

Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 21st November 2016 in the Memorial Hall

Residents' Issues

a. Kier Environmental Services

Matthew Davies, Waste Doctor from Kier Environmental Services attended to let members know about their education and operations centre in Winsford. Groups of up to 30 people can visit for free and learn about recycling. The centre is open between 9am and 5pm but can also be visited at other times. Booking can be done through: www.recyclefirst.info/education-centre.php. Matthew is also interested in attending any events to tell people about what goes into bins, what happens to it afterwards and has lots of games around recycling. Matthew said that nine years ago, they paid £9/tonne for landfill, now it is £87/tonne and this money is transferred to our Council tax so it is in all our interests to increase recycling. They have a 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign and also 'Put a lid on it', which encourages people to ask for a free lid for their bin when they break. Any problems and to order new bins/lids go to:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/waste-collection-problems.aspx> or phone 0300 123 7026.

In answer to questions, Matthew said:

- Coffee cups can be recycled in Cheshire;
- Black plastic is worthless and if put in with other plastic, it all turns black so the value decreases significantly;
- Food waste goes into an anaerobic digester which releases the methane and the remainder becomes a slurry which is used for fertiliser;
- Film on take away food etc. is not recyclable;
- You don't need to pull the film off cardboard or window envelopes;
- You can use any bag in the food container, it doesn't have to be compostable, as these get separated in the processing

Chris thanked Matthew for attending and encouraged village group representatives to spread the word.

b. Quarry Road

Nigel Millington attended to update members on proposals for Quarry Road. He had attended the meeting at Neston Town Council at which Andy Raynor from the Council went through the proposals. Some cyclists raised issues about their safety and these will be incorporated into the plans. Neston Town Council approved the proposals which would make a no entry for cars at Hinderton Road but a channel for cyclists. In parallel, there will be some work done on the signage on Chester Road to encourage people to use the right roads. A safety audit will be done on Hanns Hall Road to look at the objections of residents living there. Speed limits of 40mph will be put in the surrounding areas, including Hanns Hall Road and the junction at Quarry Road/Hanns Hall Road will be reconfigured. Myles also confirmed that the signage on Chester Road will say that both Hanns Hall Road and Damhead Lane are unsuitable for HGVs.

Andy Raynor will return to Neston Town Council in January with updated proposals and the formal consultation is likely to take place in early Spring.

Committee Meeting

Present: (Officers): Chris Hampshire (Chair), Sarah Shannon (Secretary), Hilary Booth (Treasurer), Sue Unsworth (Publicity), Jane Townsend (Footpaths), Barry Vowles (Planning), Ceri Jones (Social Media)

(Committee Members): Rob King, Annette Troake, Myles Hogg, Paul Janvier, John Fisher, Hilary Gould, Madeline Hughes, Lyn Jackson-Eves and Debs Jerrett

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Vicky Spraggon, Hilary Morris, Fiona Ennys, Sheila Smith, Leanne Kershaw, Margaret Smyth, Stephen Bazely, Helen Mayles and Keith Penny

Chris welcomed John Fisher to his first meeting as the representative for Sporting Organisations.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th September 2016

The minutes were proposed by Hilary Booth, seconded by Lyn and accepted by the Committee as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the previous Minutes (19th September 2016)

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

4.1 Sign at Hadlow Road Station (item 4.2)

Sarah still has to get costings for a finger sign.

Action: Sarah

4.2 Guiding Representative (item 6.1)

Sarah to chase up Guiding to see if they are able to provide a representative

Action: Sarah

4.3 Businesses on Facebook and Website (item 6.2)

Sarah, Ceri and Chris to meet and discuss

Action: Sarah, Ceri and Chris

4.4 Traffic survey (item 13.5)

Myles said this still needs to be completed. In addition, the sign saying Hooton Road will be replaced.

Action: Myles

5. Matters rolled over from the previous meeting

5.1 Flowerbeds in Willaston

Myles reported that this has been resolved and the flowerbeds at the Old Red Lion will have wildflower seeds sewn next Spring.

5.2 Elm Green path

Jane suggested that the nettles around this path need digging up and the area re-planted. It was suggested that this may need more work than initially envisaged and we should approach the Ranger for advice. Jane agreed to do this and also to liaise with Hilary Morris about suitable plants.

Action: Jane

6. Play Area Working Group

Sarah reported that she had done an application to the CWAC Rural Fund and will be looking at further applications in early January.

Action: Sarah

Sue commented that some young people had been playing football in the play area, rather than using the goalposts on the Recreation Ground. It was suggested that the Johnson's Recreation Committee should consider putting up a sign about maximum age for the play area.

Action: Sue

7. WR&CS Matters

7.1 AGM Review

It was thought that the new format had worked well and should be repeated next year.

7.2 Issues arising from the AGM

(i) Restricted parking on the Green

Chris explained that the Society had looked at putting in restricted parking a few years ago but business employees were not keen. However, now there seems to be more enthusiasm from village residents and he has received a petition from the WI asking that this be looked at again. After discussion, it was agreed that we need to do some proper research into who is using the Green and why and Spring would be the best time to do this. Chris agreed to draft a village green parking questionnaire for the next meeting.

Action: Chris

(ii) Hadlow Road Station car park

The issues around extending the car park opening hours have been fed back to the Ranger.

(iii) Bungalow drive exit into Hadlow Road

Chris reported he had written to the neighbour asking them to cut back the offending hedge.

(iv) Sign on Hooton Road

The speed limit sign was covered in foliage but now it is Autumn, this is less of a problem. Barry agreed to follow it up in Spring if the foliage grows again.

8. Community Governance Review

Myles explained that the Council is obliged to review all parished and unparished areas and this has now reached the former Ellesmere Port and Neston unparished area. Options include developing parish councils in the areas or continuing with bodies like WR&CS to represent local people. To read more about it go to http://inside.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/get_involved/consultations/review_of_community_governance_arrangements_unparished_area_of_ellesmere_port. To respond, you can do a simple on-line survey at: http://inside.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/get_involved/consultations/review_of_community_governance_arrangements_unparished_area_of_ellesmere_port

Alternatively, you can email democraticserviceswest@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk and quote 'Community Governance Review Ellesmere Port' in the subject field, phone 01244 972283 or write to The Research Team, CWaC Council, 4 Civic Way, Ellesmere Port CH65 0BE

The consultation ends on 14th December and the draft recommendations will be out in March.

Chris and Myles encouraged all members to respond and organisational representatives to raise this with their members to encourage a wider response.

Action: All

In addition:

- Madeline proposed and Paul seconded a proposal that we should respond as a group. This was agreed by all present. **Action: Sarah/Chris**
- A poster should be put on the noticeboard **Action: Sue**
- Information should go on Facebook and the website **Action: Ceri/Sarah**
- Leaflets should be put in the Chemist **Action: Jane/Myles**

9. Hooton Station Car Park and Works on the Wirral Line

Sarah reported that there was a public meeting as there is a proposal for the station car park financial management to be brought back under Council control – currently it is contracted out to a private security firm. The Council is likely to increase lighting and introduce different ways to pay but it is possible that there will still be some staffing as well.

Sarah also reported that works will be taking place on the Wirral Line as follows:

3rd January—12th February - Wirral Line trains will run as far as Birkenhead Central.

13th February—29th May - Wirral Line trains will run to James Street on weekdays and to Birkenhead Central during weekends, except for bank holidays and the Saturday of the Grand National, when they will go to James Street.

30th May—18th June - Wirral Line trains will run to Birkenhead Central.

Details will be in the newsletter.

10. Treasurer's Report

Hilary Booth circulated the financial report. We have received £4200 from the New Homes Bonus Fund for newsletters and the play area. On 20th October, the current account had a balance of £1199.12, of which £61.05 remains for footpath signs and £1200 is for newsletters. The lottery account had a balance of £1960.47, which should result in approximately £1000 profit. The play area account has a balance of £4990.05.

Chris thanked Hilary for her work distributing the lottery forms.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

11.1 Footpaths

Jane reported that our paths were strimmed in October. Although this was much later than the date in June that was promised, at least it means our paths will be clear for the next 6 months. Following a request from a resident she has asked the Council to repair the surface of part of FP 33 (Change Lane).

The metal platform been put in place by the pond on FP 32 (footpath behind the Pollard Inn), and this is included in our newsletter. The Council has not yet implemented the other improvements to that footpath but have confirmed the additional funding for this.

11.2 Bridleways

Jane reported that the hollows on BR 66 (end of Street Hey Lane) have not yet been filled in.

Please email willastonfootpaths@outlook.com if you see any other problems with our Willaston footpaths or bridleways and put 'Footpaths & Bridleways' as the subject of the email.

12. Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals

Barry reported that the application for Saddlewood Farm has been turned down and he was thanked by the Planning Officers for providing evidence on this. Barry will put together a policy for WR&CS on responding to planning applications. **Action: Barry**

Barry also shared the latest plans for the Roften development next to Hooton Station, which include 265 houses and a residential care home for older people. 25% of the houses will be affordable.

Chris thanked Barry for all the work he had done, particularly around the Saddlewood Farm application.

13. Local Councillor's Report

13.1 Abandoned Car on the Green

Myles reported that this has now been removed

13.2 Pavement

There is a new pavement between Elm Road and the Doctor's surgery.

13.3 Lions Eye Health Progamme

Lions Clubs now run an eye health programme and have a range of leaflets. More details can be found on <http://www.lionsclubs.org/resources/EN/pdfs/iad419.pdf> or by ringing 0845 603 9081.

13.4 Ombudsman Services

Myles reported that there are a range of Ombudsman Services for different issues including consumer, financial, Parliamentary, Health service and Local Government. If a complaint has not been resolved quickly (normally within eight weeks), people are able to approach the Ombudsman. You can find out more by going to <https://www.ombudsman-services.org/> .

13.5 Ledsham Development

Myles reported that there will be traffic lights put in on the Welsh Road at Ledsham once 35 houses on the new development have been sold. There will also be a new free primary school on the site which will be developed in the next 2-3 years.

13.6 Ready to Switch

Another round for the energy collective is running and the deadline is 29th November. Register on www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/readytoswitch or ring 01244 977262.

13.7 New PCSO

The new PCSO for Willaston and Hooton will be Sarah Duffy. She can be contacted directly by email: sarah.duffy@cheshire.pnn.police.uk.

13.8 Special Expenses

There is a consultation on the special expenses scheme which runs until 11th January 2017. It includes an on-line survey which can be found at http://inside.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/get_involved/consultations .

13.9 Duke of Westminster's Memorial Service

The Duke's memorial service will take place at Chester Cathedral on Monday 28th November. Businesses and shops will be open as usual but it is best to avoid driving in as many roads will be closed from 6pm on Sunday 27th November. More details can be found on <https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/news-and-views/The%20late%20Duke%20of%20Westminster's%20memorial%20service.aspx>

13.10 Council Contacts

Myles passed on a list of phone contacts for the Council to go on the noticeboard.

Action: Sue

13.11 Telephone Boxes

BT is currently consulting on removing the telephone boxes at Hooton Station and at School Lane, Childer Thornton. Comments can be fed to sarah.dobbins@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk. If you would be interested in buying or adopting a phone box, go to <https://business.bt.com/products/voice/payphone-services/>

13.12 Boundary Commission

The Council has asked the Boundary Commission to look at what the right number of Councillors should be for the area and what areas they should represent.

13.13 Christmas Trees

The Hospice of the Good Shepherd will collect and recycle your Christmas tree. To arrange a collection, go to www.charityxmastreecollection.com.

14. Organisations' Reports

Chris encouraged all organisations to submit a short update report for each meeting as it is an opportunity for each organisation to showcase what they do in the village.

14.1 Christ Church (Submitted by Stephen Basely)

New space - We now have a flexible space in the church, which is the result of removing the pews from the far side of the church. If you haven't already seen the change, why not join us one Sunday for breakfast at 10:10am either after our 9am formal Communion or before our 10:45am service.

Christmas Tree Festival 25th-27th Nov - The Festival will be a great way to experience the new space in church whether at the Christmas Market, the Concert or simply coming to view the trees. The weekend closes with our Advent service on the 27th of November and another chance to see the trees.

Roof repairs - The roof repairs are going well and we hope they will be finished by the new year, a necessary step along with other repairs, before we can begin any internal improvements.

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

The successful 150th celebrations were enjoyed by many villagers despite the very poor weather – rain and more rain. There was lots of entertainment both for adults and children, but unfortunately due to the weather conditions the bouncy castle had to be cancelled.

The kitchen was completed in time, and the commemorative plaque was installed ready for the unveiling ceremony which was performed by Terry Robinson who was the 1st Ranger to live in the Station Master's House in the early 1970s.

We celebrated a hugely successful opening of the new kitchen on 30th October. Large bacon baps were served together with a mug of filter coffee or tea to around 100 people between 10am and 1pm which equates to approx. one customer every two minutes. So a really busy session, but the catering team, led by Debbie, did a fantastic job providing for walkers, cyclists, folk from Neston and of course the ever supporting Willaston villagers. This time it did not rain but was a lovely sunny day. All said visitors indicated they'd definitely be coming again for the next breakfast brunch on November 27th.

The kitchen area was inspected last week by Cheshire West & Chester Council and was awarded a top 5* rating for food hygiene, which is a tremendous boost and makes all the hard work of the volunteers who made the necessary physical improvements and the preparation by the catering staff worthwhile. Many

congratulations to Debbie and her catering team on securing this rating.

We are now well into arrangements for the arrival of Santa on Sunday 11th December that commences with Santa's arrival at 1pm and tickets are now available to purchase. See notice boards, Resident's FHRS web page and FHRS Facebook page for the details and come and enjoy a fun filled afternoon of entertainment and happy children. Let's hope the weather is good.

14.3 Friends of Willaston Meadow (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

As expected in the previous report, volunteers from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust removed the old boardwalk from near Jackson's Pond and installed a new one across the pond. We are very grateful for this help, as a new boardwalk has been on the "wish list" for a long time. They also started to remove some of the encroaching vegetation, a task which will be continued during the winter. The branches of willow were collected by Chester Zoo, to be used to feed the giraffes.

Also during September, the grass in the main part of the Meadow was cut by CWaC's contractor, a farmer from Middlewich who uses the crop as fodder for his cattle. This year he found the grass here some of the best he had harvested.

Further work has been done by our Ranger, Paul Taylor, in cutting an overgrown area of brambles and willow near the NE pond, in an attempt to increase light in that corner.

14.4 Guiding Organisations

No report received

14.5 Hadlow Green Singers

No report received

14.6 Horticultural Society (Submitted by Pam Irving)

No report received

14.7 Johnston Recreation Ground (Submitted by Sue Unsworth)

No meeting has taken place since the last Residents' meeting so there is nothing to report.

14.8 Memorial Hall

No report received

14.9 Scouting Organisations

No report received

14.10 Sporting Organisations

No report received

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

A group of members enjoyed an outing to Liverpool for afternoon tea followed by a visit to the Playhouse to see "The Rivals", which was an excellent performance. November sees the Annual Meeting, after which we shall be entertained by a magician. Shortly afterwards a party will be visiting Reutlingen for a few days which will coincide with the opening of the Christmas Market there.

Willastonhey is continuing to look after the flower beds by the Memorial Hall, which have recently been replanted for the winter with violas provided by Follyfield.

On 20th December we shall be organising the annual Carols on the Green.

14.12 Willaston Methodist Church (Submitted by Sheila Smith)

Recent events with a difference at Chapel include a morning service led by a four-piece band, and an evening showing the film "Marvellous", a touching and moving film by Toby Jones.

As most of you will be aware the library has been forecasting closure here for some time, and the Council has now notified us that it will no longer be using the Chapel premises for this purpose from 21st November, by which time a mobile library service will be operating once every three weeks outside the Memorial hall from 2pm to 5pm. Therefore, the Chapel schoolroom will be able to offer more availability for hire from this date. Please contact Carol Savage on 0151 327 3593 or email carol.savage2@ntlworld.com for more information on availability and charges.

This year the Chapel looks forward to participating in the Christmas Tree Festival in Christ Church. Our "Create" and "Church Mice" children are in the process of making the decorations for our allocated tree.

As we approach Christmas we look forward to our seasonal special services in December;

4th at 10-45am – TOY AND CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

11th at 6-30pm – CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE

18th at 10-45am – NATIVITY SERVICE

25th at 9-30am – A SHORT SERVICE OF CELEBRATION FOR JESUS' BIRTH

14.13 Willaston CE School PTA

No report received

14.14 Willaston Royal British Legion/Willaston Royal British Legion Services Club

No report received.

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

Thursday 1st December - Christmas Lights Switch-on on the Green. There will be carols from Hadlow Green Singers at 5.45pm followed by the lights switch-on at 6pm, with a special visit from Santa. Mince pies, mulled wine and soft drinks available.

Wednesday 14th December and Tuesday 20th December - Santa's sleigh will tour the village, leaving the Nag's Head at 6.15pm on both evenings. On the 14th December, the sleigh will visit roads to the West of the village and on 20th December, it will visit roads to the East, including Hadlow Road

14.16 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group

No report received

14.17 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

14.18 Willaston Village Festival Society (Submitted by Sarah Shannon)

We had our AGM on 12th November, at which I stepped down as Chair. Unfortunately, we are now in the position of having no Chair and no Secretary. It was agreed at the AGM that unless these positions can be filled by 28th February, the Festival Society will fold.

We are holding our second Christmas Tree Festival in Christ Church on 25-27th November 2016. Fourteen local organisations are decorating trees and the programme also includes a Christmas Market and concert. More details are on our website. Please come along to admire the trees, vote for your favourite and bid to take one home.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Hooton Road

Madeline commented that the leaves along Hooton Road are very slippery. Myles agreed to contact the Council. **Action: Myles**

15.2 WR&CS Boundary

Jane commented that the WR&CS membership is open to anyone within a two mile radius of the Green, whereas most of our work is limited to the boundary defined by the Community Plan. Generally it was considered that this is the right boundary to work on but issues outside this can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

15.3 Speed Signs

Barry noted that portable speed limit signs are available for around £800.

15.4 Memorial Hall

Rob commented that the Memorial Hall refurbishment was almost complete, with just windows needing replacement. The committee will then consider internal upgrades.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 16th January 2017

Monday 20th March 2017

Monday 15th May 2017

Monday 17th July 2017

Monday 18th Sept 2017

Monday 20th Nov 2017

AGM: Friday 29th September 2017