

## **Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS)**

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018  
in the Memorial Hall Committee Room

### **Residents' Issues**

Chris introduced Carol Mercer who wished to raise the issue of the 272 bus. This service is due to cease in July 2018 and is the only one that goes to Ellesmere Port and Hooton Station. Carol said that the 8.03am is full of students and people going to work.

Chris clarified that buses are a commercial enterprise. Myles commented that a lot of people have been in contact with him about this and there have been a number of petitions. The service is not subsidised at the moment and Myles expressed the hope that public opinion will have some influence on the Council. He clarified that West Cheshire College run a private bus but this 272 service is important for other students and for people in employment.

There was a discussion about bus passes and how the people who use them are counted, with a concern expressed that this was often not accurate.

Ceri commented that this had been raised on Facebook by Alison Underwood who has a petition in McColls and we have circulated the article in About My Area.

Hilary Booth proposed that WR&CS write to CWAC to raise concerns on this bus service being withdrawn. This was seconded by Barry and agreed by all. It was also agreed that a notice should go on the two notice boards letting people know how to comment. **Action: Chris/Sue**

Chris thanked Carol for raising this issue and Carol then left the meeting.

### **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), Rob King (Trustee to the Memorial Hall)

(Committee Members): Annette Troake, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Sandra Kettiros, John Woodrow, Debs Jerrett, Myles Hogg, Roy Spraggon, Sheila Smith, Fiona Ennys, and Paul Janvier

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Stephen Bazely, David Compton, Madeline Hughes, Hilary Morris and Hilary Gould.

Chris informed the meeting that Betty Greenwood, who had supported the village in numerous ways had recently died and a one minute's silence was held in her memory.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were proposed by Sue Unsworth, seconded by Lyn Jackson-Eves and accepted by all Committee members present at the meeting as a true record of the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 were proposed by Paul Janvier, seconded by Vicky Spraggon and accepted by all Committee members present at the meeting as a true record of the meeting.

#### 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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

#### **4.1 Signage on Hooton Road Crossroad** (item 5.2)

The Highways Agency has responded to our request to look at the signage at the crossroads and agreed that it could be improved. They are planning to do refurbishment of the crossroads later this year and improved signage will be included within these works.

#### **4.2 Land to Leaswood Grange, New Hey Lane** (item 9.1)

Barry put in an objection to this. Myles confirmed that he will call the application in if approval by the CWAC Planning Officer is recommended.

#### **4.3 Litter Clearing** (item 12.8)

Myles still intends to organise some litter picking sessions for the village.

**Action: Myles**

### 5. WR&CS Matters

#### **5.1 Communications**

Chris reported the following communications via the website, Facebook and phone:

- a. Maureen Campbell contacted us via the website about a planning application on Neston Road. Barry was unable to comment as he was unwell at the time.
- b. An anonymous person asked via our Facebook pages if anyone would be able to hit tennis balls with him. Two responses were received.
- c. Al Spendlove contacted us via the website offering to help put together a crowdfunding campaign for the Christmas lights appeal. He has been put in contact with Ceri.
- d. Jane Townsend reported a lorry going through the village and this was checked with Aldi who confirmed that it was not one of theirs. Chris advised that he would not be asking Aldi to check every HGV coming through the village.
- e. Sue Sanderson contacted us via the website with concerns about the field on the corner of Street Hey Lane, where rubbish and hay were attracting rats. Environmental health had already been involved and Myles followed it up subsequently. This is now being monitored by Environmental Health.
- f. Sally Shah contacted us via the website. Her son is getting married this weekend and she wanted to know about grass cutting on the Green and weeding the entrance to the Memorial Hall. Advice was given about the grass and she was put in contact with Rob about the Memorial Hall.
- g. Stewart Wilkinson rang us after the last meeting to thank us for the quality submission to planning on the McCarthy and Stone application. He had also commented that the meeting went well and was well chaired.

Ceri said that there had also been people posting on Facebook about a burglary on Meadow Lane and lost pets. It was noted that the burglars had been caught and declared a number of similar offences.

#### **5.2 Data Protection/Privacy Notice**

Sarah went through the paper previously circulated about data protection, in light of the General Data Protection Regulation. It was noted that we do not need to register with the Information Commissioner's Office as we are a not-for-profit organisation, meeting the requirements for non-registration.

It was agreed that the Secretary should be the Data Controller for the Society.

Vicky commented that she was able to find her address on the internet, which was published by the Society. It is not clear how this has happened as only names of committee members are on the website but Chris agreed to look into it.

**Action: Chris**

It was noted that anyone keeping a list of people to contact needs to keep a note of when and how they have agreed to be on the list.

It was agreed to contact people on the volunteer and minutes notification lists to confirm that they still wish to be contacted and to delete the play area list. Barry also noted that he needs to delete the old copy of the volunteer list from the District Community Plan.

**Action: Sarah/Barry**

Sarah and Sheila agreed to meet to discuss the best way of managing the village organisation list, which needs to be updated. **Action: Sarah/Sheila**

It was proposed by Vicky, seconded by Roy and agreed by all present that we should adopt the draft Privacy Notice and put it on the website. Chris thanked Sarah for allowing this draft policy to be adapted for Friends of Hadlow Road Station. **Action: Sarah**

### 5.3 Notice Board

Sarah commented that the notice board on the Green needs rubbing down and re-varnishing. Sandra agreed to do this. **Action: Sandra**

#### 6. Working Groups

##### a. Christmas Lights

Ceri reported that BJT has been appointed for removal of the tree lights, installation of the new lights and switch on. Lite Ltd are the preferred supplier for purchase of the lights.

Fundraising for the lights has started and the 'ask' is to 'sponsor a Willaston star', which requires a minimum donation of £5 per star. This will enable a donor to have an individual dedication of up to 30 characters being included in a commemorative book. There has been a positive response to date with 50 people expressing an interest in sponsoring a star, including people living abroad. Ceri attended the School Fair which had helped to increase awareness. The Willaston Lights community group are working on a raffle and support has been pledged by the WI, Rotary, Methodist Church, Memorial Hall, Toddlers and Rainbows. Ceri asked other groups to consider if they are able to help support the fundraising.

A logo, posters and newsletters have been designed and a newsletter will be printed for delivery to all households at the end of May once the HSBC bank account has been set up. Ceri will contact committee members to ask if they can help with delivering. A Christmas Lights website is also being developed and articles will be in the Parish News and About My Areas.

Jane asked about grants and Ceri explained that she had not yet identified any potential funders for the lights but thought maybe grants for activities with children or making the switch on into a bigger activity would be possible. Ceri explained that it is taking time to set up a lights bank account with HSBC. Chris and Hilary are going to the bank in Chester on 29<sup>th</sup> May and hope to finally get a new lights account. Vicky suggested that if not, the title of the play area account could be changed to lights so this can be used. These difficulties have meant that we cannot yet set up a Go Fund Me page and it is becoming harder to manage the message to people who wish to donate on-line/by BACS/cheque. **Action: Chris and Hilary B**

Rob asked who was approving the newsletter and Ceri confirmed it was Myles and other committee members involved and the draft will be passed to Chris for review before being printed. Rob also commented that the form used at the School Fair was not very clear that WR&CS is responsible for the lights appeal. Ceri said that this was a temporary form and confirmed that people are aware that the group was started by WR&CS but in her view it is now wider than WR&CS which some committee members were concerned about.

Myles stated that the sub-group operates under the aegis of WR&CS and Paul confirmed that Ceri is now the lead on this group. The sub-group consists of Ceri, Myles and Paul but there is also a wider community group which is very involved. It was agreed that the sub-group should meet as a matter of urgency to discuss issues raised, particularly around the accounts and accountability. Chris offered to join the sub-group for this specific meeting, which was agreed. **Action: Ceri**

Paul commented, and the whole committee agreed that Ceri has done a fantastic job and thanked her for her work.

##### b. Constitution

Sarah explained that the constitution sub-group had been set up after the AGM when it was realised that there were not clear procedures for co-opting members. At the last meeting, a draft constitution had been circulated

and members were asked to make comments. It had also been sent to Roger James for comments. Rob, Myles and Roger had commented and the sub-group met again to discuss the points raised. Some comments have been incorporated into the revised draft provided to the committee whilst others had been excluded and the rationale given to the three individuals. John Woodrow proposed and Sue seconded that the revised version be accepted and should go to the AGM. This was agreed by all present.

c. WINDS (Willaston INDoor Spaces)

Sarah reported that the approximately seventy surveys had been received so far so the date has been extended. She asked committee members to encourage people to respond. It was agreed to put a notice on the both noticeboards to this effect.

**Action: Sarah**

d. Play area

Sarah reported that the final bills have been paid to the Council, leaving us with just £75 in the account. The plans and costings for the final stage, which is to remove the current slide and put in a large climbing unit with a slide and monkey bars would cost about £40,000. We would need to raise at least £4,000 before applying to large funders such as WREN. Sarah suggested that this should be put on hold until after the main fundraising for the lights has taken place and a new appeal launched next year. This was agreed. Chris commented that the People's Postcode Lottery may be worth exploring for a £2,000 grant. It was also noted that not all children can use flat swings and a swing suited for children with a disability may be worth looking at in the future.

7. Financial Report

Hilary Booth reported that on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018, the current account had a balance of £633.99. The lottery had a balance of £1503.87 and the play area account had a balance of £75.48. £585 of the current/lottery account is ring-fenced for newsletters. A transfer of £200 has recently been made from the Lottery account to the current account. Hilary confirmed that there is still £200 available for the Christmas Lights sub-group if they need to meet up-front costs but Ceri confirmed that currently everything is being covered with no expenditure.

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

8. Planning

Barry reported that the response to the planning application by McCarthy and Stone has been submitted and that approximately 120 other submissions have been made with about 90 objections. Barry had also asked the Planning Officer if it is reasonable to request S106 funding should this development go ahead but he had not yet had a response. Myles said that he has called this in to the Planning Committee should the officer be minded to approve it because of the scale and density of the development, parking provision and difficulties with the entrance.

Lyn asked about the development of site of the garage on Hooton Road and Barry said that this was still waiting to be progressed.

There was a discussion about Roseneath, in Heath Lane, which has an application for a new dwelling and detached garage. Although this is in Green Belt land, it is part of the defined area of the village and current rules allow for one house to be built in a garden. Therefore, Barry said he felt it should not be opposed.

Chris thanked Barry and thanked all the committee for their support with the McCarthy and Stone application. He stated that in his view, the application is likely to be withdrawn and a new revised application submitted so further committee discussions are probable in the future.

9. Organisation Reports

The reports below had been submitted in advance. Chris thanked those who had provided reports and commented that it is an opportunity to sell your organisation's activities to a wider audience. There were no other comments.

**9.1 Christ Church** (Submitted by Stephen Bazely)

We had a wonderful 1940's afternoon tea at the Memorial hall a couple of weeks ago and also our annual meeting. If you would like to find out more or some information about the improvement project, then go to our website [www.christchurchwillaston.com](http://www.christchurchwillaston.com). Please join us for our Pentecost service on the village green, a joint service with the Methodist Chapel, everyone welcome on the 20th May at 10:45am.

### **9.2 Friends of Hadlow Road Station** (Submitted by Hilary Booth)

The platform brickwork and edging on the far platform has been slightly delayed, as we need to check if planning/building permission is required before work can start following a meeting with CW&C's Conservation Officer.

Four trees were cut down on 10th and 11<sup>th</sup> May by Chester Zoo, so we hope the animals enjoy their treats.! These trees were removed from the platform top, to open up the platform ready for the re-instatement in the future. The tree stumps will also be removed. Many thanks to Willastonhey W.I. who have kindly offered to donate a tree and plant it at the station. A few tree varieties have been suggested by the CW&C Ranger, so we await the Willaston W.I.'s tree selection from the options provided.

75 top grade hardwood sleepers have been ordered ready for the existing track to be re-laid and these should be delivered before the end of May. This will then be followed by the putting down of recycled track ballast.

The team are working on refurbishing the sack trolley, (which is under cover off-site), and this refurbishment is progressing well. It will be completed shortly and will then be secured safely onto the station platform, and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> trolley already on the platform will be refurbished. In addition, the large Hadlow Road Station sign will be replaced as the timber has split and some paint has peeled off.

The large timber gates to enter the car park and other fences are rotten and CWAC has agreed to repair the gates and fencing shortly subject to budget funding.

Please support our current Tesco Bags of Help grant application, by asking for your blue tokens to vote at local Tesco Stores. At the moment at we are second on votes/tokens at Tesco, Heswall, so we need all the support we can get. The Tesco Bags of Help grant will be used to support the railway track extension to the full length of the platform

Lastly the Pop-up-cafe will be open on June 10<sup>th</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am to 1.30pm. Come and enjoy your bacon bap, or toasted teacake, a cup of coffee or tea and a chat to your friends. We hope to see you there.

### **9.3 Friends of Willaston Meadow** (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

The boardwalk has now emerged from Jacksons Pond, and there is an abundance of marsh marigolds. This year there is an exceptionally good show of apple blossom, so we hope for a good crop of apples. Some of the trees bear fruit in alternate years, and after a poor year last year they are covered in blossom now. Some seeds of annuals have been sown, but these do not always compete with the grasses. Three birch trees which were planted near the boundary to screen the new houses at Goss Moor have taken and are in leaf, and the field maple and wild cherry nearby are well established. Wild field rose which was abundant on the far boundary of the Meadow has been mainly overcome by brambles, but plants raised by the Friends from the rosehips are now flourishing by the entrance to School Wood.

The AGM of the Friends will be held on Thursday 24 May at 2.00 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. After a short business meeting Rob Perry will talk about the maintenance and planting being carried out by the Friends of Lees Lane Ponds, adjacent to the Wirral Way. All are welcome to this meeting.

### **9.4 Guiding Organisations**

No representative currently.

### **9.5 Hadlow Green Singers** (Submitted by Helen Mayles)

The Summer Concert is on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Tickets are available in McColls.

## **9.6 Horticultural Society**

No report received.

## **9.7 Johnston Recreation Ground (Submitted by Sue Unsworth)**

Tennis - The Tennis Club are planning another barbecue on 9th June. The storage box will be fitted soon. There will be another barbecue for the junior football "Lads and Dads" on 8th July.

Football - There were complaints about the state of the pitch. "The worst it has ever been". The weather of course has been very wet and drainage is a problem. Finance is a problem! Dog fouling signs have gone up but there are still owners not "picking up".

Play Area - Gratitude was expressed to Sarah Shannon for all her hard work on improving the play area.

Finance - The accounts have been provided to the Charity Commission. The balance left is now £1200. A new bench is now located between the two openings to the Meadow.

A Management Status Report will be prepared for the ground in due course. This is for Green Flag Status.

Allotments - Plot 8 has still not improved. The renters were given until April or another improvement letter would be sent. An allotment holder asked if the privet hedge alongside the path could be trimmed to a minimum of 10 feet. Also, the fence alongside the footpath is falling down.

Pavilion - There is still a problem with the toilets and the shower also a roof tile became dislodged causing a leak.

Next Meeting: June 27th 2018 (Possibly in the Pavilion)

## **9.8 Memorial Hall (Submitted by Rob King)**

After the external and internal repairs, refurbishment and improvements of the last two years activity is now relatively low key. However, we continue our search for new trustees and a Chairperson. At our recent meeting someone sat in as an observer and is now considering possibly coming forward to act as Chairperson. In addition, we are looking for someone to take care of keeping the day to day operation of the Hall and grounds up to scratch.

Enquiries and bookings continue to be brisk with an increased interest in the Hall for weddings/receptions and we have therefore decided to actively promote the Hall for such activities. A colour flyer has just been approved for printing and it will also feature on our website. There will be targeted marketing via Facebook. We have taken this opportunity to update our logo which will be seen on the flyer, letterheads etc.

We are pleased to advise that after discussion at our recent meeting the Trustees have agreed that any organisation wishing to book the Hall for an event which will solely be for the purpose of raising funds for the Willaston Christmas lights appeal then there will be no hire charge applied.

For a long time, storage space at the Hall has presented us with problems so in recent weeks an assessment of what space we have and how it is used has been carried out with a view to deciding how best we can improve storage facilities. Plans have been professionally drawn up and after lengthy discussion, agreement to proceed was reached.

Many of you will have heard that Betty Greenwood passed away earlier this month. Around the time of the millennium Betty played a significant part in our fund-raising activities for the major improvements to the Hall by allowing her house to be used for fund raising "black tie" dinners.

## **9.9 Scouting Organisations**

No report received

## **9.10 Sporting Organisations**

No report received

## **9.11 Willastonhey W.I. (Submitted by Hilary Morris)**

Recent outings have included trips to Theatre Clwyd and the Athanaeum in Liverpool, with lunch and a tour of the building. A showing of the film "Suffragette" in Bromborough organised by a group of Wirral WIs took place appropriately on the day when other parts of the building were in use as a polling station for the local elections. This month a party is to visit a garden in Ormskirk, in June members are to see the exhibition of the terracotta warriors, and in July there will be a trip to Martin Mere. Meanwhile, monthly meetings continue with a variety of speakers, and in May we shall be celebrating Willastonhey's 38th birthday. Later in the year an afternoon tea is planned to raise a contribution to the Christmas lights fund.

## **9.12 Willaston Methodist Church (Submitted by Sheila Smith)**

I am now pleased to confirm that, following approval from the Church council, Jim Shaw is our Local Lay Pastor at Willaston Methodist Chapel. A commissioning service was held to celebrate his appointment.

Thank you to all who helped the Chapel celebrate our 180th anniversary of Methodism in the village. A Coffee Morning and special service took place over the weekend.

By the time this report goes out the annual Open Air Ecumenical Service on the Village Green to celebrate Pentecost will have taken place. Sunshine is forecast so we hope everyone will have felt uplifted, with the Royal wedding also taking place the same weekend!

## **9.13 Willaston CE School PTA**

No representative currently.

## **9.14 Willaston Royal British Legion/Willaston Royal British Legion Services Club**

No report received.

## **9.15 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club (Submitted by Debs Jerrett)**

A quiz night is to be run on Saturday 15th September to raise money for the Christmas lights. Venue: the Memorial Hall from 7.30pm. Ticket: £7.50 including chilli supper. Cash bar. Contact: [Willaston.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:Willaston.secretary@gmail.com) for tickets. Teams of 8 welcome or make up a team on arrival

## **9.16 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group**

Nothing to report

## **9.17 Willaston Toddler Group**

No report received.

## **9.18 Willaston Village Festival Society**

No report received.

## 10. Councillor's Report

### **10.1 CWAC Care and Support Directory 2018/9**

CWAC has produced a directory of care and support. Copies are available, free of charge, by calling the Cheshire West Community Access Team on 0300 123 7034 or by visiting <https://www.carechoices.co.uk/region/north-west/cheshire-west-and-chester/>

### **10.2 Pathfinder Team**

The Pathfinder Team at Cheshire Community Action can provide information on services and help with signposting and referrals. They can be contacted on 01244 329777 or [pathfinder@cheshireaction.org.uk](mailto:pathfinder@cheshireaction.org.uk). They have also produced a directory of services which can be seen at <http://www.cheshireaction.org.uk/adult-health/>

It was agreed links for both these documents should go on the website.

**Action: Sarah**

### **10.3 Street Care Services**

Streetscene has been rebranded as Street Care Services. If you spot an environmental problem in the area, it can be reported on the Your Streets website: [www.westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk](http://www.westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk).

#### 11. Footpaths and Bridleways

Jane reported that the local footpaths have largely dried out but unfortunately the enclosed footpaths are now starting to get overgrown. Jane agreed to arrange a date to cut back footpaths and Sandra and Sarah volunteered to help.

**Action: Jane**

Two way marker posts that had fallen on FP28 (from the Mill to Street Hey Lane) have been put back by the Council.

The flooding on FP32 (behind Pollards) has dispersed but not before the newly erected sleeper platform became useful. The work by the Council on this footpath was not as expected. Chris has followed this up and the foreman will inspect shortly.

The flowers that were planted on the path behind Elm Green (FP29) appear to have been removed and it was not felt advisable to plant any more.

FP 30 (Hooton Road to Mill Lane) has some erosion and a worksheet has been raised to repair this. A small oak tree has been planted at the side of the narrow section of the path and one of the village way markers has been moved into the hedge. Sarah agreed to look at this with Jane before speaking to the landowner.

**Action: Sarah**

To date the work on the ramp leading onto the Wirral Way that Myles agreed to fund has not been done.

Please email [willastonfootpaths@outlook.com](mailto:willastonfootpaths@outlook.com) if you see any other problems with our Willaston footpaths or bridleways.

#### 12. Any Other Business

##### **12.1 Gordon Terrace**

Sue expressed concern that a house in Gordon Terrace has been empty for some time. Vicky confirmed that this is a For Housing home but is not on the list and suspected that it has suffered flood damage so needs repair. Myles commented that in CWaC, there are approximately 5000 homes that have fallen into disrepair and the Council will make an offer for the house, then renovate and either sell it or give it to For Housing.

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

#### Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018

AGM: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018