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 14th January 2025 in The Village Hall, The Street, Willingale, Essex, CM5 0SN.
Cllr N Pavyer chaired the meeting.
Present: Councillors L Fresco, J Bianchi, D Stokes, D Watson, S Bosworth and R Tilbrook.
In Attendance: The Clerk to the Council, Clare Milligan, PC Shepherd and two members of the public.

25/001. Apologies for absence
There were no apologies.

25/002. 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.

25/003. Minutes of the Full Council meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November 2024 were signed and agreed. Proposed by Cllr N Pavyer, seconded by Cllr D Stokes and agreed unanimously.

25/004. Public Question Time.
No questions or comments from the public.

25/005. Reports from County and District Councillors
There were no reports. Cllr N Pavyer advised local County Councillor J McIvor was no longer a Conservative member. It was also mentioned that Essex County Council had a meeting on 10th January 2025 to discuss various business matters including devolution and delaying the elections due this year.

25/006. Clerk's Report
Cllr N Pavyer is still to investigate CCTV for the village. This will be brought back to the next meeting for discussion.

25/007. Police Report
PC Shepherd read out the crime statistics for the area for the last three months. There were 62 calls to the police and 28 crimes compared to last year's 52 calls and 18 crimes. Although there is an increase many involved only one address within the village. He also noted that there had been no burglaries for two years, that Hare coursing had decreased but car theft had increased.

25/008. Financial Report
a. Bank Balances and Expenditure reports for November and December 2024
The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliations and the income and expenditure reports for November and December 2024. Cllr N Pavyer queried the amount in the November accounts under Clerk's pay. This was looked into and although the amount for accounting purposes was correct the Clerk had not separated the tax from the Clerk's pay in the budget lines. This was rectified and the Clerk will recirculate the November 2024 accounts so Council are able to see the adjustment. The bank reconciliations and accounts were agreed. Proposed by Cllr D Watson, seconded by Cllr L Fresco and agreed unanimously.

b. To Ratify the following payments already made in November and December 2024:
Cllr D Stokes advised that the agenda showed the payment for Skippers as hedge cutting but it should be verge cutting. The Clerk was asked to change this for the minutes.

The following payments were ratified:

Clerk's salary for November '24 - £195.01

HMRC November '24 - £105.20
St Christophers Grant - £650.00
Skippers Grounds Maintenance Verge Cutting - £1,620.00
UTL printing What's on in Willingale - £173.76
Willingale Village Hall November Hall hire - £22.00
HMRC December '24 - £82.00
Clerk's salary for December '24 - £152.92

Proposed by Cllr D Stokes, seconded by Cllr L Fresco and agreed unanimously.

The following payments to be made in January 2025 were ratified:

HMRC January '25 - £82
Clerk's salary for January '25 - £161.02

Proposed by Cllr D Watson, seconded by Cllr L Fresco and agreed unanimously.

c. Council's Bank Accounts
Cllr D Stokes explained that the current deposit account with Lloyds only allows a minimum withdrawal of £10,000 and the account has to have a minimum amount in it of £10,000. Therefore, this was not conducive to the Council's needs. Cllr D Stokes will look into alternative accounts and bring this back to the next Full Council meeting in March 2025 for discussion.

25/009. Planning Matters
a. The following decisions by Epping Forest District Council Planning department, were noted:

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

November 2024
EPF/1886/24 Robins Wood, Birds Green, Willingale, Ongar, CM5 0PR. Application for approval of details reserved by condition 3 'Contamination', condition 4 'Foul and Surface Water', condition 7 'Superfast Broadband' and condition 8 'Water Efficiency' on planning permission EPF/2679/23 (Prior approval for change of use of.)
12/11/2024 Approve Delegated Decision

December 2024
There were no decisions for Willingale in December.

25/010. Draftg Budget 2025/26
The Clerk had circulated the budget and suggested precept amount for 2025/26. A discussion took place, and it was agreed to increase the precept. The agreed precept amount for 2025/26 was £6,258, an increase of £414, percentage increase 7.8%. A tax base amount of £24.39, an increase of £1.16 and a percentage increase of 5%. Proposed by Cllr N Pavyer, seconded by Cllr D Stokes and agreed unanimously.

25/011. Highways Matter
Cllr N Pavyer thanked Cllrs D Stokes and Cllr J Bianchi for all their hard work with the finger posts and other signs within the village that they had undertaken maintenance on. He commented they were looking fabulous. The Council briefly discussed the Essex Passenger Transport 'Love Your Bus Grant Fund' It was agreed that Cllr D Stokes would look into this further to see if anything could be used to help the bus route which goes through the village. Cllr S Bosworth asked if ECC had adopted the bus shelter yet. Cllr D Stokes advised this was still on going.

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25/012. Village Litter Pick 2025

Cllr S Bosworth advised the litter pick had been arranged for Saturday 22nd March 2025 starting at 9am at Spains Hall Farm and finishing at 12pm running in the same way as previous years with the farm offering refreshments at the end. Cllr L Fresco will make sure this is advertised on the village What's App and the Clerk will make sure it is on the Council's website and Facebook page.

25/013. Willingale Magazine Printing

Cllr D Stokes explained that UTL were closing their printing side of the business and therefore the Council needed to find a new company for the village magazine. Cllr D Stokes had circulated three quotes for a new printing company which he had received from the editors of the magazine. A discussion took place, and it was agreed to try 'You Love Print' at a cost of £177.50 plus £10.80 delivery (includes VAT on delivery only) for a 32 page magazine with a total of 230 copies (need to specify custom quantity). Proposed by Cllr D Stokes, seconded by Cllr N Pavyer and agreed unanimously. Cllr N Pavyer thanked the editors for providing the quotes.

Cllr D Stokes advised that more advertisers were needed and if anyone had any ideas to let Cllr D Stokes and the editors know.

25/0014. Updates from Councillors and Matters for Information

Cllr D Stokes advised that the original foliage for covering the ground at the airfield memorial had not taken. Grass seed will now be sown, allowing for the area to be strimmed a couple of times a year.

The following dates were agreed for Council meetings in the next municipal year:
8th July 2025, 9th September 2025, 11th November 2025, 13th January 2026, 10th March 2026, and 12th May 2026.

Cllrs N Pavyer and D Stokes will look at who to invite to the Annual Parish Meeting on Friday 25th April 2025.

Date of next meetings

2025: 11th March 2025 and 13th May 2025.
Annual Parish Meeting: 25th April 2025.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed:…… Chair Date:…….