

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

Attendees:

Councillors: Cllr Prince (Chairman), Cllr Peeks, Cllr Payne, Cllr Aldridge, Cllr Gatti, Cllr Rutter

Public: None

Other: Charlotte Hirst (Committee Clerk – Assistant to the Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Schmieder – work commitments

It was advised the meeting would be recorded

26/20B Election of Chairman

Cllr Gatti proposed Cllr Prince as Chairman, Cllr Prince accepted **Cllr Aldridge Seconded this and it was unanimously resolved** motion carried.

26/21B Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Gatti proposed Cllr Peeks as Vice Chairman Cllr Peeks **accepted Cllr Aldridge seconded and it was unanimously resolved** – motion carried.

26/22B Health and Safety – Housekeeping and any reportable issues

The Committee Clerk informed the committee that some of the blocks from the safety fencing which had been used during the erection of the new play equipment had been moved and placed by the play equipment and would need to be removed from the children's play area. Cllr Aldridge agreed to undertake this that evening.

26/23B Apologies

Apologies as noted above and reasons for absence approved as indicated (LGA 1972 s85 (1)). **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Gatti - unanimously resolved.**

26/24B Declarations of Interest

None

26/25B Approval of Minutes of the Environment and Planning Committee meetings held 13th April 2026

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes **Proposed Cllr Aldridge Seconded Cllr Payne** unanimously resolved.

26/26B Matters from the Minutes

26/14.3B it was noted that the World War Two Memorial Shelter was not included in the Weed Spraying Contract.

26/27B Correspondence

26/27.1B Planning Application 3/39/25/017- an amended planning application had been received, the Committee Clerk had contacted Somerset Council to notify that a Councillor from Williton Parish Council would be speaking at the upcoming Planning Committee regarding this matter – **Noted.**

26/27.2B An email had been received regarding the disrepair of the bus stop at Tropiquaria **Resolution** to arrange a meeting and a request be made the Doniford Bus Stop be considered **Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Payne unanimously resolved.**

26/27.3B A response had been received from Planning Enforcement regarding the possible planning breach at Wibble Business Park. **Resolution** to contact MP Rachel Gilmore regarding

Williton Parish Council's serious concerns of Planning Enforcement being severely understaffed and the long-term implications of this.

26/28B **Planning Applications** – plans are available for inspection on the Somerset Council website under the planning portal.

26/28.1B The Following Planning Applications were considered and if a request for Section 106 Funding was appropriate.

Application No	Location	Details	Comment
3/39/26/007	5 Long Street, Williton, TA4 4QN	Alterations to windows and doors and insertion of 1 No. roof vents	Williton Parish Council Objects 1. Williton Parish Council knows that work has commenced contrary to what is stated on the page 4 of the planning application under Description of the Proposal therefore we now believe this requires planning permission rather than an amendment to the previous CMA approval. 2. Williton Parish Council still feel that this is substandard accommodation as there is no onsite parking and no convenient route to the public car parks. It is known that users of the Killick Way car park, opposite the application site, cross the road on the blind corner. Work has been carried out by the Highways Authority on moving the pedestrian crossing in Fore Street to be nearer this bend but in a safe place where users will be able to cross safely. The Design Review by Somerset Council dated 30th January 2025, which supports this is attached. 3. Williton Parish Council consider that there is significant fire risk with the bike storage especially as these maybe stored in each flat or residents may keep their bikes in the passageway. The passageway is at risk of becoming blocked. Bin storage for 6 flats would not only increase fire risk but also cause dreadful odours especially from the waste bins. 4. The lack of private areas or a communal area outside for all flats would be detrimental to mental health as seen in COVID. The external space for the use of the occupiers of the 6 flats should be enlarged. 5. With the lack of outdoor space for the flats, living costs would be higher as for example there is no outside space to dry clothes so all flats will have to use energy to dry their washing. 6. The collection of the refuse would cause risks and inconvenience to the pedestrians using the pavement and road users that use Long

			Street when the refuse workers are carrying out their collections as Long Street will become blocked. The pavements are too narrow to leave wheelie bins and recycling boxes on the pavements especially for pedestrians using pushchairs or mobility scooter users 7. The opening of the ground floor flat windows and the proposed new door in lieu of the existing window on the front elevation over the pavement is a hazard to passing pedestrians. Under S152 and S154 of the Highway Act 1980 recognises opening windows over the highway can be an issue - see attached. 8. The ventilation for gas, cooking and bathrooms, none is shown on the drawings— where will these be? If this planning application is approved Williton Parish Council requests that Section 106 funding for recreational use is required as set out in the adopted Planning Obligations SPD (West Somerset) as the residents do not have any usable outside space they can use for recreation. Williton Parish Council requests that this planning application is considered by Planning Committee. Proposed Cllr Peeks Seconded Cllr Gatti unanimously resolved
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, warning signage, means of enclosure and access over for the continuation of farming	It was noted that one of the local farmers were happy with the alterations however WPC would like a continuous cycle footpath which would link with the two schools, St Peters and Danesfield from Doniford with the path going through Orchard Brooks and not on Doniford Road. WPC reiterates our previous comments Waiting for Cllr Rutter's comments as agreed by EPC

26/28.2B Decision to be made as to whether a request for any of the above applications to be considered by planning committee – a request for both planning applications to be considered by planning committee.

26/28.3B To Note the Following Planning Decisions made by Somerset Council

Application No	Location	Outcome
None		

26/28.4B **Solar Farm** – it was noted that the Committee Clerk had still not been able to make contact with the developers of this site **Resolution** Committee Clerk would continue to establish communication.

- 26/28.5B **Station Fields** the Committee Clerk informed the committee that she had received an email prior to the committee meeting that expected commencement would be August 2026, a response was still await from Lovel's Community Fund department - **noted**.
- 26/28.6B A response had been received from Somerset Councils Ecologist which informed the committee that they do consider the Nature Recovery Strategy whilst commenting on planning applications – the committee was pleased to note.
- 26/28.7B Possible Planning breach Wibble Business Park – the Committee Clerk had resubmitted our concerns regarding a potential planning breach (26/09.1B) a response had been received from planning enforcement informing of a severe backlog, discussed under 26/27.3B.
- 26/29B Highway Matters**
- 26/29.1B **Doniford Road** – following the resolution 25/79.1B an email had been sent to Somerset Council requesting a reduction of the speed limit to 30MPH and petition had been attached, a request for an update had been which had not been received Committee Clerk had chased for a response again on 1st June 2026 **Resolution** the Committee Clerk would email again and would also request Cllr Davis to request an updated.
- 26/29.2B **Speed Indicator Device** consideration to purchase two speed indicator devices was given **resolution** the budget was reviewed, it was agreed to purchase two devices however the Committee Clerk would contact the suppliers to request only one delivery fee would be charged **Proposed Cllr Payne seconded Cllr Gatti unanimously resolved.**
- 26/30B Items to report on Footpaths/Pavements**
- 26/30.1B **Blocked footpath Aller Mead** an email response had been received from Somerset Council Committee Clerk would respond to the email again asking for specification for the works to build the link to, to adhere to adoptable standards.
- 26/30.2B **Footpath at Catwell and Townsend** it was noted that this footpath had been closed on the 18th May 2026 for 21 days, it was also noted that no work appeared to have been carried out to date, the committee was informed that Mrs Peaks as PPLO would make contact with Somerset Council.
- 26/31B Items of Report from Grounds Maintenance Officers**
- 26/31.1B **Bellamy's Corner** Nothing to report.
- 26/31.2B **Street Furniture** - Bench at Aller Farm an update from Cllr Rutter, the bench would need to be wire brushed a request would be made for the Community Payback Scheme outdoor team to undertake this work.
- 26/31.3B **Keep Williton Tidy Scheme** – A response from the Insurance Company was awaited, Committee Clerk would request an update.
- 26/32B Grounds Maintenance**
- 26/32.1B **Wild Flower Project** – Cllr Gatti updated the Committee that work had commenced, Cllr Gatti would produce a management plan.
- 26/32.2B **Footpath between Shutgate Meadow and Williton Hospital** a response is still awaited from the Estate Office of the NHS Trust.
- 26/32.3B **Weed Spraying** it was reported that the grounds maintenance company would respray and Cllrs would check this had been successful.
- 26/32.4B **Butts Close** Cllr Peaks had furnished the Committee Clerk with a link to the unilateral agreement.
- 26/32.5B **Memorial Shelter** a report had been received that the bushes in the memorial shelter had grown too large **resolution** the parishioner who maintains the memorial garden would be asked to cut back the bushes, once it had been ascertained there were no nesting birds, the grounds maintenance contractors would be asked to clear the cuttings **Proposed Cllr Payne seconded Cllr Peaks unanimously resolved.**

- 26/32.6B **Pavilion Entrance Robert Street** Cllr Peeks had reported that the grounds maintenance contractors had requested that the doctors surgery be asked to cut back the clematis on their side of the fence which had been overgrowing the pavilion boundary **resolution** a letter would be written to the Doctors Surgery to request the clematis be cut back
Proposed Cllr Peeks seconded Cllr Payne unanimously resolved.
- 26/33B Flooding Matters**
- 26/33.1B It was noted that a response from MP Rachel Gilmore had still not been received following their meeting the Committee Clerk would chase again.
Cllr Rutter reported that a branch had caused an obstruction in the river near the bridge Cllr Rutter and Cllr Aldridge would speak to the riparian owners of this area. Cllr Rutter had also taken samples of Doniford Stream following a report that he had received of abnormal appearance of the water. The results of the water had been tested was normal.
- 26/34B Finance and Budget**
Nothing
- 26/35B Play Equipment in Recreation Ground**
- 26/35.1B It was noted that the new play equipment had been installed and that positive feedback had been received via social media.
- 26/35.2B To consider quotation for repairs to fencing and gates – due to the costs of these works the Committee Clerk would obtain further quotes for consideration.
- 26/35.3B It was noted that the ROSPA Play Safe inspection of the children’s play area had been booked to take place in June.
- 26/36B Matters for the next meeting to be held on 13th July 2026**
Cllr Rutter – blocked drains.

Meeting closed at 20.50pm

Signed as a true and correct record Dated