

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 21st April 2026 at 7.00 pm
In the main hall, Williton Pavilion

Attendees:

Chairman	Cllr Peter Payne
Somerset Councillor	None
Clerk	Mrs M Francis
Assistant to the Clerk	Mrs C Hirst
Attendees	58 members of the public
Press	None
Others	PSCO Howe and PSCO Matthews

Apologies:

Robert McDonald, Elizabeth Peeks, Paul Rutter and Bill Vaughan

01 Apologies as noted above.

02 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd April 2025

It was **resolved** to approve the minutes.
Proposed Mrs L Whetlor, seconded Mrs D Hooper

03 Matters Arising from the Minutes - There were none

04 Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed all for attending, including all the representatives from various organisations, who were there to promote their various clubs and encourage new members.

It was advised that a new format was being trialled this year, with a brief address from the Chairman, following by the opportunity for attendees to visit the various groups that had kindly attended.

The address covered:

- Pleased to report that there were currently 12 Parish Councillors, which was a full compliment. Those present were asked to stand to make themselves known.
- An overview of the past year's activities
- Planning applications commented on over the last year
- Liasing with Stations Fields development, to minimise the impact on the village and environment, as the build takes place
- Working with Somerset Council Highways on road safety with speed limit reductions on Doniford Road, signage and speed watch – but more volunteers were needed
- Flooding – working with the Environment Agency and Rachel Gilmore MP to reduce flooding in the village
- Ground Maintenance on the Memorial Ground, Bellamy's Corner and some of the verges in the village
- The Parish Council continued to support villagers by funding Talking Café, Youth Club and working with Foxes Academy to provide meals at an affordable price.
- The Talking Café is open to all on a Tuesday 1pm – 3pm and are there to discuss any problems or just for a friendly chat with Village Agents, which with the Citizens Advice West Somerset closing, will be more important than ever.

It had been a pleasure to accompany Mr Graham and Mrs Joan Scott, to the Somerset Council's Chair's Award ceremony, where they were recognised for their voluntary contributions in Williton over many years.

The Future:

- Williton Window, with the help of the Parish Council, would be recommencing. It will initially restart on a bi-monthly basis – please speak to Ian Aldridge regarding advertising and articles. The continuation of the volunteers was greatly appreciated and thanked.
- Children's playground equipment, costing £31,000 supported by £10,000 grant from HPC Community Fund, new play equipment will be installed in early May and hopefully completed by the Spring Half Term. Plans were available on the Parish Council stand
- Former Library update – after a lot of work, building up the business case, obtaining funding etc, Somerset Council accepted the offer for the purchase and completion was undertaken on the 31st of March 2026. Once renovated, the building will be a great asset to the village, providing better office accommodation, public toilets and a bigger council chamber, which will be available for bookings. Drawings were currently being made by architects (rough ideas could be viewed on the Parish Council stand).

The Chairman advised a copy of the accounts for the Parish Council and WWMRG Charity were available for inspection on the Parish Council table this evening

05 Questions

There were none

PSCO Matthews addressed the meeting, advising the area that they cover and encouraging all to chat with them this evening.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and encouraged everyone to visit the various stands

The formal part of the meeting closed at 7.16pm, followed by refreshments

Signed as a true and correct record Dated