25/233 A unanimous resolution was passed to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting, due to commercial sensitivity – Proposed Cllr Peeks, seconded Cllr Aldridge

25/234 To consider legal documentation regarding the proposed purchase of the Old Library Building, Killick Way, Williton and receive any further update

Draft Heads of Terms relating to the unconditional sale had been received. It was **resolved** that the document be referred to the solicitors for examination and that revised wording be sought for clause 9

Somerset Council would be updated that the document was being referred to legal advisors

25/235 Matters for the next Parish Council meeting to be held on Monday 5th January 2026

Co-option of Councillors

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed as a true and correct record Cllr Payne Dated 5th January 2026