

Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 16th May 2016 in the Memorial Hall

Residents' Issues

Ceri Jones attended the meeting to discuss parking on Hadlow Road. Her concern was around the parking on verges near the entrance to Wallcroft, where matting has been laid, as the vehicles obscure the view of drivers emerging from houses. Ceri commented that there has been instances of double parking and she had witnessed a near accident with a bicycle.

Ceri explained that she has raised the problem with CWaC, Myles and the local police and she wanted also to raise it with us to get our views.

Chris explained that parking in the village is a hot issue which seems not to be resolvable. Myles commented that his instinct was against extending the double yellow lines or removing the meshing, preferring more vigorous enforcement, which has happened recently in the village. It was also noted that car ownership has increased considerably since many estates in the village were designed and that the cottages opposite this part of Hadlow Road had no parking at all. Comments were also made about the speed of vehicles down Hadlow Road and Myles confirmed that the PCSOs are still doing sessions with the speed camera.

Myles agreed to discuss this in more detail with the Highways Department.

Action: Myles

Committee Meeting

Present: (Officers): Chris Hampshire (Chair), Sarah Shannon (Secretary), Hilary Booth (Treasurer), Sue Unsworth (Publicity), Jane Townsend (Footpaths), Keith Butcher (Memorial Hall representative)
(Committee Members): Rob King, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Annette Troake, Helen Mayles, Sheila Smith, Debs Jerrett, Paul Janvier, Myles Hogg and Ceri Jones

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Margaret Smyth, Barry Vowles, Vicky Spraggon, Hilary Morris and Madeline Hughes.

2. Declarations of Interest

Chris declared an interest in item 7.2 as Chair of Friends of Hadlow Road Station.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st March 2016

The Minutes were proposed by Debs, seconded by Helen and accepted by the Committee as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the previous Minutes (15th November 2015)

There was discussion on the following items, other items being completed:

4.1 Spar Lorry (item 4.2)

Myles reported he still had not received a reply to his letter about the Spar lorry. Sarah reported that she had also written on behalf of the Society when two lorries were parked at the same time and sent a photo with the letter. Again, no response had been received. An article had also been included in the newsletter saying that we are collecting evidence and asking for photos to be given to us, along with times and dates. After discussion, Ceri agreed to draft a letter to Spar PR/Corporate Affairs Dept for us to send. **Action: Ceri**

4.2 Noticeboard (item 4.3)

The noticeboard has arrived and looks very smart. The committee thanked Myles for funding it from his Councillors' budget. Sue confirmed that she has spare magnets if required.

4.3 Dog Poo (item 4.4)

Myles passed around some leaflets to be distributed with the newsletters to appropriate houses.

4.4 Litter picking (item 4.5)

Myles had organised a litter picking session last Saturday when he had picked up three sackfuls on Benty Heath Lane. It was noted that the Council has been picking litter along Hadlow Road recently.

4.5 Saddlewood Farm (item 4.6)

Myles reported that the enforcement officers had investigated the building here and decided it was within the permitted development rights so doesn't need to complete a planning application.

4.6 Ramp at Martins (item 4.7)

Myles had not heard anything about the outcome of this planning application.

4.7 Organisation Representatives (item 6.2)

We have written to the Legion and Christ Church. There had been no response from the Legion but Christ Church had confirmed that they wished to send a representative. Although none was present at the meeting, a report had been received.

4.8 PTA Noticeboard (item 7.2)

The PTA had confirmed that the noticeboard could be used after their Summer Ball for village notices, until they need it again.

4.9 Travellers' site on Heath Lane (item 9.1)

Myles reported that the site had been given a further three years, following the appeal. The appeal officer had acknowledged that the site was on Green Belt land but ruled that residents' health problems overwhelmed this.

4.10 Hadlow Station Garage (item 9.3)

Sue had been in touch with the Ranger who said that cars had been allowed to park down the side as a gesture of goodwill recently. There was a discussion which noted that planning permission was only for eight cars and there were issues of cars hanging over the pavement as well as down the side. Concern was also expressed about emergency access and that the original lines have worn away. Chris agreed to discuss this further with the Ranger.

Action: Chris

4.11 Christ Church (item 11)

Sarah reported that a response had been received from the Church about plans to turn the church into a community space. The church has been advised by the Diocese to make repairs a priority, which will require significant expenditure. They will also be conducting a church and community audit to understand the needs in Willaston before finalising any plans to re-order the church. They will invite the community to be involved in that process and keep people informed as they do so.

5. Play Area Working Group

Sarah reported that the proposals for the second stage of improvements are now developed. The initial consultation on this resulted in 47 completed questionnaires as well as other comments. Following this, two proposals were put on the website and people were asked which of the two options they preferred using an internet questionnaire on SurveyMonkey. 29 people responded to this.

Annette, Myles and Sarah then met the landscape architect and CWaC Officer to agree the final plans. The new items that will be included are:

- A very large climbing unit incorporating ropes, monkey bars and a slide
- A roundabout.
- A structure suitable for imaginative play (tractor and trailer).
- Road markings on the tarmac.

The existing slide and adventure trail will be removed to make room for the climbing unit and it is likely that the slide will go to another play area in Cheshire. The full plan can be seen on the website, which has been updated with the details. Information is also included in the newsletter with a slip for donations.

The cost of providing this is £50,728 but some grant providers require us to give 10% of what they put in so the amount we need to raise may be nearer to £55K. Currently we have raised £4,601.86. Sarah suggested we need to have around £8,000 before we can start to approach major funders. She has been told that the

Rangers, preschool and toddler groups are likely to help raise some funds. Annette reported that she has spoken to school about holding a non-uniform day later in the term and Debs said that the Rotary will be deciding their new annual appeals from 1st July.

6. WR&CS Matters

6.1 Update to implementation plan for Willaston and District Community Plan

Sarah had circulated proposed updates to the implementation plan, which had originally been written in November 2014. The suggested changes were agreed and it was agreed that the resulting document should be put on the website. It was also agreed that the availability of the update should be included in the next newsletter and in the Parish News. When completed, the amended implementation plan will be found on the W&DCP webpage: <http://willastoninwiralresidents.org/willaston-district-community-plan/> **Action: Sarah**

Myles asked that a future agenda item should be the speed limit on approach roads into Willaston.

Action: Sarah

There was also a discussion about recent diversions through Willaston which resulted in a significantly increased number of HGVs going through the village. It was agreed to write to the Highways Department asking them to cease using us as a diversion route. **Action: Sarah/Chris**

7. Financial Matters

7.1 Financial Report

Hilary Booth circulated the financial report. On 27th April, the current account had a balance of £2745.83, of which £352 is allocated for the newsletter and £2010 for the noticeboard and a small amount for footpath posts. The lottery account had a balance of £1162.60 and the play area account has a balance of £1565.86. £500 from the lottery account is allocated for Friends of Hadlow Road Station which can now be passed over as an agreement has been reached with the Council about the building. **Action: Hilary B**

7.2 New Homes Bonus

Myles reported that £3065 had been used from the New Homes Bonus fund for improved storage in the Pavilion so that the container can be removed from the Recreation Ground and some money had also been spent in Hooton. This leaves £12,385 available in the fund which covers all of the Willaston and Thornton ward. Myles also noted that his Councillors' fund has decreased from £10,000 to £5,000, of which about half is committed for Hooton Wood.

A list of options for expenditure had been circulated before the meeting and these were discussed. Chris reported that the Council had agreed to fund the improvements for Footpath 32 but will be speaking to Myles about a contribution. Jane agreed to speak to the Council further about improvements to the bridleway at the end of Street Hey Lane and to get a costing. She said she believed there are also issues about identifying who the land owners are. **Action: Jane**

It was agreed to approach local shops and pubs to see if there was interest in putting up a sign at Hadlow Road Station and whether they would like to contribute towards it. **Action: Sarah**

It was agreed to send the following funding applications to the New Homes Bonus fund at this stage:

- £1,200 for four further copies of the newsletter (proposed by Chris, seconded by Paul and agreed by all present);
- £2,020 for Friends of Hadlow Road Station to provide the basic white goods required for them to offer tea and cater for events (proposed by Myles, seconded by Debs and agreed by all concerned);
- £3,000 for the Play Area Fund to help support bids to external funders (proposed by Myles, seconded by Jane and agreed by all concerned). **Action: Sarah/Chris**

There was then a discussion about the opportunities for using social media to highlight the work of the Residents' Society and publicise events in the village. Paul proposed and Chris seconded that there should be a new role of Social Media Administrator. This was agreed by all concerned. Hilary B then proposed, seconded by Paul that Ceri Jones should be appointed to this position. Ceri accepted the proposal and it was agreed unanimously. Ceri was welcomed onto the committee.

8. Organisations' Reports

The following reports were submitted in advance. Lyn also commented that the Horticultural Society is holding a coffee morning on Saturday 21st May and the Annual Show will be on 6th August.

8.1 Christ Church (Submitted by Stephen Basely)

We recently held our APCM and the report is available on our website: www.christchurchwillaston.com.

We also welcomed Rosie Elizabeth into our family on the 22nd April.

8.2 Friends of Hadlow Road Station (Submitted by Hilary Booth)

We held our AGM on 29th April. John Fisher resigned as Secretary due to other commitments and Susan Powell was elected as our new Secretary.

Now the Ranger has left the Station, the main building is empty and the Council intend to rent it out. However, they have very kindly agreed to pay for the gents' toilet area to be converted into a small kitchen. They will also pay for all the kitchen units to be fitted but we will have to provide all the white goods ourselves. This has been helped considerably by Western Link (the company that has been laying all the cables along the A540) as they have agreed to give us a grant of £1000 towards the cost. We still have to raise money for all the other very necessary kitchen items.

There has been considerable planting of shrubs on the far platform and bark has also been laid.

The station sign on the main platform has now been renovated totally free of charge by Bob Davies who is a visitor to the station. There is still some work to be done on the support posts.

Tidy up mornings are still ongoing, the next ones being June 5th and June 25th.

8.3 Friends of Willaston Meadow (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

More work has been done on clearing selected areas of brambles, allowing more space and light for stems of field rose, planted a few years ago from seeds collected elsewhere on the site. We were pleased to see that some of the fritillaries planted by the Rainbows flowered this Spring. At the time of writing, we are looking forward to our AGM on 12th May and to a talk by Caroline Howe on her hedgehog rescue project.

8.4 Guiding Organisations

No report received

8.5 Hadlow Green Singers (Submitted by Margaret Smyth)

We are preparing for our forthcoming concert on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th July at Willaston Memorial Hall. Tickets are £6 including refreshments.

8.6 Horticultural Society

No report received

8.7 Johnston Recreation Ground (Submitted by Sue Unsworth)

A meeting was held on 20th April. No progress has been made about the ditch backing onto Meadow Lane. The moles have gone but no doubt will return. There is a 'No Parking' sign on the entrance gates to allow allotment holders access at all times. There is a new litter bin by the pavilion. Allotment holders have decided that they do not require piped water but will review this from time to time. All allotments are now rented out. A survey is to be done about drainage of the path adjacent to the allotments. There has been a lot of water collecting and making the path impassable at times. There is still a problem with dog fouling. We are to check with the Dog Warden regarding CCTV cameras. The playground is being well used and, as the path has been replaced, there is much 'scootering' and enjoyment. The second phase of the playground is on track. The football club container has still to be removed. Soft ground is still a problem at the moment. The pavilion is in need of some repairs. It may be possible, with a grant from the New Homes Bonus to create extra space to the side of the pavilion to store footballs and other equipment. We are to investigate the possibility of the Community Pay Back team to paint the pavilion exterior. Bye laws are held in the Methodist Church now. The date of the next meeting is Wed 14th September.

8.8 Memorial Hall

No report received

8.9 Scouting Organisations

No report received

8.10 Sporting Organisations

No report received

8.11 Willastonhey W.I. (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

Our last meeting featured a talk by a local vet and we now look forward to our birthday celebrations in May and to hearing about the experiences of a driving instructor in June. The darts team won the group rose bowl in a recent competition and the quiz team came fifth in the county final. The dining club met again at the Nag's Head and a party visited the Glass Museum in St Helens. A trip to the National Memorial Arboretum is being planned next month and in July we shall hold our own 'Triathlon' when members will be invited to swim, cycle or walk (or all three) before having lunch together.

8.12 Willaston Methodist Church (Submitted by Sheila Smith)

Willaston Methodist Chapel has just celebrated 178 years of Methodist worship in the village with a 'free coffee and cake' Saturday morning. This was followed by Sunday services, the evening being a 'Songs of Praise through the Decades'. A fascinating background introduction to the writers of the words and tunes of each chosen hymn or verse was given by organist Geoff Lloyd.

The ecumenical Pentecost Service on the Green is Sunday 14th May. All welcome.

8.13 Willaston CE School PTA

No report received

8.14 Willaston Royal British Legion/Willaston Royal British Legion Services Club

No report received.

8.15 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club (Submitted by Debs Jerrett)

We will be doing a 'book sale' on the village green on Saturday 18th June, time to be confirmed.

8.16 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group (Submitted by Rob King)

This month many households in the area received a mailing from **Pharmacy2U**. This is an NHS approved online pharmacy and is in fact the largest in the country. We have spoken about this company at a previous Patient Group meeting when there was some confusion as some people thought that the company had obtained names from the surgery. The mailing has again caused concern for some patients. We would like to stress the following points:

- The mailing is not personally addressed in any way.
- The company produce a mail shot and instruct that it be delivered to a certain area which may well be determined by Post Code. We anticipate that it has been delivered to the whole area covered by Willaston Surgery and the two Neston Surgeries.
- No patient names have been sold to or given to Pharmacy2U by our surgery

Last year Pharmacy2U were fined £130,000 by the Information Commissioner (the Government's data protection watchdog) for selling the names and addresses of more than 21,000 patients to other marketing organisations without having their consent to do so. These were names which it had acquired through the sort of mailing we are now receiving (i.e. where patients have signed up for the service they offer). A far larger number of names and addresses were offered for sale by the company.

Anyone wishing to sign up with the company has to complete an application form which is part of the mailing and are asked to indicate which surgery they are registered with from a selection of 4. Two relate to the Neston practices and then it quotes **two** surgeries for Willaston quoting two different reference numbers. You will be aware that there is only ONE GP Surgery in Willaston and therefore there is the potential for confusion straight away. Anyone wishing to proceed needs to be sure that their prescription will not go astray and we therefore recommend that you speak to Pharmacy2U to ascertain why they are quoting 2 surgery names for Willaston. Only one will be correct so there is a 50/50 chance that you could tick the wrong one if you decided to proceed.

High street Pharmacies rely quite heavily on the income they receive for the dispensing of NHS prescriptions. Rural Pharmacies are already under threat of possible closure and many of you will have seen and possibly signed the petition which is available to all at the local Pharmacy. Our local Pharmacy is an important asset to the community but to ensure that it survives it needs the continued support of local people.

More information about Pharmacy2U can be seen in the following link to an article which appeared in The

Independent newspaper:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/pharmacy2u-nhs-approved-pharmacy-fined-130000-for-selling-patients-details-without-their-consent-a6701411.html>

8.17 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

8.18 Willaston Village Festival Society (Submitted by Sarah Shannon)

We are currently recruiting new committee members and planning future events. If you would like to get involved, please contact me on 327 5318. Our gazebos continue to be available free of charge to Willaston community groups and have recently been used by the WR&CS to support the play area consultation.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

9.1 Footpaths

Jane reported that she had received more complaints about the state of FP 32 (behind Pollards). Recent discussions with the Council have confirmed that the new cost for improving this will be £1500 which they are willing to fund.

The metal platform to be erected by the pond close to the Wirral Way on FP 32 has still not been put in place because it was not long enough to cover the area of flooding. Permission for an extension is being sought.

9.2 Bridleways

Jane has been in contact with the Council about the hollows on BR 66 (end of Street Hey Lane), which get flooded and about overhanging branches on BR27 (Mill Lane to Birkenhead Road). The Wirral Footpaths Officer said that he would inspect the footpath.

9.3 Willaston Walks Footpath Signs

The sign on the lamp post in the middle of the village has now been put in. Jane is still waiting to hear from BT to find a suitable place to position a Village Walks way-mark post.

9.4 Notice Board on Memorial Hall showing Village Walks

The updated version of the Village Walks poster with map has now been installed on the wall of the Memorial Hall.

Please email willastonfootpaths@outlook.com if you see any other problems with our Willaston footpaths or bridleways.

10. Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals

In Barry's absence, Myles commented that the deadline for the response on the appeal for the land behind Fairways had passed. Both he and Barry had responded, noting in particular that 69 affordable homes were coming to the ward when the Roften development is completed, so further affordable homes are not necessary in the area.

Lyn commented that developments in a bungalow on Hooton Road, just past Hawthorne Drive had resulted in a lot of vans on the road.

11. Local Councillor's Report

Myles reported that the container on Johnston Recreation Ground has been removed, following improvements made to the Pavilion. He is trying to sort out an AGM, liaising with the Council over a letter from them asking for volunteers on the Johnston Recreation Ground Advisory Committee.

Myles also commented that there is some interest among residents of Elm Road to develop a residents' parking scheme in the area.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 Love Your Street

Sarah informed the meeting that CWaC has launched a new volunteering initiative where employees can access up to two days' volunteer leave to support local community projects. There is a form that potential projects can submit for help which she has a copy of.

12.2 Streets

Lyn commented that she was pleased to see that the Highways Department had cut the grass near the Hooton Roundabout. She also commented that there was a problem with fir cones around Delamores Acre but other members confirmed that the tree has now been removed so this will not be a problem in future. Several members commented that we did not often see street cleaners and grass cutters.

12.3 Bench on Green

Sheila noted that the bench on the corner of the Green is broken. Myles agreed to look into this.

Action: Myles

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 18th July 2016

Monday 19th September 2016

Monday 21st November 2016

AGM: Friday 30th September 2016