

Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 19th March 2018
in the Methodist Chapel School Room

Residents' Issues

Glenn Ayres attended to raise concerns over the proposed development by McCarthy and Stone on the former British Legion site. Glenn thanked the committee for agreeing he could attend and for disseminating his letter to McCarthy and Stone in advance of the meeting. He then expressed the view that it was a waste of time to have asked McCarthy and Stone to attend to give the results of the survey as the consultation period has not finished and so they will not be accurate. Chris and representatives from McCarthy and Stone confirmed that they will be presenting intermediate results, not the final ones.

Glenn then suggested that it was bizarre to debate the proposed development because the Residents' Society already has a position, laid out in the Planning Guidelines on our website. Chris confirmed that we had not discussed this proposal yet so do not have a definitive position.

Glenn then said that the main objections are the size of the development and parking. He explained that Old Farm Close has problems with parking already because of Cannell Court. He suggested that many residents of the proposed development will still have cars and in addition, there will be cleaners, gardeners, deliveries as well as friends and families visiting. He thought that McCarthy and Stone will be offering an additional five car parking slots but said that in his opinion this was still not enough. He explained that he had been at the McCarthy and Stone development at Little Sutton (Jessop Court) and had spoken to one resident who has both a motorbike and car so requires two spaces. He had observed residents putting up cones when they leave; 11 signs to say stay off the property; staff parking in no parking spaces and a delivery van parking on the doctor's space. He also had spoken to residents who had got Justin Madders involved about this problem. Glenn further stated his belief that on the Willaston site plan, some trees had been moved so that it looked as if car parking spaces can be squeezed in, when in fact cars will be directly under the canopy of the trees. He also questioned if concrete could be put close to protected trees.

Glenn also mentioned that the access to the development is at a dangerous point on Hooton Road, with the junction being on the edge of the conservation area. In addition, he expressed concern that people would be able to look down on surrounding gardens from the proposed Juliet balconies.

Finally, Glenn suggested that the apartments facing North would have no daylight. He expressed concern that people would not want to buy them and they may then be sold to a housing association, which has happened in other McCarthy and Stone developments.

Glenn then asked that WR&CS hold an EGM on this proposal.

Committee Meeting

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

(Committee Members): Annette Troake, Madeline Hughes, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Hilary Morris, Sandra Kettiros, David Compton, John Fisher, John Woodrow, Debs Jerrett, Helen Mayles, Myles Hogg, Roy Spraggon and Hilary Gould

In addition, there were 15 observers, the majority of whom left after item 3, with one staying for the whole meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Rob King, Clare Jones, Stephen Bazeley, Paul Janvier and Sheila Smith.

2. Declarations of Interest

Myles Hogg declared that he was the Chair of Johnston Recreation Ground Advisory Group and Chris Hampshire declared that he was Chair of Friends of Hadlow Road Station.

3. McCarthy and Stone Proposals

3.1 Presentation on initial findings from the consultation

Chris welcomed Ed Harvey and Carol Riley to the meeting. Ed explained that he was the planning consultant on behalf of McCarthy and Stone whilst Carol worked for BEGC as the communication consultant. Carol commented that she is bound to report accurately and truthfully on the consultation findings as that is an integral part of their association's membership rules.

Ed then explained that McCarthy and Stone have an option to buy the Legion land and are preparing a planning application, which if all goes well, and planning application is approved, will result in their purchasing the land. He said that McCarthy and Stone are the UK's leading retirement home builders and suggested that this enables people to downsize from larger homes. The homes are age restricted in the lease, which is for a 999 year term, so they are only available for people to purchase who are aged 60 years or over. It is likely that the Council will also make this restriction a planning condition. McCarthy and Stone are planning to build 35 apartments (mix of one and two bedrooms). There will be a communal lounge on the ground floor, a scooter store, a guest suite and a House Manager working office hours. The gardens will be managed by McCarthy and Stone. Ed commented that 90% of McCarthy and Stone residents recommended it as a place to live.

Ed then explained that the scheme is being prepared in consultation with the Local Authority. They have aimed to follow the aesthetic appearance of the local area and are satisfied that the distances between neighbouring properties meet the LA guidelines. He stated that the outer buildings are all two storey and it rises to 2 ½ -3 storeys in the middle of the development.

Carol then explained the consultation process. BEGC has sent a newsletter to just over 1000 homes in the area inviting them to the exhibition and including a reply card. About 70 people attended the exhibition and the formal feedback they have received is a roughly equal split between forms given in at the exhibition and reply cards received. To date, they have received 65 pieces of feedback, of which 46 have expressed support, 14 objected and five made no comment or were unsure. A diagram showed where responses had been received from, with the majority living in or around Willaston.

30 sales enquiries had been received on the exhibition day, which Carol said was a high number. These were mainly from people living in the immediate Willaston area.

Carol identified the following as the most consistent comments:

- Looking forward to the development – 34 people
- Sales enquiry – 32 people
- Like the plans proposed – 32 people
- Good use of land – 20 people
- Concerned about the design and size of the development – 14 people
- Concerned about parking – 10 people
- Access concerns – 10 people

Carol then confirmed that they are still recording the feedback and will continue to do so up until the time the planning application is submitted. The application will include a statement of community involvement. Chris then commented that currently feedback is only for McCarthy and Stone and there will be further opportunities for WR&CS and individuals to comment when a planning application is submitted to the Council.

Debs then asked about the sales enquiries and how likely they are to lead to sales. Carol said that she couldn't be sure, but people had a separate form to fill in if they were interested in buying a property. John W asked how many people buying live locally and Carol confirmed that on average people live in a 5-mile radius from the site.

Vicky asked about the status of McCarthy and Stone as the buyer. Sarah explained that the Royal British Legion in London (RBL) had received several bids for the land and had chosen McCarthy and Stone as their preferred provider. RBL are obliged to maximise their assets, which would normally mean taking the highest price bid. If McCarthy and Stone were successful in getting planning permission, they would buy the land.

Ceri asked about the number of responses and what they considered to be a robust sample size. Carol responded that 65 is slightly higher than they normally get. There had also been an online option to respond but they had not had any responses through this to date.

Lyn said that she was surprised that the pressure on the GP surgery was not in the consistent comments. Carol explained that those listed were the top comments received. Some comments had been made but not as many as the consistent comments identified above.

Jane asked about pets and Carol confirmed that cats and dogs were allowed in the apartments.

John F asked about the number of parking places. Ed confirmed that originally there were 25 places proposed but this has now been increased to 30. This has been done by removing the landscaping in the North part of the proposed car park. Vicky commented that public transport in the village is not good. Barry expressed the view that there should be at least 35 spaces. Ed said that they have done a lot of research and surveyed nine McCarthy and Stone sites to look at ratios. On average, the existing sites have 0.6 cars per apartment but the proposed ratio on this site is 0.86, which is 25% more. He expressed the view that there is now sufficient parking provided.

Debs wondered if McCarthy and Stone would consider a plan where all the building is two-storey. Ed said that this would be difficult because they would lose apartments and therefore sales revenue which would impact on the viability of the development. In addition, annual service charges would increase with the costs apportioned across fewer apartments.

Chris then thanked Carol and Ed for attending the meeting and updating us on the consultation.

b. Request for an EGM on these proposals

The request for an EGM was discussed. There was a general view that this was not appropriate before the planning application had been submitted and the request could be reviewed then.

Barry commented that the Planning Guide outlines how we respond to the majority of applications in the village. We cannot determine how we will respond until the full McCarthy and Stone application has been received by the Council. He expressed the view that inevitably houses will be built on the site and the same issues are likely to apply if another developer was involved. The Local Plan (both the old and the proposed new versions) allow infill or limited re-development of land and this land is also outside the village Conservation area. He suggested that in the new Local Plan there is a statement around preserving and making use of open space, which could be considered in regard to this development but this hasn't been ratified yet.

Vicky commented that Cannell Court is very different, as they are retirement studios, and this is a much higher specification. Barry confirmed that the proposals at Roften are for a care home, which again is different.

Ceri expressed the view that it had not been appropriate to invite McCarthy and Stone to the residents' part of the meeting but should have been asked in after that section had been completed. Sue then asked about the status of the observers around the room and whether Glenn was speaking on their behalf. Sarah explained that there was an email group for people surrounding the Legion site in which she had offered the opportunity to speak in the Residents' slot but only Glenn had taken up this offer.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2018

The minutes were proposed by Hilary Booth, seconded by Madeline Hughes and accepted by all Committee members present at the January meeting as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising from the previous Minutes (15th January 2018)

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

5.1 Flashing Traffic Sign (item 4.2)

Myles had asked Highways for the criteria for this type of sign. The response was that half the cost should be covered by the community or Member's budget and the sign costs approximately £6,000. It was agreed to carry this item forward. Sue commented that she will be with the Community Police with the speed gun on Saturday.

5.2 A41 Signage (item 5.1d)

No response to date. Chris will continue to chase this up.

Action: Chris

5.3 Historic Cottages (item 12.3)

Sue still needs to give the addresses of the properties she is concerned about to Myles.

Action: Sue

5.4 Bend at Nag's Head (item 12.5)

Myles said the location doesn't meet the criteria for putting in a solid white line. It was thought this was because of the narrow width of the road. Myles also commented that as far as he was aware, there had been no progress on the proposal for CCTV cameras at Nag's Head.

6. WR&CS Matters

6.1 Correspondence

a. Open space on Smithy Lane

Tom Ainsworth had asked why we had not commented on an application to convert some open space at the end of Smithy Lane to a garden. Barry advised that he generally comments within the last few days for planning comments and has subsequently objected to this on behalf of WR&CS.

b. Process of electing Resident representatives

Pat Walton had asked about the process for electing Resident representatives which was explained.

c. Yew Tree

Tom Harris had asked who to contact about cutting back the yew tree in the Methodist Church garden and had been put in contact with Sheila Smith.

d. Play Area

Hannah Jefferies asked when the play area will be re-opened as it was still locked. We explained that the site was waiting for a visit from RoSPA and gave the expected opening date.

e. Surgery

Emma Moore, Office Manager at the surgery had expressed concerns about people without appointments using the premises for parking (particularly school runs and football). They had put notes on windows and had abusive behaviour as a result. Following this, we have put a post on Facebook and an article on the website. We will also include it in the newsletter. John Fisher has reinforced this with footballers.

6.2 Newsletter

Sarah confirmed that the next newsletter should be out around the end of March and committee members will be asked to deliver it.

Action: Sarah/Sue/All

6.3 Facebook

Ceri gave the committee information about one post on Facebook about a lady being followed on the Wirral Way. 13,143 people saw the post and there were 232 reactions, comments or shares. This included someone from Pensby who had a similar experience. Police were informed and the crime numbers have been linked.

Chris encouraged all organisation representatives to let Ceri know if they have events that they wish to promote given the large number of individuals each WR&CS Facebook post reaches.

7. Working Groups

a. WINDS (Willaston INDoor Spaces)

Sarah reported that the group had now met three times. Following advice from Cheshire Community Action, they have agreed to do a joint community needs assessment of the spaces currently available in Willaston, to enable us to understand what people currently think about the premises we have and what potential they have for future use. This will help any of the groups seeking funding to improve their premises in future. The resulting questionnaire had been circulated with the agenda and Sarah said that the cost of printing 1300 copies on A5, folded to make four pages of A4 is £193. Chris proposed, and Hilary B seconded that this is

funded from the money we have towards newsletters as it will go out with the next newsletter. This was agreed by all present. An online method of responding will also be developed (e.g. through Survey Monkey).

Action: Sarah

b. Constitution

Chris reported that the group had met and developed the draft new constitution circulated with the agenda. He confirmed that when this is agreed, it would need to go to the AGM for approval. After discussion, it was agreed to send the original constitution, the amended constitution and the summary of amendments to the committee to consider and give any feedback to Chris and Sarah by email. It was also agreed to send copies to Roger James for his comments. If necessary, the working group will reconvene following receipt of comments.

Action: Chris

c. Play area

Sarah reported that the work has now been completed and we are expecting an invoice of £2000 shortly. This leaves around £3,000 in the account for the final stage. The Council are also proposing to replace the two flat swings before the end of March as the cross beam on these is at the end of its life. Comments were made that there is some chipping on the new white lines. Comments were also made that there is a lot of litter in the play area and it was agreed to put something on Facebook and to ask the school to put something on Parentmail.

Action: Sarah/Ceri

d. Christmas Lights

Ceri explained that the current lights in the tree have been there for ten years and due to the weather/their age, have deteriorated so they will not pass health and safety/electrical tests. Therefore they have to be removed. The Christmas lights group had a meeting with CWaC who confirmed that there is no funding for lights. They are only supporting lights in Chester and Ellesmere Port due to the challenges of budgets. Other areas are using the town/parish council budget or funding in other ways. CWaC also currently say they are unable to remove the lights and the cost of this needs to be funded (c £2,400) but there are further discussions being held with CWaC about this. In addition, the tree needs to be pruned before new lights are put on and CWaC are about to undertake a survey for this pruning work.

Three suppliers have been approached; two have supplied quotes and a third will do so shortly following a site visit. There are two options – hiring or buying outright and Ceri explained the pros and cons of each option. The costs are still being finalised but include renting/buying and fitting new lights, removal of the old lights and electricity. Ceri suggested that we should aim to raise £14,000. Myles suggested that some of this could come from the New Homes Bonus fund, which still has £6,100 left in the pot. However, it is the responsibility of the village to raise funds.

Ceri proposed and Vicky seconded that we should start to fundraise for the lights this year, setting up a specific Residents' bank account for this purpose. If insufficient money is raised in 2018 to fund lights, then the money should be rolled over for 2019. This was agreed by all present. Ceri agreed to look into the use of Gift Aid and standing orders to help fundraising.

Action: Ceri

Ceri also commented that she proposed to set up a Willaston lights page on Facebook and the website.

Action: Ceri

Chris thanked Ceri and Paul for all the work that they had done on this.

8. Financial Report

The financial report, previously circulated, was discussed. On 27th February 2017, the current account had a balance of £859.75. The lottery had a balance of £1877.87 and the play area account had a balance of £5075.48. £944 of the current/lottery account is ring-fenced for newsletters. There were no questions.

Chris thanked Hilary Booth for the work she does on the accounts and the Lottery.

9. Planning

9.1 Land to the rear of Leaswood Grange, New Hey Lane

Barry explained that permission had been given in the past for a caravan to go on this site to support an equine facility. He is concerned that this has not happened and an application has now been submitted for a modular building to provide equine facilities, admin accommodation and a residential unit for an equine

worker. Further, no site notice had been put up so the response date had been extended to April. Concern was expressed about this planning application and Barry will investigate further. **Action: Barry**

9.2 Station Master's House, Hadlow Road Station

A change of use application has been submitted for use as a café and craft rooms. Some residents have objected because of concerns around parking. The predominant opening hours are 9am to 4/6pm but some later times will also operate for craft courses. A key will be available for the Hadlow Road Station barrier when it is operating out of hours.

9.3 Angling club, Damhead Lane

This club got planning permission for a clubhouse but has now applied for permission for a larger clubhouse. Barry expressed concern this could subsequently be converted to a home. It was also noted that this site is for sale.

9.4 Planning information

Myles expressed concerns about lobbying on particular applications and the need to be seen to be neutral. Barry said that his report is monthly and includes all applications other than alterations to trees. This goes on the noticeboard and website and it was felt this is sufficient.

10. Footpaths and Bridleways

Jane reported that the local footpaths are all muddy, particularly FP28 (from the Mill to BR66). The two-way marker post has also fallen down on this path. £1,500 has been allocated from Myles' Councillor's budget for remedial work on FP32 (behind Pollards) but it is not clear if this funded work done to date which is not to specification and has not solved the problem. However, the metal platform is doing its job well. The sleepers donated by Friends of Hadlow Road Station will shortly be used to create a small bridge over the flooded ditch.

Jane had reported the erosion of FP30 (Hooton Road to Mill Lane) to CW&C. A worksheet has been raised for remedial work but so far no work has been done. Other promised work from the Council has also not yet taken place, including remedial work on the culvert on BR64, filling in of hollows on BR66 (end of Street Hey Lane) and pot holes on FP33 (Change Lane). Jane has also complained about pot holes on FP30 (Hooton Road to Mill Lane).

There have been two sessions clearing part of BR64 (opposite New Hey Lane) with three volunteers from the village. A volunteer from Wirral Footpaths and two members of the Council have also helped. Jane thanked Sandra for getting involved with this.

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

11. Organisation Reports

The reports below had been submitted in advance. In addition, the following comments were made:

- Sue updated on the Johnston Recreation Ground Advisory Group. Two barbecues are planned in June for the Tennis Club and Willaston Wolves football club. The moles are back, more repairs are needed for the pavilion and the flooding on the path alongside the allotment is still not resolved. Some allotment holders will be given until April to improve or they will be sent a letter. There was an issue with a child from a visiting junior team urinating into a ditch but he said that the pavilion was locked.
- David said that the results of the community survey done by Christ Church will be discussed with Chester Diocese to look at recommendations and a copy of the conclusions will be brought to the Residents' committee. The church is also having a range of activities over Easter including an Easter Egg Hunt.
- David mentioned that 1st April 2018 is the 100th anniversary of the RAF
- Hilary M confirmed that the board walk across Jackson's Pond is not being raised but is being extended and the other end of the pond will be dredged, which should help with the flooding of the board walk that has happened this winter.
- Helen said that Hadlow Green Singers will be holding their concert on Friday.

11.1 Christ Church

No report received

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

The Pop-up-cafe for January was a huge success, only to be an even bigger success in February with a further increase in customer numbers despite the very cold but dry weather conditions. The catering team had increased the number of volunteer helpers on the day, and they are looking for more volunteers and reviewing how they can improve on the kitchen throughput. The next cafe openings will be March 25th and April 15th and April 29th from 10.30am – 1.30pm.

The dilapidated and rotten railway track has been taken up and the old sleepers totally removed and taken off site. This work was carried out on two consecutive weekends in freezing conditions by Tim and his very hard working loyal volunteers with the help of the Community Payback Team. The offer of sleepers for burning on wood stoves had to be withdrawn due to potential creosote contamination. The base of the signal box has now been dug out and is ready for a connecting wire to the signal from the lever in the box.

Chester Zoo will be taking down several trees when the weather improves from the east section of the north (main) platform as food and play for the zoo animals after which the tree stumps will then be ground out. The south platform (far) will be reinstated with a brick face in the Spring at a cost of £4,000 paid for with grant funding

Three benches have now been fitted on the south platform one of which has a plaque dedicated to James Richard White who was a former train driver on this line. Other benches are available to be purchased with a dedicated plaque added so please contact us if this is of interest.

Finally, the Audio-Visual display unit with PC in the waiting room is now ready for showing films which are currently being prepared for display once the electric supply has been sorted.

11.3 Friends of Willaston Meadow (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

The work planned for deepening Jackson's Pond has not been carried out, as the very wet winter caused the pond and surroundings to flood. We hope to go ahead with it in the autumn. Meanwhile, the boardwalk, which has been under water for several weeks, will be lengthened to reach a higher level on the bank.

Now that the houses behind Goss Moor are being built it is possible to see how they will overlook the Meadow. Several silver birch trees have been purchased and will be planted as a small group so that they break up the outline of the roofs. A grant of garden vouchers for community projects from Halifax Building Society has paid for these. In addition, more hawthorn is to be planted to reinforce the boundary.

11.4 Guiding Organisations

No representative currently.

11.5 Hadlow Green Singers

No report received.

11.6 Horticultural Society

No report received.

11.7 Johnston Recreation Ground

No report received before the meeting.

11.8 Memorial Hall (Submitted by Rob King)

The AGM of Willaston Memorial Hall took place earlier this month at which 7 members of the public attended including both Chris Hampshire and Sarah Shannon. Personally, I was unable to attend because of being in hospital.

The Trustees are grateful to Keith Greenfield, their Treasurer, for continuing to fulfil the role of Chairman until an appointment is made. No nominations for Chairman or Vice-Chairman were forthcoming but things are proceeding behind the scenes to try and remedy the situation. Doreen Francey (previously representing WI) was elected Secretary, Keith Greenfield was again elected as Treasurer. The remaining Trustees, Pam Irving, Rob King, Jackie Jenkins, Myles Hogg, Keith Butcher, and Liz Young were re-elected along with the addition of Val Fisher to represent WI. The roles of Bookings Secretary and Publicity Officer are carried out by volunteers who, for personal reasons, have declined to become trustees.

There was a question from the floor as to what happened to the old doorstep which was in front of the original hall entrance. Evidently no-one was able to answer this at the meeting but I would advise that it was removed by the Stonemasons who carried out the work. I am unaware of the reason for the question. We had not received any request for the old stone to be made available to anyone in the village and naturally wanted it removing once the new step was in place.

In Rob King's absence, Sarah Shannon provided a brief update on the work of the Residents' Society Sub-Committee which is assessing current village community assets (excluding the school and playing field) and future requirements.

The Memorial Hall continues to enjoy a high level of booking enquiries and follow through into confirmed bookings. From the feedback we have, the refurbishment programme has been very well received.

11.9 Scouting Organisations

No report received

11.10 Sporting Organisations

No report received

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

The speaker on a very cold night at our February meeting told us about Wirral lidos, very shivery as most were unheated, and in March we shall hear about nursery rhymes. The ramblers enjoyed a walk near Daresbury, and the next one will be around Thornton Hough. The Bridge Drive was very successful, as usual the afternoon tea was appreciated. Our quiz team obtained a high score in the first round, but as the totals were very close together, they did not qualify for the final. The darts team came through the heats and will be representing us at their final in Lostock. Plans are in hand for a theatre trip and a visit to the Liverpool Athenaeum in April, and a garden outing in May. We shall arrange a group visit to see the terracotta warriors in Liverpool, and later in the year there will be a weekend away to Stratford and the Cotswolds.

11. 12 Willaston Methodist Church (Submitted by Sheila Smith)

Many thanks to all those friends who supported the Soup Lunch on Valentine's Day at the Memorial Hall, hosted by the Chapel. Despite lots of winter illness, we had a full hall and a happy event, where we also wished Marcus, our minister, a happy birthday on that day!

As many of you will be aware, Marcus is leaving us in the Autumn for new pastures. Whilst another minister will be appointed at that time, we are pleased to announce that Jim Shaw has agreed to become our local Lay Pastor in order to improve our ministry in the village. This is subject to ratification at the Methodist Church Council meeting to be held shortly. We look forward to changes!

Our Easter services and Easter breakfast may have come and gone by the time these reports go out. The Ecumenical Pentecost service on the Village Green is planned for Sunday 20th May, when Christ Church will lead this year.

11.13 Willaston CE School PTA

No representative currently.

11.14 Willaston Royal British Legion

No report received.

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

We have a Pop-up book sale planned for Saturday 14th April 10-11:30 on the village green (weather permitting).

Our 4th birthday celebration musical evening will take place on Saturday 5th May at the memorial hall. Doors open 7.30pm. Tickets £10 include entertainment & curry supper. Charity cash bar available.

11.16 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group

It is not too late to get your Flu Vaccination if you have not yet done so. You can book an appointment with the nurse, mentioning it is regarding Flu Vaccination.

You may have been contacted by an on-line Chemist asking you to sign up to order prescriptions on-line and have them delivered to your address, I would strongly encourage you to remain with the Chemist in the village, who will deliver medication to you if you are unable to get to the chemist. If we don't make full use of the village chemist we risk losing it and this would be a blow to many of us, not just regarding prescriptions but all the other items that the chemist stocks. In addition, Amy, the resident Pharmacist is able to have private consultations with villagers on matters that do not require to be dealt with by the surgery.

I regret having to draw to your attention that there have been several instances of patients abusing the staff at the surgery. There is no excuse for this and this behaviour will not be tolerated and will lead to sanctions being taken against the individuals concerned. It is for patients to understand that expecting to be dealt with immediately for non-emergencies is not always possible. The staff will always try and fit you in with an appointment as soon as possible but turning up at the surgery with no prior appointment and expecting to be attended to there and then is not normally possible. To then abuse the staff is appalling. It is important to give as much notice to the surgery of your needs so that they can manage their schedules so that everyone is attended to within a reasonable timescale.

We continue to have a small minority of people parking their cars in the surgery car park when they are not attending the surgery, e.g. when dropping children off at school. The surgery will be taking action to curb this unacceptable behaviour and I would ask for your support that if you see this happening you alert the surgery staff so that they can take action.

You may have heard rumours concerning the Pharmacy. Let me reassure you that although there will be a change of ownership the Pharmacy and all the staff will continue as before. The new owners are taking over Victoria Healthcare in its entirety which comprises 14 pharmacies. You will be pleased to hear that the new owners are intending to refurbish the chemist which is an encouraging sign of their intentions for our pharmacy. Amy the Pharmacist has told me that prescription business at the pharmacy is increasing which is very positive news for the pharmacy, please continue to give it your full support.

Lastly you will doubtless have heard the news that a property developer has acquired an interest in the former British Legion site and therefore the chances of building a health centre there would seem to have gone away.

As ever if you would like to contact me on any matters concerning the surgery please e-mail me at johnwoodrow@btinternet.com.

11.17 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

11.18 Willaston Village Festival Society

No report received.

12. Councillor's Report

Myles had submitted a report in advance which was discussed.

12.1 Jobs Fair

A jobs fair will be held in Ellesmere Port Civic Hall on 15th May from 10am to 2pm.

12.2 Councillors' Budget

As there are elections in May 2019, applications for money from the budget have to be received by November 2018 and spent by December 2018. Myles has recently given £970 for a small access ramp on the Wirral Way, close to Hadlow Road Station.

12.3 Speed Limits

A consultation has been held about reducing the speed on Hadlow Road to 50mph. This was fully supported. Further consultations will be held about Hanns Hall Road and Quarry Road, to reduce the speed here to 40mph.

12.4 Disabled Rail Card Users

From 1st April 2018, Disabled Rail Cards have to be applied for online and CWaC residents should first go to the Council to get a discount code so they cost £16, rather than £20. You will need proof of residence and of disability. More information will be available through the CWaC website and at libraries.

12.5 Public Space Protection Order Consultation

This consultation suggests several ways to encourage responsible dog ownership and the implementation of Public Space Protection Orders if they are not complied with. There is an online survey at http://inside.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/get_involved/consultations/control_of_dogs_orders_review or you can give your views by emailing dogorders@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or phone 0300 123 8 123.

12.6 Local Government Boundary Review

The final results of the review have extended the Willaston and Thornton boundary to include Burton.

12.7 Hadlow Road

Myles expressed the opinion that the pedestrian crossing assessment may need to be reviewed if the McCarthy and Stone application is successful. The question of extending the double yellow lines to The Old Hall was reviewed but there was no proposal to progress this.

12.8 Litter Clearing

Hilary Morris asked if there were going to be more litter clearing sessions and commented that all the roads leading to the village are bad. Myles agreed to try to organise some more litter picking. **Action: Myles**

12.9 Flooding

Debs and Barry commented that many of the drains are full, leading to flooding, particularly on Heath Lane, Waterworks Lane and Neston Road. Myles said that the Council are getting in touch with landowners on Heath Lane, asking them to dig out their ditches.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Willaston Meadow

Hilary M said that the area planted with trees by school children is now going to be named School Wood.

13.2 Notice Board at Hadlow Road Station

Lyn commented that the noticeboard was still advertising Santa's Grotto but only the Ranger has the key.

Action: Chris

13.3 Next Meeting

Ceri agreed to take minutes at the next meeting as Sarah is on holiday.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 21st May 2018

Monday 16th July 2018

Monday 17th Sept 2018

Monday 19th Nov 2018

AGM: Friday 26th October 2018