

WILLITON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee Meeting held on 11th May 2026
at 7.00 pm in the Parish Office, 2 Killick Way, Williton

Attendees:

Councillors Cllr Peeks, Cllr Payne, Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Schmieder (arrived at 19.07)
Public

Other Mrs Charlotte Hirst (Committee Clerk - Assistant to the Clerk)
Cllr Gatti (no voting rights)
Cllr Rutter (no voting rights)
Cllr Schmieder (no voting rights)

Apologies:

Councillors Cllr Prince (personal reasons)

It was advised the meeting would be recorded

- 26/01B Election of Chairman**
Resolution Cllr Payne Proposed to defer this matter until June when other Cllrs had been appointed to the Environment and Planning Committee and Cllr Peeks would chair the meeting **Seconded Cllr Aldridge** unanimously **resolved**.
- 26/02B Election of Vice Chairman**
Resolution Cllr Aldridge proposed to defer for same reasons as 26/01/B **Seconded Cllr Payne** unanimously **resolved**.
- 26/03B Election of Grounds Maintenance Officers**
- 26/03.1B Responsibility for Bellamy's Corner – **Cllr Peeks Proposed** that Cllr Payne and Cllr Gatti would be responsible for Bellamy's Corner **Seconded Cllr Aldridge** unanimously **resolved**.
- 26/03/2B Responsibility for Street Furniture – Cllr Peeks offered to continue taking on the responsibility for street furniture with Cllr Gatti offered to assist **Cllr Payne Proposed to accept Seconded Cllr Aldridge** unanimously **resolved**
- 26/03.3B Responsibility for streets for weed spraying – Cllrs signed up to streets they would be happy to undertake, Full Council would be asked to take responsibility for the remaining streets.
- 26/04B Health and Safety** - Housekeeping and any reportable issues – A fence by the children's play area had fallen down it was noted that this would be discussed under 26/17.2B.
- 26/05B** Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved as indicated (LGA 1972 s85 (1)). **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Aldridge**, unanimously **resolved**
- 26/06B Declarations of Interest**
None
- 26/07B Approval of Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee meetings held 13th April 2026**
It was **resolved** approve the Minutes
Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Payne with one abstention due to absence.
- 26/08B Matters from the Minutes**
25/140.3B it was noted that a request had been made to Somerset Council Planning for the reasons for withdrawal of the application and any missing comments to be updated to their planning portal.
- 26/09BB Correspondence**
- 26/09.1B An anonymous document had been received regarding possible planning breach for Styles Ice Cream at Wibble Business Park.

- **Resolution** – Whilst the Committee could not pass on an anonymous report to Somerset Council it was commented that a number of containers had were visible from the main road and that other reports had been received that corresponded with this report. It was resolved that the Committee Clerk would to write to Somerset Council Enforcement to reiterate our previous concerns of possible planning beach which was to include the concern of a caravan being occupied on a full time basis and request that this be investigated by a Planning Enforcement Officer who would also be requested to consider the access to this business park, which the single track road could cause a serious safety concern with the poor access from the A39 **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Payne** resolved **one vote against**, motion carried.

26/10B

To Consider the Following Planning Applications

26/10.1B

The Following Planning Applications were considered and if a request for Section 106 Funding was appropriate.

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/39/26/005	The Little House, 23 Long Street, Williton, TA4 4QN	Formation of driveway and car parking to front.	Williton Parish Council objects to this application Williton Parish Council acknowledges the applicant's wish to have parking available on their property. The Parish Council however considers that the proposal is unsafe in highway terms for a number of reasons. The visibility when entering and exiting the proposed driveway would be extremely limited due to the height and positioning of the existing stone boundary wall and the wall of the house being located on the back edge of the pavement. This section of pavement is narrower than in other parts of Long Street so cars will need to drive over the pavement before the driver can see what traffic is coming on what is a very busy road. The height of the boundary wall would also restrict visibility by the driver of pedestrians, including mobility scooter users, parents with prams, and small children walking along the pavement, making it difficult for drivers to see them safely and vice versa. In addition, there appears to be no adequate turning area within the site boundary, meaning vehicles are likely to need to reverse onto the A39 (Long Street). Williton Parish Council considers this arrangement to present an unacceptable highway safety risk especially due the number of people using the pavement as well as Long Street being heavily trafficked. The use of gravel could also result in gravel on the pavement and road, another highway safety issue. Furthermore the submitted plans are difficult to understand as the scale used on the drawing is different to the measurements on the plan. Also the length of the rear boundary doesn't correlate to the front boundary measurement when it should as the application site is rectangular. In addition the existing pedestrian gate is not shown on the elevations so it is difficult to know exactly where the opening in the boundary wall is to be positioned. No application for 106 funding would be made Proposed Cllr Payne Seconded Cllr Aldridge unanimously Resolved.

3/39/26/006	Bowhayes Lodge, Smithyard Lane, Willton, TA4 4NN	Erection of a detached triple garage with ancillary accommodation above and construction of a boundary wall with pillars and railings to the roadside boundary.	Williton Parish Council objects to this application Williton Parish Council considers that this proposal is more characteristic of development typically found within urban areas rather than an isolated rural setting in particular the boundary wall and railings. The Parish Council considers that the scale and massing of the proposed development would be out of keeping with the surrounding area and as such would adversely affect the character and appearance of the countryside. The Parish Council also strongly wishes to see the landscape remain undisturbed. It is concerned that the construction of the proposed building, particularly the excavation required for foundations, could result in damage to the existing mature tree on the site. Furthermore, Williton Parish Council considers the proposed building to be excessively large and representative of overdevelopment of the front garden. The Parish Council does not believe that sufficient justification has been provided for a structure of this scale, including the provision of a three-car garage and ancillary accommodation incorporating dormer windows particularly when the property has been recently extended. Proposed Cllr Peeks seconded Cllr Aldridge unanimously resolved.
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26/10.2B To Note the Following Planning Decisions made by Somerset Council

Application No	Location	Outcome

26/10.3B No request would be made for any of the planning applications to be considered at planning committee.

26/10.4B **Solar Farm Cllr Rutter** – The Committee Clerk had attempted to make contact with the operations manager and had not received a response at present it was resolved that the Committee Clerk would keep trying to make contract.

26/10.5B **Station Fields** – it was noted that a response was still awaited regarding the Lovell Community Fund.

26/10.6B Consider nature recovery strategy review for each planning application resolution – to ask Somerset Council Ecologist if they are using the Nature Recovery Strategy in their review of planning applications.
Cllr Rutter's map would be made available at committee meeting for review when considering planning applications in future **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Aldridge unanimously resolved.**

26/10.7B 3/39/25/017 to consider any addition comments on this application for the Somerset Council Planning Committee.
Resolution for Cllr Peeks to extend Williton Parish Council previous comments and to speak at the Planning Committee on behalf of Williton Parish Council and for a request would be made to St Peter's First School headteacher to submit comments on this application. **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Aldridge unanimously resolved.**

26/11B Highway Matters

26/11.1B 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 Somerset Council with the petition and a request for an update which was still awaited, a chasing email would be sent again by the Committee Clerk.

- 26/11.2B A39 Fore Street Proposal review – it was agreed that Williton Parish Council had nothing more to add to this proposal at present.
- 26/12B Items to Report on Footpaths/Pavements**
- 26/12.1B Blocked footpath Aller Mead – following the purchase Title Deeds for ST391414 to clarify ownership it was resolved to contract Somerset Council to enquire what would make the link up to adoptable standards **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Aldridge** unanimously **resolved**.
- 26/13B Items of Report from Grounds Maintenance Officers**
- 26/13.1B **Bellamy's Corner** – Nothing reported
- 26/13.2B **Street Furniture**
- It was advised the bench at Aller Farm was beginning to rust and will require painting during the 2027/2028 financial year. Cllr Rutter would visit the bench and report back at the next meeting
- 26/13.3B The offer to undertake litter picking and small jobs around the parish – the Committee Clerk would update the Committee at the next meeting in June.
- 26/14B Grounds Maintenance**
- 26/14.1B Wildflower Project – Cllr Gatti's proposal was considered for the Wild Flower Project **Resolution** Committee Clerk would contact the Grounds Maintenance Contractors to make them aware of the future plans for the Wild Flower Project. Information would also be sent to the WWMRG Trustees and Magna Housing.
- 26/14.2B A response had been received from the Estate Office of the NHS Trust advising they had not received a formal response from the Lease consultants regarding the responsibility of the maintenance of this hedge; it was noted that as a gesture of goodwill the NHS Trust had carried out a hedge cut.
- 26/14.3B Weed spraying – a report had been received that some plants had allegedly been killed during the weed spraying process in the Memorial Garden and on the wall approaching the recreation grounds.
Resolution Committee Clerk to investigate if the Memorial Garden was included in the weed spraying contract.
- 26/15B Flooding Matters**
- 26/15.1B It was noted that a response was awaited from MP Rachel Gilmore's Office, Committee Clerk to chase. Committee Clerk to also chase Lovell's build manager for an update on the infilled ditch at Station Fields and to request a build start date.
- 26/16B Finance and Budget** – Nothing to report
- 26/17B Play Equipment in Recreation Ground**
- 26/17.1B It was noted that the new play equipment installation had started.
- 26/17.2B It was noted that quotes had been requested for the replacement of the rotten fencing surrounding the children's play area.
- 26/17.3B It was resolved to accept the ROSPA Play Safe inspection fee **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Payne** unanimously **Resolved**.
- 25/148B Matters for the next Meeting to be held on 8th June 2026**
- Cllr Aldridge – Station Fields Name.

Meeting closed at 20.58pm

Signed as a true and correct recordCllr Prince..... Dated08/06/2026.....