

Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 19th November 2018
in the Memorial Hall Committee Room

Residents' Issues

No residents attended this session.

Committee Meeting

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

Present - Committee Members: Annette Troake, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Sandra Kettiros, Debs Jerrett, Myles Hogg, David Smith, John Fisher, Roy Spraggon, Helen Mayles, Paul Janvier, Helen Jakubczak, Madeline Hughes, John Woodrow and Hilary Morris.

Ruth Hampshire was in attendance and left the meeting after item 9e.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Barry Vowles (Planning Officer), Sheila Smith, Stephen Bazeley, Rob King, Hilary Gould, and Fiona Ennys.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Chris welcomed David Smith, who was representing the Methodist Chapel in place of Sheila Smith. Chris also welcomed Helen Jakubczak and Roy Spraggon who were attending as newly elected Resident Representatives. Members of the committee all introduced themselves.

3. Declarations of Interest

Debs and Chris declared an interest in item 9e – WR&CS logo.

4. Co-option to the Committee

Hilary Booth proposed that Vicky Spraggon should be co-opted to the committee. This was seconded by Sue Unsworth. This was agreed by all present, with two abstentions.

5. Appointment of Acting Vice-Chair

Chris proposed that Vicky Spraggon is appointed to the post of Acting Vice-Chair. This was agreed by all present, with four abstentions.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 17th September 2018

One correction was made to the minutes:

- Page 3, item 6.1, penultimate paragraph – it was noted that no record of action was recorded against this and it should have read **Action: Chris/Sarah.**

With this amendment, the minutes were proposed as correct by Hilary Booth, seconded by Roy Spraggon and accepted by all members present as a true record of the meeting, with three abstentions.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes of 17th September 2018

There was discussion on the following matters, as the other matters were complete, or included elsewhere on the agenda:

7.1 Darby and Joan Club (Residents' Issues)

Sarah had contacted Pam but she did not want her details passed on as she did not feel that Flower Power was relevant for her members.

7.2 Organisation list (item 4.2)

Sheila is currently updating this and getting people to confirm they are happy for their details to be included.

Action: Sheila

7.3 Trees (item 4.3)

The tree in Old Vicarage Road and the yew tree in the Methodist Church grounds still need to be cut.

Action: Sheila/Myles

7.4 Tractors (item 4.4)

A letter to farmers and local contractors still needs to be written.

Action: Sarah

7.5 Atworth House wall (item 4.6)

Myles reported that Highways had looked at this section of highway and will be putting verge markers on the wall and black/white chevrons on the footpath. It is not possible to raise the pavement height because of pedestrian safety.

7.6 Lord Leverhulme Charitable Trust (item 6.1)

Chris reported that the approach to the Trust about the forthcoming Play Area Appeal had been met with a favourable response but they had sought clarity about the Johnston Recreation Ground and which organisation any grant cheque should be paid to. Chris and Sarah had jointly responded to these queries.

7.7 Land adjacent to Westbourne, Smithy Lane (item 9.1)

Myles reported that the council had turned down the application and it has now gone to appeal. He stated that he has been told that if the appeal is successful, CWaC will sell the land to him as de minimus. Helen Jakubczak commented that she had emailed CWaC about this, with the view that this is not a correct procedure. Annette pointed out that one-third of the land belonged to the residents of Westbourne already and they had maintained the trees. Myles commented that this was in the planning application that was refused. Jane expressed the view that the land could be claimed as a right of way if people have walked on it regularly over a period of 20 years. Committee members were asked to confirm to Jane if they had used this plot of land as a footpath at any time to allow her to gather evidence to make the footpath claim.

Action: All

7.8 Parking outside Hunters (item 11.4)

Paul Hunter had responded to our letter about parking outside the business and stated that the PCSO had also been in contact. The PCSO had spoken to all the employees to encourage them to park elsewhere. Paul Hunter had also stated that he is looking for alternative premises outside the village for his business.

7.9 Dog Poo Bags (item 12)

A post on Facebook on this issue needs to be made.

Action: Ceri

7.10 House of Willaston Farm Terrace (item 13.1)

It has not yet been identified who the landlord is.

Action: Vicky

7.11 Bus

Myles said that Peggy Jones had requested that the timetable for the 22 bus is publicised. It was noted that at times recently the bus has been full so it appears to be well used.

Action: Ceri/Sarah

8. Working Groups

8.1 Willaston Christmas Lights (WCL)

Ceri confirmed that the total now raised for the lights was £25,192. This includes 441 donations under sponsor a star, of which, 316 were for dedications and 125 were donations by people who did not want a dedication. Dedications closed on 22nd October and the live donation page on the website has now been removed. Where late dedications have come in, these have been included in the commemorative book. Sponsorship forms and buckets have been removed from all known venues and the online Go Fund Me page has been withdrawn.

There has continued to be some marketing activity and over the past month 7921 people have received information via Facebook to do with Christmas lights. The highest performing post on Facebook has been a post about the lights being put up.

Following the pruning of the tree, the lights have now been installed and WR&CS public liability insurance has been increased to £10 million, in line with the Council's requirements.

Three events have been held since the last meeting: The Methodist Chapel raised £225 with a children's craft day and film; Style and Beauty held a raffle and raised £47 and the Memorial Hall Soup Lunch raffle raised £97.

Ceri has been contacting everyone who asked for a dedication to be included in the commemorative book to confirm their entry. The agency is working on the book design and will be taking the information to create the book. Ceri is hoping that a second book will be produced for the future, should the first one get worn, within the original budget. The book is expected to be ready by Friday 7th December and will then be available to be viewed at the Methodist Chapel on Saturday mornings in December. There will also be an on-line PDF version. Hilary Booth had produced a draft foreword for the book, which Ceri and the agency have looked at and a revised version will be available for the sub-group to look at. Sandra and John Fisher offered to review this section.

Action: Ceri/Sandra/John F

Vicky asked for a full breakdown of the different areas of fundraising and expressed concern that this has not yet been provided. Paul confirmed he has put together a spreadsheet which excludes donor's names and a short summary of where funding came from will be included in the final sub-group report.

Action: Lights subgroup

David asked about progress with the insurance claim for the stolen raffle ticket money. Ceri read out an email which she had sent to Hilary Booth and Sarah on 2nd November 2018 in which she stated that she had decided to personally pay back the money that was stolen back and therefore no claim needs to be made. A discussion took place in which several committee members expressed the view that Ceri should not pay the money to cover this loss. There was unanimous agreement that the insurance claim should be submitted and the money paid by Ceri would be returned.

Action: Chris/Hilary B

Vicky commented that we need to look at lessons learned from the Christmas Lights appeal as we have not had such a big project before, in order to avoid the same issues arising with other projects.

Paul then explained about risk assessments for the lights. The contractor did a risk assessment for putting the lights on the tree which Paul had checked and found to be very comprehensive. Paul explained that currently the lights are the responsibility of the Council but the ownership will then be gifted to WR&CS, at which point they become WR&CS's responsibility, with WR&CS liable for all associated costs. Paul will draft a risk assessment for the lights and proposed that this is finalised by the lights sub group and Chris. David seconded this proposal and it was agreed by all present. When ownership of the lights is transferred, WR&CS will make a contribution to CWaC and it was agreed that Myles will authorise this transfer of money.

Action: Lights subgroup/Chris

It was agreed that the WCL website should remain live as it will have the community book on it but it may be taken down next year. It was noted that personal details (phone number and email) should be removed. The WCL Facebook site will be deleted at the end of January.

Action: Ceri

Myles agreed to write to Pam Bradley from CWaC on behalf of WR&CS to thank her and others at CWaC for the support she had provided to this project.

Action: Myles

Myles then spoke about the tree pruning as some people had expressed concern about the level of pruning done. Annette expressed concern that the lower branches will grow over the path/road and further pruning will then be needed. Myles explained that CWaC had an arborist who had looked at it and given his expert advice, including the fact that beech trees can die if severely pruned and his advice had been followed.

8.2 WW1 Commemoration Weekend

Sarah reported that the weekend had gone extremely well with all activities being well attended. There will be a debriefing session of the sub-group on Friday 23rd November, after which the amount raised for the Poppy Appeal will be known. The group will also consider if this is a one-off activity. Sarah said that she intends to put some of the information onto a WW1 page on the WR&CS website so that it doesn't get lost. The committee thanked Sarah pulling this community-wide event together.

Action: Sarah

Sarah reported that Hilary Morris and Alex Parry (a student from Neston High School) who was involved in the original research project had been invited to the service at Westminster Abbey as a result of their involvement.

9. WR&CS Matters

9.1 Correspondence/Email/Facebook

A list of correspondence had been circulated in advance to committee members. It was noted that it had been a particularly busy period, with both Facebook and the website having a lot of footfall. This update was appreciated and it was agreed to do this for future meetings. **Action: Sarah**

9.2 AGM

John Fisher said that the AGM had gone well but the map which was given as an appendix to the constitution had caused some confusion. Paul agreed to try to improve it. Ceri suggested that more time could have been given to discussion about the constitution. **Action: Paul**

Ceri commented that the last week in October is half term and there were a number of people who had wanted to attend the AGM but were away then. It was agreed to look at an alternative date. **Action: Chris**

Sue commented that we need to improve the refreshments with more wine and nicer food to eat.

It was agreed not to have separate organisation tables, rather just one table at the back for organisations that wish to put leaflets out.

Myles commented that the police presentation was poor and it was a shame they did not stay until the end. However, it was felt that a greater link would be useful with PCSOs and suggested that they are invited to a WR&CS meeting twice a year to update us on issues. **Action: Chris**

Following the AGM, we had written to Aldi who had responded to confirm that they tell their lorries not to go through the village and will follow up on vehicle movements on the date that was mentioned at the AGM.

At the AGM, Myles was given a list of pavements that needed attention and he will be following this up.

Action: Myles

c. Christmas Card Fair (Saturday 3rd November 2018)

Sarah reported that nine organisations had attended and eight had let us know how much money they made, which ranged from £120 to £287. Between the eight, they had raised £1598. In addition, WR&CS raised about £140 from the raffle and door.

d. Bench on Green

Sandra agreed to paint this in Spring but contact needs to be made with the relatives of the person who donated the bench if possible. A risk assessment will need to be produced and agreed.

Action: Sandra/Chris

e. Logo

Ruth Hampshire had submitted a paper in advance about a possible new WR&CS logo based upon the millstone on the Little Green. She explained some of the history and WR&CS's involvement in creating the millstone and noted it had also been included on the front page of the Willaston District Community Plan. Debs expressed concern that this already being used by the Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club and could cause confusion if WR&CS adopted it. Helen Jakubczak and John Fisher noted that an image of a windmill is used by the school and football team and suggested that it is generally recognised as a logo of Willaston village. Ceri commented that the tree on the Green is also a recognised aspect of the village. Suggestions made were on how to progress the development of a logo, including giving a brief to a graphic artist or holding a competition to design a new logo. Chris, Helen Jakubczak, John Fisher, along with Ruth Hampshire were asked to form a working group with the aim of coming to the next meeting with proposals of how to take this forward. **Action: Chris, Helen J and John F**

f. Lottery Licence

Chris requested that Friends of Hadlow Road Station Community Group use the WR&CS lottery licence early in 2019 to raffle a 4.5l bottle of whisky donated by Paul and Jean Murphy. This was proposed by John Woodrow, seconded by Paul and agreed by all present.

10. Financial Report

Hilary Booth submitted a Financial Report of all WR&CS accounts. This report showed that at 31st October 2018, the WR&CS current account had a balance of £873.87; the Play Area account had a balance of £75.48; and the Lottery account had a balance of £2063.50. At 12th November 2018, there was £974.21 for the WW1 project in the play area account and at 11th November 2018, the Christmas Lights account had a balance of £24,958.44. Hilary noted that £331 of the current account is ring-fenced for newsletters and that there is the £250 loan to be repaid to the WR&CS current account from the WW1 activities. The final figures for the WW1 activities should be available shortly and any profit will be paid to the Poppy Appeal.

Hilary confirmed that in future financial reports will be sent electronically with the other committee papers.

John Woodrow thanked Hilary for the work that she had done. It was noted that WR&CS now have banners for children's art and exhibition that can be used by other organisations.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

Jane reported that the footpaths and bridleways are starting to get muddy now, particularly FP61, Adfalent Lane. However, all routes are passable.

The promised improvements of filling in the hollows of BR66 (end of Street Hey Lane) and FP33 (Change Lane) have not yet taken place as CWaC has no budget for this work currently. A suggestion had been made to Jane that the crushed concrete from the Roften works could be used and she contacted CWaC. Unfortunately, this is not suitable for BR66 as it is a local Wildlife Area and it was thought to be too expensive to move material. However, Richard Ankers has said he would put some road planings in the worst pot holes on FP33 himself.

Jane had received a complaint about the section of the Wirral Way around Roften near Hooton Station. This part is not in Willaston but Jane has emailed the Ranger about it. The person involved has also contacted Myles who assured the committee that it will be cleaned up.

The work on the ramp leading onto the Wirral Way from Wallcroft has not yet been done, despite assurances it would be done two months ago. This work is funded through Myles' councillors' budget.

Jane had also received a complaint about a bush obstructing the kissing gate at the junction of the Wirral Way and FP32. This was reported to Richard Ankers who removed it himself. Richard has also contacted the owner of the adjacent field to BR64 (Feryness Lane) about the potential danger of dead elms but so far, no action has occurred. Remedial work to FP30 (Hooton Road to Mill Lane) has also been reported and is waiting for action.

Jane and a volunteer have been clearing FP31 (Hooton Road to Benty Heath Lane) which is now passable for Winter.

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

12. Planning

In Barry's absence, Chris reported on planning issues.

The application for an angling club at Damhead Lane, which WR&CS objected to, has been approved. A planning application for making outbuildings at 20 Hooton Road into accommodation was approved with the only objection coming from McCarthy and Stone. Chris said that he understood that a revised application would be submitted from McCarthy and Stone which would need to reflect this approved development.

Myles reported that he will be objecting to the application to erect a dwelling at Bramley Cottage due to the size of the site.

Sarah reported that she and Chris had a meeting with the developers for the Nessum Dorma site. Their main interest was to explore the opportunities for affordable housing, as this had been mentioned in our response

to their current application. We confirmed that WR&CS would not object to an alternative design of the same footprint as long as it fitted with the locality. They did enquire about further development but we said that as it is greenbelt land we would object to any greater footprint.

Jane asked about the Roften obligation to widen the entrance at the A41. Myles commented that showhouses were likely to be up in early Spring and agreed to check if there was any timescale regarding this obligation. He also noted that there were several other obligations as part of the planning agreement. Myles also commented that at the time of the application, GPs in the area had confirmed that there would be adequate provision for the new population. Annette commented that it is now possible to put your name down for houses available next Summer. **Action: Myles**

13. Organisation Reports

The reports below had been submitted in advance or were given at the meeting.

In response to questions, Debs explained that the Christmas Lights Switch-On will include a market with stalls in the Memorial Hall, food and drink. The Switch-On takes place on Monday 3rd December, starting at 5pm with Hadlow Green Singers and Santa arriving. The lights will be switched on at 6pm and Simon Le Barber singing from 6.30-8.30pm. The market will run until 8.30pm. Debs confirmed that money raised will go to the Rotary charities which this year are Wirral Women's and Children Aid and various local homeless charities. The lights will be switched on by Myles, in his capacity as the Local Councillor.

Paul explained why Festival Society had to cancel the Christmas Tree Festival (see report below). The WI had already created decorations for their tree but are now hoping to display it in the Methodist Chapel, along with the Methodist tree so that people can see it when viewing the Commemorative Book in December.

13.1 Christ Church

No report received.

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

You will probably have seen that Real Skills' apprentices have laid a considerable amount of railway sleepers and track and that it is looking good and progressing well. However, it is at a much slower pace than we envisaged which probably reflects the complexity and safety of railway track laying! We are so pleased to have identified this rail track training company based in Liverpool and being able to provide these apprentices with practical track laying experience.

The top of the signal has been removed thanks to Liam from <http://safeclimb.co.uk> so that refurbishment work can commence on this part whilst at ground level, which will be much easier and safer to do. In addition, painting the signal stem will now be a lot easier too. However, these jobs are very much dependant on the weather now that winter has officially arrived.

The Ticket Office sign and Waiting Room sign have been repaired/refurbished and we are pleased to say that both now hang on the wall as it was in the 1970's. The East section of the South platform looks splendid with the flagged top and the planting on the rear slope with some replacement hornbeam planted to replace those that didn't survive but also to fill in some planting gaps.

Sarah Shannon and Chris Hampshire were guests on Radio Merseyside's live early morning breakfast show on Friday 9th November to promote the village's WW1 weekend celebrations, including the afternoon event on 11th November at Hadlow Road Station. We were blessed with sunshine on the Sunday afternoon, although the gazebos were put up in rain in the morning. Nearly 330 teas, coffees and pieces of cake were served, and all profit from this event will be donated to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Very positive feedback was received after this WW1 event at Hadlow Road Station whilst Erik Fritz (Mayor of Sickenhausen Germany) and his wife Helga our German dignitaries enjoyed this event very much. For those of who stayed to listen to the closing ceremony, and hear Erik Fritz read a letter from a relative in the war, a young man writing to his father, and Cllr Myles Hogg reading of a young English soldier's story of the same war, both feeling fear, pain, heartbreak, and destruction, you will ask yourself, what is the point of war. They do not want to kill or be killed. Hopefully the leaders of the world will one day realize this.

Tickets for Santa's Grotto on the 9th December in the signal box at Hadlow Road Station are selling well, and children's "present wrapping sessions" are under way with a group of wrapping volunteers meeting regularly. Even if all the children's tickets are sold you can still pay for an adult ticket that includes refreshments of

mulled wine and mince pie or tea/coffee. This will be a happy event with entertainment including "tiger" painted children's faces, a balloon man, and traction engine rides around the car park, that will be closed for the day of the event!

The October community pop-up café was exceptionally well attended as it was great for sitting outside at the tables on the platform but unfortunately despite sending out for extra supplies twice we ran out of bacon, batch, teacakes and cake so apologies if you came late and couldn't get any food. We have learnt and will order more for future community pop-up café openings! We have now gone onto monthly community pop-up- cafe openings for winter. The next pop-up café opening dates are Sunday January 27th and Sunday February 24th from 10.30am to 1.30pm with NO pop-up café opening in December.

We hope to see you all there if you are brave enough to face whatever weather we have by then. The heating in the Waiting Room will be on if you're happy to share a table!

13.3 Friends of Willaston Meadow (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

At the latest working party, volunteers trimmed the grass round the trunks of the trees in the orchard, which is now tidy for the winter. In the coming months, some limited pruning of the trees will take place. The path through School Wood was cleared, cutting back bramble stems which trip the unwary. Jackson's Pond is starting to fill again, but we hope not to the level of last year.

13.4 Hadlow Green Singers (Submitted by Helen Mayles)

There will be a Christmas concert on 7th December at 8pm at Christ Church. Tickets available from McColls.

13.5 Horticultural Society (Submitted by Pam Irving)

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and welcome you back on Tuesday 15th January when we will be having a talk on 'Preparing your garden for Spring' by Sue Nicholas. On Tuesday 19th February will be our AGM followed by Cheese and Wine and a really good catch up with friends.

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.

13.6 Johnston Recreation Ground

The last meeting was held on 27th September.

- ALLOTMENTS - The Council have almost cleared the long waiting list by offering plots out of the area. It has been suggested that two new plots be put adjacent to the existing plots, behind the notice board near to the entrance. This was voted on and is going ahead.
- TENNIS - The club have installed an equipment box.
- FOOTBALL - John Fisher advised that the adult Willaston team no longer was representative of Willaston village and mentioned that there is a team in Little Sutton (who had 5 members living in Willaston) who were keen to use the Willaston ground. They would be happy to play under the Willaston name. At the moment they play on the Levers ground. They are in the Wallasey District League in the 2nd division but would play in the West Cheshire League in the 2nd Division. Andy James (Council) stated that it would have to be agreed with the Council before any offer of the pitch could be made to another team. This could not go ahead without this agreement.
- PLAY AREA - This is a much loved and well used area. There is still one more piece of equipment to be supplied for older children. Funding is needed!

There is a Management Plan to state what will be the use of Johnston Rec. which will consist of 3 documents
1. Series of Projects -The Cost -To Prioritise; 2. Specification -Mowing -Cutting Hedges -Negotiate with Streetscene -Possible Volunteer work.; 3. Cost - The Benefits -Man Hours -Money -and Time Spent -Income. We are listed as no. 4 in a list of 72. The plan covers the whole of the Grounds.

The next meeting is on Wed 21st Nov at 7:30pm in Christchurch. This will be the A.G.M. followed by an ordinary meeting. Residents are welcome to attend.

13.7 Memorial Hall (submitted by Rob King)

We still have vacancies for a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Bookings Secretary. We have to have new arrangements in place for bookings by the New Year. Some people have asked what will happen if we cannot find a replacement. Clearly if no one comes forward we will need a plan and it could be that we will only be able to deal with annual regular bookings. There would not be the facility to deal with casual lettings. Based upon our current known regular bookings we would still be able to function, but some planned work may have to be placed on hold. This is a very unfortunate state of affairs but one which we hope will be resolved soon.

13.8 Scouting

No report received.

13.9 Football Clubs

No report received

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

At the October meeting members were entertained by the Mersey Morris Men, who gave a demonstration as well as explaining the origins of Morris Dancing, and the history of the group. Several members have been taking part in Walking Netball, and this will feature in a talk in November, which also sees the Annual Meeting. A party will be visiting a performance of *Calendar Girls*, and a Christmas meal has been booked at the Nag's Head. After a slight frost the flowers outside the hall finally gave up, so members have planted pansies supplied by Follyfield.

13.11 Willaston Methodist Chapel (Submitted by Sheila Smith)

On Saturday 27th October the Chapel held a day of events in support of the Christmas Lights Appeal. It started at 9-30am until 4pm in the schoolroom and was an excellent community day, happy and relaxed with children engrossed in creating crafts for Christmas trees, whilst the adults enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere with coffee and cake. At 7pm. the film *The Greatest Showman* was screened in Chapel and enjoyed by the audience. The donations buckets revealed a generous £225.50 for the Christmas Lights Appeal! A big thank you to all who helped and supported.

As our part of the WW1 weekend, the Chapel held fund-raising events for the Poppy Appeal. During Saturday the children came and made poppies and peace doves in all sort of creative ways. The Scouting and Guiding units had produced imaginative displays which were exhibited in the schoolroom, impressing visitors. There was also children's schoolwork on display, plus relevant artefacts kindly loaned by individuals. In the evening the film *Oh! What a Lovely War* was screened to a receptive audience after a scary welcome by "Major" Jim Shaw! Over the weekend £320 was raised in donations for the Poppy Appeal.

13.12 Willaston Royal British Legion

No report received.

13.13 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club

The Christmas lights switch on event takes place Monday 3rd December and will start from 5pm with mulled wine & mince pies served as you arrive, there will be a number of Christmas stalls within the Memorial Hall open until 8:30pm (approx.). The lights switch on will take place @ 6pm and carols will be led by The Hadlow Green Singers with a visit from Santa before he leaves to begin his first tour of the village. We have applied to the council to close the car parking around the Green from 3.30-8pm to provide a safe environment but if this is not permitted, we ask for everyone's cooperation in keeping the area clear of vehicles.

Santa's sleigh schedule this year will be 3rd, 10th & 17th December (weather permitting).

There are no club meetings in December due to our busy schedule - if you'd like to get involved in any of our events please contact our club secretary on Willaston.secretary@gmail.com

13.14 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group (Submitted by John Woodrow)

There is nothing to report. If you have comments, information or requests you can contact me on 01513273260 or at johnwoodrow@btinternet.com

13.15 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

13.16 Willaston Village Festival (submitted by Paul Janvier)

Regretfully our decision to cancel the Christmas Tree Festival in Christ Church this year may have caused inconvenience, but the reasons we feel were justified.

It was in June this year that Revd Stephen Bazely agreed that we could once again hold another joint event in Christ Church, but it was not until 22nd October that we met to discuss the details, following which we announced the Festival would take place. Unfortunately, it was just before our meeting that Stephen became ill and unable to participate. We then discussed the event directly with members of Christ Church who expressed concern about their workload and said they were unable to help with any of the arrangements, similar to that which had been organised in previous years, such as the market, the films and refreshments during the weekend. The two main events in the village: lights on the village green beech tree and the WW1 celebrations have taken their toll on volunteers and as a consequence we felt that too much was being imposed on a few people.

The objective of the Christmas Tree Festival is not just to have a display of Christmas Trees but also to involve the wider community with market stalls on the Saturday and Musicians on the Sunday, films in the evenings and refreshments throughout the weekend. This takes a considerable effort by many people who are also involved in other events taking place around this time and it is very unfair to ask them to volunteer for more and more events.

We do hope that members of the village understand our reasons for cancelation but will consider supporting the event should it be organised in 2019.

14. Councillor's Report

14.1 Budget

There is currently a consultation on the Council's budget for 2019-2020 which is open until 2nd December 2018. More information can be found on www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/deliveringyourpriorities You can also ring 0300 123 8 123 and quote 'delivering your priorities consultation.'

14.2 Plus Bus

The Plus Bus team have asked to come to a meeting to let us know more about the service and have been invited to the March meeting. Sue commented that their information is on the noticeboard.

14.3 Foster Carers

CWaC is currently having a recruitment drive for foster carers, together with other councils. A new website www.foster4.co.uk has been launched, along with a Facebook page @foster4cheshire which you can get an information pack from, or ring 01925 444 100.

14.4 Green Sites

Myles encouraged the committee to report people who camp on green sites in order to provide security as they can then put in for planning permission for housing. The planning department will look into anyone who is doing this to ensure that it is legitimate.

14.5 Better Renting Campaign

CWaC is working with Citizens Advice Cheshire West to launch a Better Renting Campaign to ensure that tenants in the private rented sector have safe homes. CWaC run a Cheshire Landlord Accreditation Scheme which is a register of landlords that agree to meet certain standards. For more information visit <https://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/housing/private-rented-sector/better-renting-campaign.aspx>

14.6 Leaf Clearing

There is a programme for leaf clearing across the CWaC area. Willaston has just had a clear-up and this will be done again on 3rd December 2018 and 4th February 2019.

14.7 Potholes

CWaC will be receiving an additional £3.5m for highway maintenance which will support resurfacing of roads and pothole repairs.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Defibrillator

Debs asked about the provision of defibrillators in the village, noting that they can be sited outside now. Myles commented that he had offered funding for one in the Memorial Hall but if it was preferred to place it elsewhere, he was in agreement with that. Suggestions were made that it could go in the phone box or outside the Pharmacy. John Woodrow agreed to speak to the GP surgery and the pharmacy.

Action: John W

15.2 Tidiness

Lynn commented that the village is looking untidy with shops not clearing leaves or repairing broken signs.

15.3 Constitution

Jane commented that the constitution group had suggested that we need a set of rules to go alongside the constitution which should be agreed by the committee. All members were asked to send any suggested rules to Sarah.

Action: All

15.4 Cricket Bat

Ceri raised an issue about a cricket bat that was to be donated for the Christmas Lights. She confirmed that this is still with the family who will use it for separate fund-raising when they think it is appropriate.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.20pm.

Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 21st January 2019

Monday 18th March 2019

Monday 20th May 2019

Monday 15th July 2019

Monday 16th September 2019

Monday 18th November 2019

AGM on Friday 18th October 2019 (NB Change of date to a week earlier)