

Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2017 in the Memorial Hall

Residents' Issues

There were no residents in attendance to raise issues.

Committee Meeting

Present: (Officers): Chris Hampshire (Chair), Sarah Shannon (Secretary), Hilary Booth (Treasurer), Ceri Jones (Social Media), Barry Vowles (Planning)

(Committee Members): Rob King, Annette Troake, Paul Janvier, John Fisher, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Hilary Morris, Sheila Smith, Margaret Smyth, Fiona Ennys, Hilary Gould, Stephen Bazely and Debs Jerrett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Vicky Spraggon, Jane Townsend, Sue Unsworth, Myles Hogg and Helen Mayles.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no additional declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th March 2017

The minutes were proposed by Paul Janvier, seconded by Stephen Bazely and accepted by the Committee as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the previous Minutes (20th March 2017)

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

4.1 Sign at Hadlow Road Station (item 4.1)

Sarah still has to get costings for a finger sign.

Action: Sarah

4.2 Traffic survey (item 4.2)

No response has been received from Andy Raynor, following the invitation to attend a special meeting. Chris to follow this up with Myles.

Action: Chris/Myles

4.3 Common Land (item 6)

Chris confirmed that the common land area only relates to the actual Green, not the area around the Green which is paved.

5. WR&CS Matters

5.1 Correspondence

a. A letter has been received about UK Parliament Week takes place from 13-19 November and there are free kits for organisations that want to get involved. You can register at www.ukparliamentweek.org.

b. Rob had written about changes at Willaston surgery and updated the group. Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation has given six months' notice of withdrawal from the contract to run the surgery. A Patients' Participation Group (PPG) meeting was held on 9th May with representatives from Bridgewater, NHS England and West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which was very well attended. Rob has been approached to be involved during the transition and John Woodrow has agreed to be Chair of the PPG. Rob is trying to arrange a meeting with NHS England and is particularly concerned that the new tender document states that there must be a surgery within one mile of the village centre, as the previous one did. He also expressed concern that he felt that the service currently given was one people are happy with and work will again need to be done with any new provider. He reassured the group that the CCG has to ensure a service is provided, should there be a period between Bridgewater leaving and a new provider being appointed.

5.2 Waste Site Visit

A group of members had visited the waste site at Winsford to learn more about how it works and recommended it as a free visit for other groups. Members said that they were particularly impressed by the turnaround of vehicles and the fact that nothing goes to landfill – if it can't be recycled, it gets burnt.

6. Parking Questionnaire

The summary data findings from the parking questionnaire had been circulated in advance and were discussed. At most times that we did the survey there were some spaces available on the Green, although it was acknowledged that the fact we were doing the survey may have changed some people's behaviour. It was noted that the clear majority of people only park for a short time and only a small number are there all day. It was also acknowledged that some of the questions could have been phrased more clearly.

Concerns about putting in parking restrictions were expressed including:

- People may decide to shop elsewhere rather than come into Willaston;
- Additional signage on the Green would look unattractive;
- People would park in other areas instead so the problems would be moved, rather than solved;

After some discussion, Barry proposed that the evidence seems to suggest that parking on the Green is largely self-regulated. There are occasional problems but these are not persistent or consistent. However, a discussion should be had with Myles before a final decision is made at the next meeting. This was seconded by Hilary Booth and agreed by all present. **Action: Chris**

It was agreed that the finding should be put on the website after the final decision is made.

7. Festival Society

Paul Janvier reported that the committee had decided that because they can't identify key people to lead the Festival activities, the 2018 Festival has been cancelled, although there will still be a Christmas Tree Festival. Paul felt that it was important to find out that if the village wants a Festival, what format it should be in and who will do it. He asked the committee if they would help with a questionnaire. After a discussion, it was agreed that something should go in the next WR&CS newsletter in July. **Action: Sarah/Paul**

8. Treasurer's Report

Hilary Booth circulated the financial report. On 27th April 2017, the current account had a balance of £887.80. The lottery account had a balance of £1420.47, which should result in approximately £1000 profit at the year end after meeting the legal minimum pay-out requirements. £1,111 of the current/lottery accounts is for newsletters. The play area account has a balance of £4997.12.

9. Footpaths and Bridleways

9.1 Footpaths

Jane had reported in advance that most of the debris and obstructions on footpaths have now been removed by the Council. She has spoken to the Council about implementing the promised improvements to the section of FP32 (behind Pollards Inn) that is muddy in Winter and filling in of pot holes on FP33 (Change Lane). Pete Atkinson has offered a solution to the problem of dogs not being able to walk on the metal platform but he is not sure if there is any funding for it.

Nigel Pratten has been doing maintenance work on a section of the footpath between the mill and Benty Heath Lane which is appreciated.

Sarah reported that the Community Payback team will be doing work on the edge of the footpath between Mill Lane and the Recreation Ground. As some residents had expressed concerns about more substantial work being done, the six feet nearest to the path only will be cut back. Hilary Morris suggested the nursery on Birkenhead Road would be good to approach for help with plants. **Action: Annette**

9.2 Bridleways

Jane had reported in advance that the hollows on BR66 (end of Street Hey Lane) had not been filled in but it was understood that these now have been partially filled with bricks.

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

10. Organisation Reports

The following reports were received in advance. In addition, Chris told the committee that FHRS will be broadcasting live at 08.25am on Radio Merseyside the following morning.

10.1 Christ Church (Submitted by Stephen Bazely)

We have had a wonderful Easter with lots of people joining us for our services and lots of children enjoying the Easter Egg hunt on Easter day. We continue to take services at Weatherstones each month, support the Primary school with volunteers and Governors. Last year we started a singing club in school which has really taken off and the school has had an excellent SIAMS report. The school and staff are doing an amazing job! We also had the pleasure as a family of having a Thanksgiving for Rosie our youngest daughter, it was wonderful to give thanks to God for her with so many of the community here in Willaston.

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

FHRS held a very successful Breakfast Brunch on 30th April which was very popular with over 150 people visiting the cafe on a lovely sunny morning. This was followed by FHRS providing private catering for 36 NCT Wirral visitors who had pre-booked. This NCT Wirral visit included FHRS giving a short talk on the railway and Hadlow Road Station, whilst each child received a replica platform ticket that was very well received. As you can imagine the catering team members were all kept very busy indeed.

We held our AGM at the end of April and a revised constitution that reflected the conservation that FHRS is undertaking was unanimously adopted along with various operational policies.

Further grant monies have been secured and other grant applications have been submitted and more are planned. The grant monies will be used to enhance the appearance of Hadlow Road Station whilst also conserving the station and the local environment for future generations.

Visitors to Hadlow Road Station will have noticed that the level crossing gates have now been painted white by the Community Payback Team (CPT). This reinstates the level crossing gates' appearance as they were originally 150 years ago. The CPT will kindly be helping us with further fence painting in the very near future.

One of our next main projects will be purchasing sleepers for relaying the railway track as the current wooden sleepers have rotted away over the years. In addition, the renovation and re-instatement of the East sections of both platforms is on our radar of projects to tackle shortly.

The cafe will be open for light refreshments from 10.00am to 1pm on 14th May; 28th May; 11th June and 25th June. Please come and visit us and you may even find a neighbour or make a new friend to chat to.

FHRS is now really moving forward at a fast pace with the conservation improvements at Hadlow Road Station and more improvements will be clearly visible shortly.

10.3 Friends of Willaston Meadow (submitted by Hilary Morris)

The Friends will be taking part in the CWaC walking festival in May, by guiding a walk on the theme of wild flowers and trees, starting at the station and taking in the Meadow and orchard. By the time you read this it will be over, on 7 May, but another could be arranged for any interested group. The annual newsletter has now been issued to all Friends, and this also gives notice of the AGM, to be held in the Methodist Hall on Thursday 25 May at 2 p.m. The short business meeting will be followed by a talk give by Dr Hilary Ash on Wildlife in Wirral. All are welcome to this event.

10.4 Guiding Organisations

No representative currently.

10.5 Hadlow Green Singers

No report received.

10.6 Horticultural Society (Submitted by Pam Irving)

On Tuesday 20th June, we are having a talk on 'Storeton Woods' by David Casement. I would think we will learn some interested local history.

Tuesday 11th July is our annual trip and this year we are going to Stonyford Cottage Nursery and Bluebell Cottage Gardens & Nursery, in Cheshire. The cost is £31.00 per person which includes Coach, Lunch, Garden Admissions, guided tours and gratuities. A bargain at half the price! Eileen Richmond will be on hand to take your booking if you have not already booked.

The Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm; details are shown on the Village Notice board, and if you are interested in joining us, come along or contact the Membership Secretary, Ms Jill Thompson, telephone number 336 5927. Membership is only £6.00 per year and you can get 10% discount at Burleydam Garden Centre on all gardening products on production of your Membership card.

10.7 Johnston Recreation Ground (Submitted by Sue Unsworth)

Nothing to report as the next meeting is in June.

10.8 Memorial Hall (Submitted by Rob King)

With the extensive external refurbishment now fully completed, we have turned our attention to rejuvenating the interior. Some areas are now looking tired and in need of freshening up so in recent weeks a lot of time has been spent in preparing grant applications to three different sources of potential funding.

Main areas of attention will be:

- Decorating the main hall and kitchen
- Replacing existing radiators in the main hall
- Replacing the small uplighters in the main hall
- New curtains in the main hall and committee room
- New carpet in the committee room
- Sanding and treatment of the floor in the hall

We hope to go live with Wi-Fi within the next couple of weeks. This will, of course, be subject to parental controls.

Evening and weekend bookings continue to hold up well and anyone wishing to see the status of bookings can see the details on our website.

Following the success of our own website and encouraged by the interest shown in the Residents' Society social media we are looking to move in a similar direction and have been fortunate in finding a local experienced marketing volunteer who works with the Walker Art Gallery to assist with this work.

We are still looking for a new Bookings Secretary and anyone who is interested in finding out what is involved can contact Liz Young the current Bookings Secretary, Colin Jerrett or Rob King.

A number of villagers attended our Annual General Meeting, each one asking a question. As a result of comments made at that AGM and from our Premises Licence hearing we have introduced a 15-minute open session at the start of our bi-monthly meetings for anyone to come along and ask questions.

We listened to comments made and have installed an additional hot water urn and are ordering a 3rd soup kettle.

10.9 Scouting Organisations

No representative currently.

10.10 Sporting Organisations (Submitted by John Fisher)

Willaston Football Club

It has been a long difficult season for the Club. The Club had 3 managers during the season with one being dismissed and one giving up on a Saturday morning which meant we rarely had the same starting eleven players. There was a poor start with the Club being bottom of the League at the end of September. Form improved before Christmas seeing in us in mid table. However, after Christmas the manager struggled to get sides, and Willaston has not won a game in 2017 which meant relegation was just avoided.

The Club's disciplinary record has improved significantly this season and from August rule changes mean a trial of sin bins and rolling substitutions.

The Club is holding its Presentation Evening on 13th May in the Nags Head where it is anticipated the new manager will be announced. The 2017/18 season starts on August 12th with pre-season commencing in July.

Off the field there is now a new ceiling in the Pavilion but the new flooring has not arrived yet. The cutting of the grass on the Recreation Ground has been an issue with the grass either being very long, or clumps of cuttings that have required raking to make the pitch playable. On occasions the Club has paid to cut the pitch grass.

Willaston Vets

The Vets made a strong start to their first season playing at the Recreation Ground, winning eight and drawing one of the eleven games played in 2016. After the Christmas break and following some injury and availability issues, results in 2017 did not match earlier form and we exited the Cheshire Corinthian Cup after the Group Stages and other results dipped mainly due to squad issues. We are now arranging our fixtures for next year, and looking to add one or two new players. We will be entering a new vets Fair Play mini League for 2017 and the Cheshire Corinthian Cup.

10.11 Willastonhey W.I. (submitted by Hilary Morris)

The WI quiz team gave a good account of themselves at the county final, scoring 60 out of a possible 80 points. This is always a closely-fought contest. A talk on the Lost Halls of Wirral by Gavin Hunter opened our eyes to the number and diversity of what used to exist locally, and we were entertained by the experiences of an events manager on cruise ships. An outing to Bryngwyn Hall in Powys was enjoyed for the house, garden and especially the lunch, all enhanced by the presentation by the eccentric owner, Lady Linlithgow. Our next outing is to Haughton Hall, where the gardens are being specially opened for Cheshire WIs.

10.12 Willaston Methodist Church (Submitted by Sheila Smith)

On 7th May the Chapel celebrated 179 years of Methodist worship in the village. A "Coffee and Cake morning" on the Saturday preceded a special Anniversary Sunday service led by Geoff Lloyd and members of the Chapel, focussing on the Wesley's hymns and relevant readings and prayers.

The Annual Ecumenical Pentecostal open air service on the village Green will be Sunday June 4th at 10.45am led by Jim Shaw. Please join us!

Room hire on the premises is available, for details contact Carol Savage 327 3593, email carol.savage2@ntlworld.com.

10.13 Willaston CE School PTA

No representative currently.

10.14 Willaston Royal British Legion/Willaston Royal British Legion Services Club

No report received.

10.15 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club

No report received.

10.16 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group

No representative currently.

10.17 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

10.18 Willaston Village Festival Society

No report received.

11. Councillor's Report

In Myles' absence, Sarah reported the following information that Myles had provided:

11.1 Wirral Line

The third phase of the rail works is from 30th May to 18th June 2017, when trains only travel as far as Birkenhead North from Hooton.

11.2 Council Housing

The contract for Council Housing will be taken over by For Viva from 1st July 2017.

11.3 Anti-Terrorist Hotline

Cheshire Constabulary have set up a confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321.

11.4 Flowers outside the Red Lion

Wild flowers seeds have been sown outside the Red Lion. However, they may take time to flower.

11.5 Devolution

There were discussions about setting up a sub-region of Cheshire and Warrington, with its own Mayor but these have been put back because of the General Election.

11.6 Integrated Community Equipment Service

This includes equipment such as walking aids, raised toilet seats and commodes and is provided through Ross Care Ltd which aims to deliver any item across the CWAC area within four hours if necessary. More information can be found by contacting the adult social care gateway team on 0300 123 7034.

11.7 Care and Support Directory

An electronic Local Offer information and advice website is now in place complemented by a hard copy Care and Support Directory. This can be accessed by going to www.westcheshirelocaloffer.co.uk or ringing 01244 973205.

12. Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals

12.1 Planning Applications

Barry reported that there are no applications of concern at the moment. However, he has asked the Council to investigate activities on Heath Lane and Hooton Road which look like small businesses are being established in local fields.

12.2 Planning Principles paper

Barry had circulated a paper on our principles in responding to planning applications. He asked members to read it let him have comments by 15th June so that a final version can be considered, agreed and published at our next meeting.

Action: All/Barry

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Hadlow Road Garage

Paul said that he had taken photos of pictures of cars parked on the pavement at the front of the garage and passed them on to Myles, as he understood that this is against the law. Chris also undertook to pass on photos he had taken to Myles.

Action: Chris

13.2 Organisation representatives

Rob suggested that the new Chair of the Patient Participation Group (John Woodrow) should be asked to attend as their representative. Chris agreed to contact him.

Action: Chris

13.3 Leaves on Hooton Road

John reported that the leaves by Delamore's Acre have now been removed and the hedge has been cut back. Barry suggested that the next newsletter should have a comment in it that over the last twelve months, there

has been a noticeable increase in tree debris on the roads and pavements and that WRCS asks people with overhanging trees to try to keep pavements clear. **Action: Sarah**

13.4 Neston Waste Recycling Centre

Hilary Gould expressed concerns that the new opening times are causing difficulties, including increased fly-tipping. She also pointed out that residents now need a new permit which can be obtained by ringing 0300 123 7042 or visiting www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk. Sarah confirmed that the site is now open between 8am and 4pm on Mondays, closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, open 10am to 6pm on Thursdays and Fridays and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Hilary commented that the site shuts its gates about 10 minutes before the advertised time.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 17th July 2017

Monday 18th Sept 2017

Monday 20th Nov 2017

AGM: Friday 29th September 2017