WILLINGALE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: C Milligan Email clerk@willingaleparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting.
The Council met at 8pm on Tuesday 12th November 2024 in The Village Hall, The Street, Willingale, Essex, CM5 0SN.
Cllr D Stokes chaired the meeting.
Present: Councillors L Fresco and J Bianchi.
In Attendance: The Clerk to the Council Clare Milligan, Epping Forest District Cllr R Balcombe, PC Shepherd and two members of the public.

24/083. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received and agreed for Cllrs N Pavyer, D Watson and R Tilbrook.

24/084. Declarations of interests
There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests and registerable non-pecuniary interests relating to items on the agenda.

24/085. Minutes of the Full Council meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th September 2024 were signed and agreed. Proposed by Cllr J Bianchi, seconded by Cllr L Fresco and agreed unanimously.

24/086. Public Question Time.
No questions or comments from the public.

Cllr R Balcombe arrived at 8.20pm

24/087. **Reports from County and District Councillors**
There was no report from the County Councillor. The District Councillor R Balcombe advised the new refuse collection contract with Terra Verdi Services went live last week. He also advised that a new blue recycling bin was available for residents to order from the EFDC website.

24/088. Clerk's Report
Cllr N Pavyer is still to investigate CCTV for the village. PC Warren asked if the Council were going to consider CCTV for the village that they are ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Reader) compatible.

24/089. Financial Report
a. Bank Balances and Expenditure reports for September and October 2024
The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliations and the income and expenditure reports for September and October 2024. Cllr D Stokes advised that the £561.39 for insurance was budgeted for under Local Council Policy and that the £250 on the donations line should be under Advertising. The Clerk will look into moving the budget items around. Cllr D Stokes also advised that he thought the budget looked as though the council would end the year with a £300 deficit. The accounts were agreed. Proposed by Cllr D Stokes, seconded by Cllr L Fresco and agreed unanimously.

b. To Ratify the following payments already made in September and October 2024:
The following payments were ratified:

Clerk's salary for September '24 - £195.25
HMRC September '24 - £39.60
UTL Printing of What's on in Willingale - £235.20
Willingale Village Hall September hall hire - £22.00
HMRC October '24 - £78.80
Clerk's salary for October '24 - £147.95
Proposed by Cllr D Stokes, seconded by Cllr J Bianchi and agreed unanimously.

c. New NALC Pay Scales for 2024 to 25
The Clerk had circulated the new pay scales, and a discussion took place as to whether to agree an increase in the Clerk's pay. The Clerk's scale is point LC18 and the increase was an additional 63p an hour (£15.21 to £15.84 per hour). It was agreed to apply the increase with the backdated pay until April 2024. Proposed by Cllr D Stokes, seconded by Cllr J Bianchi and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will apply the changes in the November 2024 pay along with the backdated pay.

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d. Grant Application

The Clerk had circulated the grant application for £650 from St Chistopher's PCC for the upkeep of the Churchyard and surrounding areas. A discussion took place, and the request was agreed. Proposed by Cllr D Stokes, seconded by Cllr L Fresco and agreed unanimously.

24/090. Planning Matters

a. The following decisions by Epping Forest District Council Planning department, were noted:

September 2024

EPF/1573/24 Berry Lodge, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Ongar, CM5 0QA. Demolition of existing extension, construction of ground floor extensions, first floor extension, new car port and garage conversion. Alterations to fenestration.

24/09/2024 Approve with Conditions. Delegated Decision

October 2024

EPF/0415/24 Tarrymans, Birds Green, Willingale, Ongar, CM5 0PP. Demolition of Existing Buildings and Erection of Replacement Dwelling.

09/10/2024 Refuse. Delegated Decision

b. Appeals

Cllr D Stokes gave an update on the appeals for Greenacres from the Planning Inspectorate. The Northern End appeal has been successful, and the enforcement notice was to be quashed. The Southern End appeal was considered null and void due to errors along with confusing and misleading paperwork submitted by EFDC. Therefore, the District Council need to resubmit the appeal. It was agreed the Parish Council would take no further action regarding the Northern End but would write to EFDC to make sure that the breach of conditions notice re the Southern End is resubmitted promptly. Proposed by Cllr D Stokes, seconded by Cllr L Fresco and agreed unanimously.

24/091. Police Report

PC Shepherd read out the crime statistics for the area and advised that in comparison with the same three months last year there had been 150% increase in crimes. However, seven of the crimes were from one address over two days. These had all been dealt with and no further incidents had occurred.

24/092. Highways Matter

The Council discussed the state of the village bus shelter as it needs repair. Rather than incurring the cost of refurbishment it was agreed to contact Essex County Council to see if they would adopt the shelter. Proposed by Cllr D Stokes, seconded by Cllr L Fresco and agreed unanimously.

24/093. Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr D Stokes explained that he had been approached to look at setting up a Neighbourhood Watch within Willingale. He met with the Chair of Epping Forest District Neighbourhood Watch. There was a suggestion that the village could be split into four areas with a Co-ordinator for each. The Co-ordinators would be expected to meet once a quarter and would receive weekly reports from the police of any incidents. Cllr D Stokes felt reaching out through the Village What's App group would be the way forward. It was agreed that Cllr D Stokes would reach out to villagers to see if there was any interest. Proposed by Cllr L Fresco, seconded by Cllr D Stokes and agreed unanimously.

24/094. Updates from Councillors and Matters for Information

Cllr D Stokes reminded the Clerk that the budget would need to be on the agenda for the next Council meeting and offered to prepare the budget and precept proposal if required.

Date of next meetings

2025: 14th January 2025, 11th March 2025 and 13th May 2025

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.44pm

Signed:……. Chair Date:…….