

## **Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society**

Minutes of the AGM held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Willaston Memorial Hall

Approximately 62 people were in attendance.

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chris Hampshire welcomed everyone present to the Annual General Meeting of the Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS) and said it was nice to see so many people. The Society's Officers (Chris Hampshire – Chair; Sarah Shannon – Secretary; Keith Butcher – Trustee for Memorial Hall; Hilary Booth – Treasurer; Sue Unsworth – Publicity and Jane Townsend – Footpaths Officer) and Cllr Myles Hogg introduced themselves.

Apologies had been received from, Vicky Spraggon (Vice Chair), Barry Vowles (Planning Officer), Madeline Hughes, Keith Penny, Debra Jerrett and Hilary Morris.

### **2. Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 30th September 2015**

Copies of the minutes had been placed on seats prior to the meeting for attendees to read. Chris asked for any amendments to the Minutes. There being none, the minutes were proposed by Ceri Jones and seconded by Sheila Smith. By a show of hands, the minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### **3. Chair's Report**

Chris Hampshire reported that the Society had had another active successful year, continuing to meet every other month for about 2 ½ hours. New organisational representatives had joined and a number of co-opted members had also been secured. Some of the issues that the Society had worked on included:

- Disabled access to Martins/Post Office had been actively pursued, including objections to the 'home made' ramp that was built on the highway. A proper new portable ramp is due to be supplied shortly as the previous one didn't fit the door space.
- We were pleased to see the return of the 22 bus route between Chester and West Kirby through the village. This is going to be extended to include Arrowe Park. This is a commercial venture so it is a case of use it or lose it. We appreciate Avon's willingness to re-instate this route through Willaston.
- Following the Play Area phase one completion with new play equipment installed last year, we appreciated Cheshire West and Chester's (CWaC's) support in funding an improved pathway. We have now consulted residents on phase two and raised almost £10,000 towards getting further equipment.
- We have worked with CWaC to enforce the limited time parking on Neston Road. This has resulted in lots of spaces now as some people have been issued parking tickets. We have just received a request to look again at limited parking on the Green. We did consider this a few years ago but local business employees were not keen but we will discuss this issue at our next meeting.
- We have worked with Spar to discuss how to ensure that delivery lorries do not cause an obstruction. Various options were pursued, including putting in a loading/unloading bay but this would take away three car parking spaces. All options have turned out not to be feasible for different reasons.
- We reviewed and updated the Community Plan which was developed by the village in 2104 and has helped inform our priorities. Some have been very successful and some priorities are hard, such as widening footpaths.
- The benches on the Green were repaired by CWaC. Our thanks to Cllr Hogg for helping getting this done quickly.
- We have secured and installed new walk-coloured footpath signs around the village, thanks to Jane's hard work as Footpath Officer.
- We have been working closely with CWaC to find an economical solution to the muddy area

on FP 32, the footpath running from the rear of Pollards to the Wirral Way. They have also agreed to resurface the bridleway that runs from Smithy Lane.

- Thanks to Cllr Hogg's Members' Budget, a new noticeboard was put up on the Green.
- We have an increased number of residents taking up the Lottery that generates a small amount of funding for the Society. Thanks to Hilary Booth for her work on this.
- We have worked closely with CWaC on various property planning applications around the village which aim to keep the Green Belt intact and protect the conservation area.
- We have a new Facebook page, thanks to Ceri Jones and a newsletter has gone out twice. The newsletter has been funded by the New Homes Bonus which unfortunately will end in April so our funds will be restricted.
- Thanks also to Brett Hoare who has helped manage the Society's website.

Chris then thanked all the Officers for the work that they have done over the year and asked for comments.

Christine Barnes raised the issue of parking on the Green. She commented that vans were parked there all day long every day. Another resident commented that there had been a car not moved for four months. Chris said that we would look at the issue again but it is a real problem and contentious. Myles Hogg commented that the Council had just received a request from local shops to have the waiting times on Neston Road extended. He also said that he had looked into the car that had not been moved and it is there legally as it is licensed and insured. He suggested that the only way of stopping this was to put in time-limited parking.

**Action: WR&CS**

Chris then mentioned that he had received a request from the Ranger at Hadlow Road to see if there would be an objection to the car park being open until 10pm in the Summer. One person expressed concern about noise and it was felt that wider consultation of neighbouring homes to the car park was required to get a view on this. Comments were also made about the speed of traffic and parking in Hadlow Road.

**Action: WR&CS**

Chris then reported on planning matters. There had been 32 planning applications in the Willaston area last year and we commented on 30 of them. In addition, there had been three appeals. Some of the more significant planning applications included:

- The traveller site next to Brook Meadow. The extension was originally refused and it went to appeal. We objected on the grounds that this is Green Belt land. However, it was approved for a limited time period of five years.
- Nessun Dorma, Lydiate Lane. We objected to the application to put in two new dwellings on the grounds that it was Green Belt land. This was permitted.
- Application to build five new homes on the grounds behind Fairways, Hooton Road. We objected on the grounds that this is Green Belt land. This was refused.
- Application to convert two agricultural outbuildings into residential use. We objected on the grounds that these buildings had not been used for agricultural purposes. This was refused.

Chris commented that if we object, we have to be specific and Barry Vowles, our Planning Officer spends a long time looking at details. He advised that individuals can make comments as well as the Society.

A resident asked if we had been consulted on the proposal for Capenhurst to receive scrap nuclear waste. Chris and Myles responded that the Society's remit is for a two-mile radius from the Green and the Council is only required to consult with bodies in a two-mile radius.

Bill Hardman commented on a new roof that had been put on a bungalow in Hadlow Road. Ceri Jones responded that the work had been approved through building control and that roofs replacing like with like do not need planning permission. Chris agreed that the Society would look into further into whether planning permission for this was required.

**Action: WR&CS**

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Hilary Booth, Treasurer, presented the accounts which had been placed on seats prior to the meeting. She explained that we have a number of accounts.

The Current Account funds our core work. This shows a grant of £1200 which was received from CWaC New Homes Bonus for future newsletters; one of £2010 for the noticeboard and one of £3000 for the play area. There is no payment for insurance as this was not paid until early September, just after the year end.

Overall, the Current Account had credits of £7428.65, payments of £5990.81 and carries forward a balance of £1437.84.

The Play Area Account received several donations including £1000 from the Village Festival, £500 from the Residents' Society and the rest was from individuals. With the £3000 CWaC fund transferred from the Current Account, there is currently £4990.05 in the account.

The Fundraising Account shows the income relating to the Willaston Lottery. This is our main source of money and Hilary said that the new lottery starts in September and we have received £1853 in ticket sales. We are allowed to keep 40% of the takings to support village activities and prize money will increase with additional ticket holders. We were able to give grants of £500 to both the Play area and Friends of Hadlow Road. The Lottery Account ended with a balance of £288.47. Chris commented that the lottery now pays out five winners a month and we do a monthly return to the Council to fit with licensing obligations.

Hilary then stated that the accounts have been audited by Nigel Pratten as an honest record and said that the accounts will be on the WR&CS website for inspection. Chris also commented that there are controls on how we pay for funds and all payments are made with two signatures on receipt of an invoice.

The accounts were proposed by Fiona Ennys and seconded by Elaine Mills. By a show of hands, they were accepted as a true record.

#### **5. Proposal for a Social Media Officer**

Chris explained that we had set up a Facebook site and wanted to do more on social media. Annette Troake proposed and Fiona Ennys seconded that we have an additional officer role of Social Media Officer. This was agreed by all present.

#### **6. Election of Organisational Representatives, Officers and Resident Representatives**

Chris explained that officers are elected for a period of three years on a rotational basis. This year the posts of Social Media, Footpaths, Publicity and Trustee to the Memorial Hall are up for election.

Ceri Jones had expressed her willingness to stand for the role of Social Media Officer. There being no other nominations, she was proposed by Annette Troake, seconded by Stephen Bazely and agreed by all present.

Jane Townsend has indicated her willingness to continue in the role of Footpaths Officer. There being no other nominations, she was proposed by Christine Barnes, seconded by Roger James and agreed by all present.

Sue Unsworth has indicated her willingness to continue in the role of Publicity Officer. There being no other nominations, she was proposed by Ceri Jones, seconded by Kath Walker and agreed by all present.

Keith Butcher has indicated his willingness to continue in the role of Trustee to the Memorial Hall. There being no other nominations, he was proposed by Roger James, seconded by Ceri Jones and agreed by all present.

## 6.1 Resident Representatives

Chris explained that a number of residents are elected onto the committee for three years. Helen Mayles and Fiona Ennys are due for re-election. In addition, Hilary Gould and Rob King were co-opted during the year and now wish to stand for election. There being no further nominations made from the floor, these four were proposed by Roger James, seconded by Sheila Smith and agreed by all present.

## 7. Any Other Business

### 7.1 Quarry Road

Jane Townsend informed the meeting that there is going to be consultation on a proposal to stop traffic being able to enter Quarry Road from Hinderton Road. This will be discussed at a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm at Neston Town Hall. It has arisen following requests from Quarry Road residents on safety grounds. Jane commented that there are four footpaths and a bridleway off this road and no pavement at the Willaston end of Quarry Road. Some concerns were expressed about the impact for traffic in neighbouring roads and Myles said that the consultation will also include the implementation of 40mph limits for Hanns Hall Road, Lydiate Lane and Damhead Lane as they will be likely to see an increase in traffic.

Chris encouraged people to respond to the consultation and said that we will share the details when it is out on our Facebook and website pages. **Action: WR&CS**

### 7.2 Hadlow Road

Michelle Swann commented on difficulties in driving onto Hadlow Road from her house, where the visibility is poor, due to a neighbour's hedge. Bill Harman also commented on the speed of traffic in Hadlow Road and asked if the 20mph limit could be extended. He also suggested moving the flashing sign further up the road.

Chris said that the Society do write to people about cutting back hedges, particularly if they are overgrowing pavements. He agreed to follow this up with the people concerned. In addition, the issue of extending the 20mph limit has also been raised and we will look at this again. He also asked the meeting to note that any change costs money and we need to find funding for it. **Action: Chris**

Myles said that the Highways Department will be doing a traffic survey looking at the type and speed of traffic this Autumn. He advised that implementation of the existing 20mph limit was paid for from his Councillors' budget and if there is significant interest, he would look at extending the 20mph zone. He commented that the Neston Road limit had reduced speeds from an average of 32mph to around 22-24mph. He also agreed to ask the engineers to look at the flashing sign. **Action: Myles**

### 7.3 Hooton Road

Sue Unsworth commented that there was no sign on Hooton Road, naming the road. Myles agreed to look into this. **Action: Myles**

Jane Townsend said that she had twice had a near miss at the Nag's Head corner with a lorry and wondered if others had been in a similar situation. Another resident confirmed she had also experienced this. Jane expressed the view that large articulated lorries could not safely get around that corner and she said she has asked Myles to request signs at the end of the B5133 to say that the road is not suitable for such vehicles.

## 8. Close of Meeting

Chris Hampshire closed the meeting by thanking all the committee and organisation members for their work during the year. He then thanked everyone for coming along and invited them to join us in some cheese and wine and to visit the information tables around the room.

Myles thanked Chris for all the work he had done on behalf of the Residents' Society.

Date of the next AGM: 7.30pm, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017, in the Memorial Hall.

Want more information?

Our website can be found at: [www.willastoninwirralresidents.org](http://www.willastoninwirralresidents.org) and Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/willastonresidents](http://www.facebook.com/willastonresidents)

If you would like an email alert when minutes of meetings are posted on our website, please contact us via the website.

Any village concerns then let us know

Email Willaston Residents' & Countryside Society through the 'Contact Us' page on the Society's website. Alternatively write to the Society c/o the Chair, 11 The Courtyard, Willaston. CH64 2UT.

If there is any particular issue you would like to raise, the first 15 minutes of each meeting is open to any resident. Please let us know if you would like to attend during this session. You are also welcome to attend throughout the meeting as an observer – again, please let us know if you will be attending.

These Minutes are subject to ratification.  
Sarah Shannon  
Secretary