

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 9th March 2026
at 7.00 pm in the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors Cllr Peeks (Chairman), Cllr Payne, Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Prince, Cllr Rutter
Public None
Other Mrs Charlotte Hirst (Committee Clerk)

Apologies:

Councillors None

25/117B It was advised the meeting would be recorded

25/118B Health and Safety - Housekeeping and any reportable issues – no issues were reported.

25/119B Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved as indicated (LGA 1972 s85 (1)).

25/120B Declarations of Interest

Name	Agenda Item	Interest	Action
Cllr Payne	25/123.1B – ABD39/26/001	Non-Pecuniary Interest	Left the Meeting for item 25/123.1B
Cllr Prince	25/123.1B – ABD39/26/001	Non-Pecuniary Interest	Left the Meeting for item 25/123.1B

25/121B Approval of Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee meetings held 9th February 2026

It was **resolved** approve the Minutes **Proposed Cllr Aldridge, seconded Cllr Prince unanimously Resolved.**

25/122B Matters from the Minutes

Item 25/107.1B it was noted that a response from Wales and West Utilities for an update was still awaited.

25/123B Correspondence

Cllr Payne and Cllr Prince Left the Meeting 7.14

25/123.1B A letter from Somerset Council had been received regarding planning application ABD/39/26/001

Resolution Williton Parish Council Comments to be submitted to Somerset Planning - **Williton Parish Council Objects** to this development and strongly considers that the proposal does not constitute a conversion of the existing building. Based on the information provided, it appears that the existing structure would need to be completely demolished, and therefore the proposal would not comply with policies relating to the conversion of existing buildings.

The Committee Clerk and the Chairman (Cllr Peeks) to investigate if the previous two applications had been determined and on what grounds, if the information was unavailable Somerset Council would be contracted. **Proposed Cllr Aldridge Seconded Cllr Rutter unanimously resolved.**

Cllr Payne and Cllr Prince rejoined the meeting 19.23.

25/123.2B A letter requesting the reduction of the speed limit on Doniford Road had been received together with a petition signed by local residents.
Resolution the committee clerk to forward the letter together with the petition to Somerset Council supporting their request for a 20MPH reduction by St Peters First School during school times **Proposed Cllr Aldridge Seconded Cllr Rutter unanimously resolved.**

25/1124.B To Consider the Following Planning Applications

25/124.1B The following applications and if a request for Section 106 Funding is appropriate were considered.

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/39/26/004	Land west of Williton, off Priest Street, Williton	Application for approval of reserved matters following the outline application 3/39/26/004 for the layout, scale, appearance, access and landscaping for the erection of buildings for Flexible Class E uses (office, research and development, and light industrial.	Williton Parish Council acknowledges the need for the development of the site. However, the Council wishes to raise the following concerns and objections for the Local Planning Authority's consideration: • The Council considers the proposed wildlife corridor to be insufficient in width. It recommends that the corridor should be a minimum of 4 metres, measured from the base of the hedge to the edge of the building, in order to provide an adequate buffer and support biodiversity. • Whilst the Council welcomes the inclusion of native hawthorn within the proposed planting scheme, it objects to the use of amelanchier within the hedgerow, as this is not a native species. • The Council requests that additional shrub planting be incorporated into the landscaping scheme in order to soften the visual impact of the development, particularly when viewed from the A39. • Given the close proximity of the site to residential properties, the Council requests that appropriate consideration be given to the operational hours, working hours and transport movements, in order to minimise potential disturbance to neighbouring residents. Williton Parish Council request that this application be considered by Planning Committee. Proposed Cllr Rutter Seconded Cllr Prince unanimously resolved

25/124.2B Decision to be made as to whether a request for any of the above applications are to be considered by Planning Committee – a request for planning application 3/39/26/004 to be considered by Planning Committee **proposed Cllr Payne seconded Cllr Aldridge unanimously resolved.**

25/124.3B To Note the Following Planning Decisions

Application No	Location	Outcome
3/39/25/0236	10 Shutgate Meadow, Williton, TA4 4TJ	Grant
3/39/25/016	Kingspan Water and Energy Limited, Slade Way, Williton	Grant
3/39/25/024	Land Adjacent to the Gas Substation, Smithyard Lane, Williton, Watchet, TA23 0NA	Grant

3/39/25/024 the committee clerk was requested to contact Somerset Council to enquire why they had not been notified of the plans that had been submitted and why Williton Parish Council had not been consulted.

- 25/124.4B **Solar Farm Cllr Rutter** – The Committee Clerk had attempted to make contact with the developers to no avail, it was decided that the generic email address would be used.
- 25/124.5B **Station Fields** An email had been received from MP Rachel Gilmore's office regarding a local resident's concerns Cllr Rutter reported that he had reviewed the Ecology Manage Plan and that the tree mentioned in the email had been approved under the planning application and Cllr Rutter believed that all the ditches had been excavated but would check.
- 25/125B Highway Matters**
- 25/125.1B Following the resolution 25/79.1B to write to Somerset Council to request a reduction of the speed limit to 30MPH on Doniford Road, an email had been sent to Highways requesting the whole of the road be reduced to 30MPH it was decided that the petition be sent to Somerset Council (item 25/123.2B).
- 25/126B Items to Report on Footpaths/Pavements**
- 25/126.1B Blocked footpath Aller Mead it was **Resolved** to purchase Title Deeds for 291414 to clarify ownership **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Aldridge unanimously resolved.**
- 25/1B Items of Report from Grounds Maintenance Officers**
- 25/127.1B **Bellamy's Corner** – Nothing reported however it was commented how pretty the area looks.
- 25/127.2B **Street Furniture** – Following the offer to use the notice board located in Doniford Farm it was agreed that the committee clerk would thank them for their kind offer and to ascertain the protocol for this.
- 25/127.3B To consider an offer that had been received from a parishioner to start a scheme "Keep Williton Tidy" whereupon they have offered to litter pick and to undertake other minor jobs around Williton - it was agreed that the committee clerk to ascertain how independent the volunteer would like to be and if they would like to carry out this work under Williton Parish Council – if so PPE would be obtained and a plan of action for training and a risk assessment would be carried out for the Volunteer
- 25/128B Grounds Maintenance**
- 25/128.1B Wildflower Project – Cllr Rutter will liaise with Cllr Gatti and once a formalised plan had been made they would inform the Parish Office of the plan for the Wildflower Project.
- 25/128.2B To note the footpath between Shutgate Meadow and the Hospital had become very overgrown, the NHS Trust for Williton Hospital had been contacted and informed us that they were looking into who's responsibility the maintenance of this footpath would be, it was agreed that the Trustees of Williton Hospital would be contacted and be made aware of the situation Cllr Aldridge would let the committee clerk have the contact information for the Trustees.
- 25/128.3B Planters outside of the office, to consider ongoing maintenance – Cllr Rutter would be undertaking the work on the planters before the next committee meeting.
- 25/129B Flooding Matters**

- 25/129.1B Cllr Rutter gave an update on the flooding matters around the village. Cllr Aldridge enquired if signs could be purchased for display on High Steet and Robert Street during any flooding in the village requesting vehicles to slow down.
- 25/129.2B A letter had been received from The Environment Agency regarding withdrawal of maintenance and a request for supporting consultation. Cllr Rutter had kindly drafted a letter to the Environment Agency which was agreed and this was to be sent to the Environment Agency. It was agreed that if we had not heard from the Environment Agency by June the committee clerk would make contact.
- 25/130B Finance and Budget – None.**
- 25/131B Play Equipment in Recreation Ground**
- 25/131.1B The committee clerk informed the meeting that an Extraordinary Meeting would be held on the 16th March where the resolution on the playground tenders would be undertaken.
- 25/132B Matters for the next Meeting to be held on 13th April 2026.**
- To discuss the Lovell Community Fund for Sation Fields development
- Full consideration on planning applications for Nature Recovery Strategy.

Meeting closed at 20.26pm

Signed as a true and correct recordCllr Peeks..... Dated13/04/2026.....