

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019  
in the Memorial Hall Committee Room

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

Present - Committee Members: Lyn Jackson-Eves, Sandra Kettiros, Colin Jerrett, Myles Hogg, Sheila Smith, John Fisher, Roy Spraggon, Helen Mayles, Paul Janvier, Helen Jakubczak, Madeline Hughes, John Woodrow, Rob King, Alan Roberts and Hilary Morris.

Tony Pitman, June Pullen, Debbie Green, Ged Weeden and Debbie Weeden attended throughout the meeting as observers.

### **Residents' Issues**

Before the meeting started, Chris commented that it would be discourteous to record committee meetings without the prior knowledge and agreement of the committee and that it would be illegal for any recording (or part thereof) to be used or made available. He therefore asked that all mobile phones are taken off the table and put away.

Nigel Pratten attended the meeting to give an update on the remaining funds of the Willaston War Memorial Fund. The fund was established following damage to the war memorial and theft of the two bronze plaques in 2011. Approximately £17,000 was raised and around £5,600 remains unused since then. Nigel was anxious that this should not disappear from public awareness. He explained that the present committee will be re-activated and that at their last public meeting, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013, it was recorded that 'the steering committee were firmly of the opinion that the surplus monies should be held solely as a fund for the future repair and upkeep of the Willaston War Memorial'. Nigel suggested that there could be future expenses, either for the Memorial or its surroundings (e.g. steps, handrail, flagstones). He also noted that Follyfields Nursery had generously provided the flowers and gardening at the Memorial for many years, but this cannot be assumed to continue indefinitely.

Nigel also explained that there does not appear to be any formal ownership of the Memorial, rather it appears to be a community asset on Church land. Hilary M said that it was a replacement for a wooden one which was put up after the First World War by one family.

Nigel confirmed that the current committee is himself, Fred Chapman and Richard Berry and requested a representative from WR&CS. John Woodrow agreed to take on this role. Ged Weeden also offered to go onto the committee as a community representative. Alan Roberts agreed to ask Christ Church for a representative. **Action: Alan**

Nigel also asked if the War Memorial committee could use the WR&CS AGM to report on the existence of the fund and any work done by the committee. It was agreed that this would be an item at future WR&CS AGMs.

Chris thanked Nigel for continuing with this work and also for auditing the WR&CS accounts, which he has now been doing for 30 years.

### **Committee Meeting**

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Clare Jones, Annette Troake and Debs Jerrett.

#### **2. Welcome and Introductions**

Chris welcomed Colin Jerrett, who was representing Willaston and South Wirral Rotary and Alan Roberts who was representing Christ Church.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

The minutes were proposed as correct by Hilary Booth, seconded by Sue Unsworth and accepted by all members present as a true record of the meeting.

### **5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

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

#### **5.1 Organisation list (item 7.2)**

Sheila confirmed that this was now almost complete and should be available shortly. **Action: Sheila**

#### **5.2 Tractors (item 7.4)**

Sarah expressed concern about writing to some farmers and not others re tractors going through the village as there is not a list of farms in the area. It was agreed not to pursue this any further.

#### **5.3 House on Willaston Farm Terrace (item 7.10)**

It has not been possible to identify who the landlord is so no further action can be taken.

#### **5.4 Pavements (item 9.2)**

Myles has passed on to CWaC the list of pavements in a poor state that was given to him after the AGM and is awaiting a response.

#### **5.5 Map of our area (item 9.2)**

This still has to be actioned. **Action: Paul**

#### **5.6 A41 widening (item 12)**

Myles confirmed that he had checked when the entrance to the A41 should be widened to make a distinct left-hand feeder lane, and that the work should have been done at the start of the Rofthen building work. The Planning Officer has therefore raised this with Stewart Milne Homes and an application was sent to Highways England. The first iteration of the junction improvement has been turned down, but a new version is expected soon. It was noted that this means some of the wall and trees are likely to be removed.

#### **5.7 Defibrillator (item 15.1)**

John Woodrow confirmed that the pharmacy would be willing to have this outside their building. Myles agreed to discuss it further at the next meeting of the Memorial Hall committee. **Action: Myles**

### **6. Sub-Committees**

#### **6.1 Willaston Christmas Lights (WCL)**

A final report from the sub-committee had been circulated before the meeting. Paul confirmed that the aim to provide Christmas Lights on the beech tree had been achieved and the accumulated fund should be sufficient to pay for electricity and maintenance of the lights for the next ten years. The final amount raised was £24,032.44 and Paul confirmed that a full breakdown is available for anyone who wishes to see it. The cost of purchasing the lights was £14,806, of which £3,237 is still outstanding and there is £420 to be paid for the printing of the commemorative book.

The lights carry a warranty of five years, but it is expected to last twice that time, although lights will need to be removed for any pruning of the tree, which would cost about £3,000. Lyn commented that if they do have to be removed, it might be better for them to go around the tree, rather than up and down. This can be looked into when the situation arises.

The on-going maintenance is expected to be around £540 per year and the cost of electricity £63 per year. This will leave a small balance at the end of ten years of approximately £3,100. Public liability insurance has been obtained covering by WR&CS with a £10m limit.

Paul explained that the sub-committee is now disbanded. He passed on three books of information and a pen drive with the electronic information for future record. He confirmed that the website, Facebook page and email address have been closed. Sarah reported that as the Data Controller, she had written to the three members of the sub-group outlining the actions that they now need to take. Ceri and Myles have confirmed that they have completed these and Paul confirmed that he will do so after the meeting. Ceri confirmed that she owns the technical backbone of the website and had lent it for the WCL activity. The domain name will expire in a few months' time. Sarah agreed to put a final report on the WR&CS website and to share this with the sub-group for comments. **Action: Sarah/Paul/Ceri/Myles**

With regard to the break-in and stolen money, it has been confirmed that we will get £250 from the WR&CS insurance company. Ceri will speak to David Smith about a query that has been raised separately. **Action: Ceri**

On behalf of the sub-committee, Paul thanked everyone who supported the initiative including the 'hohoho' supporters' group, The Chase Creative Consultants, Helen Diamond Swimming School, Methodist Chapel and the Memorial Hall.

The committee also expressed its congratulations to the Rotary Club, Helen Diamond-Silas and all the volunteers for the very successful switch-on night.

Ceri thanked the Methodist Chapel for hosting the dedication book on Saturday mornings throughout December. She confirmed that the book is now in the chapel and consideration needs to be given to a suitable storage place. A copy will also be uploaded onto the WR&CS website when it is available electronically. **Action: Sarah/Ceri**

Chris thanked Paul for all the work that he had done relating to the electricity supply, risk assessments and financial information.

## **6.2 WW1 Commemoration Weekend**

Sarah reported that the weekend had raised £1259.51 for the Poppy Appeal and a letter had been received from Richard Berry. The information from the 'Lest We Forget' book is now on the website.

## **6.3 WR&CS Logo**

Chris reported that a sub-committee meeting has not yet been held.

## **6.4 Proposed Guidance Notes**

Vicky explained that when the constitution sub-group had looked at the constitution, they felt that there was a need to create some guidance notes to support the constitution explaining what was expected of all WR&CS members and how to deal with problems. The sub-group had met twice to develop the proposed guidance notes, which were circulated prior to the meeting. It was clear that there were a number of comments from committee members about the draft and therefore it was agreed that any comments should be sent to Sarah by 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019. She and Chris will then consider whether they can be incorporated for discussion in a 30-minute session at the next committee meeting or whether a special meeting should be called. **Action: All**

## **6.5 Play Area**

The terms of reference for the play area sub-committee, previously circulated, were discussed. One amendment was suggested: that item 2e should read: Liaise with and work through Cheshire West and Chester Council *and the Johnson Recreation Ground Advisory Group* throughout'. With this amendment, the terms of reference were proposed by Hilary Morris, seconded by Vicky Spraggon and agreed by all present. Paul suggested that this could be a template for future sub-committees.

Sarah agreed to be the leader of the sub-committee and Vicky agreed to take responsibility for financial aspects. Helen Jakubczak and Myles also agreed to be on the sub-committee. Sarah will also approach Annette to see if she is interested in joining the group. **Action: Sarah**

Hilary Booth agreed to meet Sarah and Vicky to set the financial arrangements.

## **7. WR&CS Matters**

### **7.1 Correspondence/Email/Facebook**

A list of correspondence had been circulated in advance to committee members. Sarah said that she had been asked if committee members were able to see the detailed correspondence if they wished and she had some concerns about sending copies via email, particularly if the contents were sensitive. She suggested that in this case, members could see a hard copy at her house. Hilary Morris proposed, and Hilary Booth seconded that this is something that should be decided between the Secretary and the Chair on an individual basis when such requests were made and the proposal was unanimously supported.

It was agreed that the anti-fracking campaign was not something directly affecting Willaston and therefore WR&CS should not be involved. It was also agreed that WR&CS should not advertise the house building by Stewart Milne Homes at the Roften site.

There was a discussion around the blocked footpath linking two sides of Field Hey Lane and noted that it had been blocked for many years and was private land. Myles commented that he had responded and the person raising the issue was happy with the response. Therefore, it was agreed that no further action should be taken.

### **7.2 Risk Assessment**

Chris noted that we are taking on more projects and therefore need to do more on risk assessment. He suggested that we need to have an agreed delegated authority for approving risk assessments. After some discussion, Paul proposed and Sheila seconded that the person leading the project should produce the risk assessment, pulling in expert help when required and that any two Officers are authorised to approve the risk assessment on behalf of WR&CS. This was agreed unanimously.

## **8. Speed Limits**

Rob drew the committee's attention to the new speed limits around the village. Quarry Road and Hanns Hall Road now are 40mph and Hadlow Road is 50mph. It was agreed that these should be publicised on Facebook and the website.

**Action: Ceri/Sarah**

Barry asked about progress for the proposed one-way system on Quarry Road and Myles said that this is still planned but isn't progressing at the moment.

Ged asked about the results of the traffic survey on Hadlow Road. Myles said that they hadn't yet been published and he will let the committee know when they are.

It was noted that the PCSO had been in the village with a speed camera several times recently.

## **9. Financial Report**

Hilary Booth had circulated a Financial Report of all WR&CS accounts in advance. This report showed that at 28<sup>th</sup> December 2018, the WR&CS current account had a balance of £1106.27; the Play Area account had a balance of £1075.48; the Christmas Lights account had a balance of £12,463.44 and the Lottery account had a balance of £1368.50. Hilary noted that £331 of the current account is ring-fenced for newsletters the WW1 activities had raised £1259.51. A grant of £1,000 had been received from the Lord Leverhulme Trust for the play area and Chris had sent a formal thank you on behalf of WR&CS. There was a bonus lottery winner for Christmas.

Chris thanked Hilary for all the work she had done on the finances.

## **10. Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals**

Barry reported that the application at Bramley Cottage, Neston Road, for which we had submitted detailed comments, had been refused by CWaC. The application at Nessun Dorma, Lydiate Lane, for which we had

also submitted detailed comments, had been amended and approved by CWaC. The new plans leave the old house standing and build four new houses in the rear. The footprint is similar to the earlier plans.

Myles reported that he had asked about the CWaC policy for disposing of freehold land, in relation to the corner of Smithy Lane. This plot is going to be advertised for disposal in the Chester Chronicle on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 for two weeks. The appeal ruled that the land can only be used as garden with no parking and cannot be fenced off. Helen Jakubczak expressed concern that the purchasers may later apply to change the conditions, but Myles confirmed that they will be written into the land deeds. Helen Jakubczak proposed, and Sandra seconded, that WR&CS put in an objection to this disposal. This was agreed by all present.

**Action: Barry**

It was noted that Heath Lane Nurseries has now leased land to Marsh Nurseries, which were formally based in Parkgate. Barry said that he believed that the people who were going to buy the land where the garage is on Hooton Road have withdrawn. Myles said that he understood that McCarthy and Stone may appeal against the refusal for building at the former British Legion site.

Concern was expressed about horses on the fields at the start of FP32 (behind Pollards) as the field is very wet. It was suggested that the RSCPA be contacted if any individual has concerns for the horses' welfare.

Chris thanked Barry for all the work he does on planning issues.

## **11. Organisations' Reports**

### **11.1 Scouts' proposal re dog poo bag dispensers**

The Scouts are interested in providing dog poo bag dispensers around the village. In general, the committee was not against the idea but felt that there were several issues that need to be considered. These included where the dispensers are located: it was noted that they could not be put in the conservation area and other areas may need permissions – for example from the Johnson's Recreation Ground Advisory Group. There were some concerns that this could lead to an increase in litter and/or bags adorning trees and suggested that they were initially trialled for a limited time to see if there were any issues. Concerns were also expressed about ongoing maintenance and liaison with the CWaC dog warden was suggested. Sarah agreed to feed these comments back to Clare.

**Action: Sarah**

### **11.2 Reports**

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

#### **11.2.1 Christ Church**

We had a great Advent and Christmas with a series of Advent Reflections by Fr Lyndon for the first time. Rev Stephen Bazely was on sick leave due to exhaustion from October until Christmas and returned at the start of January. This year we anticipate taking significant steps with the re-ordering of the building and are working on cementing our relationship with the Scouting groups for the years to come. Fr Lyndon has been made Bishop's Officer for Self-Supporting Ministry and will unfortunately be unable to give as much to the parish as he has in the past. This year we are hoping to run a Bible Course for anyone to attend, looking at the contents of the bible from start to finish and how it all links together.

Between ourselves and the Methodist Church, we sent 82 shoeboxes to Romania.

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

Our Santa's Grotto on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2018 was a huge success and the best one yet. 149 children went in to see Santa in his well-decorated signal box grotto along with 195 adults attending as well. Let's say, it was busy! We had the traditional steam traction ride "chuffing" around the car park giving rides to the children and adults and the face painter was kept busy all afternoon with lovely artwork on faces. This year we also had a "balloon man" who was a big success entertaining the children who were waiting in the queue to see Santa.

It takes over 600 hours of volunteer time with over 30 volunteers involved in all the planning and preparation let alone the day of the event itself and still clearing away days after.

Hadlow Green Singers, Riversign choir, and Simon Le Barber were singing all afternoon to keep us all entertained. This year they were based on the far platform so everyone could hear and see them perform some great musical entertainment. The gingerbread men, mince pies, mulled wine and tea/coffee were

enjoyed by all visitors. Thanks to all of you who came along and we hope that you and your children thoroughly enjoyed it as much as we did. Certainly, St John's Ambulance and our PCSO did!

Work is still in progress with relaying the railway track but hopefully the end (of the line) is in sight. Meanwhile, the signal arm and supporting mechanisms have been removed from the top of the signal to make repairing and repainting these parts easier. Painting of the signal stem will also be undertaken when the weather improves before the signal arm mechanism is put back in place.

In addition, there is a lot of intricate cable work to be done in order for the signal to be operated from the signal box, and this could take some time before all this work is completed. Watch out for adverts for signal box opening days when visitors will be able to access the signal box to see what life was like as signaller in the 1950s including pulling the signal lever in the signal box to operate the signal itself.

Thanks to Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) who have replaced and painted white the large timber gates to the car park and the kissing gate onto the platform as these structures were in a state of disrepair. Other timbers around Hadlow Road station will also be renovated including the signal box handrail that is rotten

On a very busy pop-up-cafe morning in late November, CWaC's food hygiene inspector arrived, unannounced, obviously. However, after 2 hours of inspecting and viewing proceedings we were awarded the top 5-star rating. Congratulations to all the kitchen helpers. Well done, you deserve it. The next pop-up-cafes are on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 24<sup>th</sup> February from 10.30am to 1.30pm and thereafter the pop-up café will be open twice monthly through to November. Please do come and join us at one of these pop-up café openings. If you would be interested in helping in the café occasionally, please do let us know.

We have 30-90 minutes talks with slides available to local groups – do contact us if you would like to have a talk for your group.

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

Shortly after my last report the second half of Jackson's Pond was dredged and deepened. This reprofiling of the pond edge should mitigate the problem of it overflowing onto the path as happened last winter. A working party in December removed most of the rubbish which had been pulled out (see the photograph on Facebook). In January we looked forward to the coming of spring by raking out dead grass and leaves from under the hedge between Jackson's Pond and the meadow, clearing space for the snowdrops which are already emerging.

#### **11.2.4 Hadlow Green Singers**

No report received.

#### **11.2.5 Horticultural Society** (Submitted by Pam Irving)

I hope you all had a good Christmas and are looking forward to a good 2019. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February it 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.

#### **11.2.6 Johnston Recreation Ground** (submitted by Sue Unsworth)

Nothing to report as there was no meeting in December.

#### **11.2.7 Memorial Hall** (submitted by Rob King)

Hall bookings for 2019 continue to be strong and invoices for main users have been issued, Our 2019 budget is looking healthy and we look forward to continuing to do what we can to improve facilities offered. We still have trustee vacancies for a Chair person and Vice Chair together with some specific organisation vacancies. We hope that during the coming weeks some interest will be shown in the vacancies.

Our Bookings Secretary, Phil Maltas, has now moved on because of a promotion at work and family commitments. We are grateful for what Phil has achieved during his time with us. We are pleased to advise that the role will now be shared by two existing trustees, Liz Young and Pam Irving. Liz had done the job for

many years but resigned because of the amount of time that was taken in fulfilling the full role. Now the workload is being split and Liz will deal with the booking process, showing prospective hirers around the Hall and dealing with the pre-hire paperwork and Pam will deal with the post-hire facility checks, issuing deposit refunds as appropriate and keeping the online booking diary on our website up to date. If there is anyone out there who is interested in assisting then please get in touch with either Liz and /or Pam in the first instance to find out more about what is involved. Liz may be contacted by email at: [bookings.memorialhall@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.memorialhall@gmail.com) or by telephone on **0151 512 0742**.

Anyone considering making a booking is invited to look at the online calendar to check availability - just follow this link: <http://www.willastonmemorialhall.co.uk/calendar>

Over the holiday period our BT Wi-Fi has been upgraded and a new router has been installed. Anyone hiring the hall will be provided with password details, but we have also simplified matter by having a BT Guest Wi-F set up. The benefit of this is that you do not have to insert a password to access the internet. When you go to your settings, instead of logging on to the BTBHub6- HJ85, log on to the BT Guest Wi-Fi and click. The screen will ask you to log in which you just click and go past the cookie warnings and there will be a screen which says "Get online". Click on this and you are in.

Hirers are reminded that they have a responsibility to clear away and leave the facility clean and tidy after use. If tables have been used, we would ask that as a matter of course they be wiped down before stacking and securing them on the relevant trolley and then storing them in the correct position.

#### **11.2.8 Scouting**

No report received.

#### **11.2.9 Football Clubs** (submitted by John Fisher)

Willaston Vets finished third in their league before Christmas and play in a cup competition in this New Year as well as friendlies on other Saturdays. The Vets will play their home games on a Saturday afternoon.

For the younger players there are 4 Wolves JFC teams running in the 18/19 season. For the U17 Youth team it has been a difficult start to the season with managerial and coach resignations. The team has improved their performances as the season has progressed but have yet to win a game. The U15 currently are second in their league with games in hand on the top club. The U11 team composed of mainly local players are now playing on a full-size pitch and have lost more than they have won with a couple of draws thrown in. The Under 8's have all their squad from the Willaston Primary School and have progressed well reaching the semi-final of the cup and winning or drawing more games than they have lost. The U7 are a group of 14 very enthusiastic boys and girls who are performing better with each game they play. Only one win so far with more on the horizon. There is an U6 group that is in development and they are looking for more boys and girls to join them.

*Anyone interested in playing for, or helping with training, or assisting on match days: Willaston (Open Age), Willaston Vets or Willaston Wolves should contact John Fisher (Willaston Open Age) 07780 693 284 or Jerry Hopkins (Willaston Wolves) 07714 071552 or Jonathon Todd (Willaston Vets) 07976 458 383.*

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

Christmas is now over but Willastonhey played its part by organising the Carols on the Green, and also decorated a Christmas tree in the Chapel with hand-made decorations. Trees have been planted at Hadlow Road Station to mark the centenary of the Cheshire Federation of Women's Institutes. Our first meeting of the year on 22 January will have the topical theme of Snowdrops. Looking forward to the following month, we shall be taking part in the county quiz, holding our annual dinner at Inglewood, and the bridge drive and afternoon tea will be held on 20 February.

#### **11.2.11 Willaston Methodist Chapel** (Submitted by Sheila Smith)

A Very Happy and Peaceful New Year to all. December was a joyous and busy month for us all at Chapel. The Chapel was open from 10am until 12 noon each Saturday of the month for the viewing of the Christmas Lights Dedication book, and many visitors visited, viewed and had free refreshments with us. The book was appreciated by everyone and Ceri was there to discuss it with them. We were happy to display Willastonhey W.I. Christmas tree alongside our own, adding to the festive atmosphere.

Christ Church joined us as we held 'Meet the Characters' live nativity tableaux for the Willaston School children, which was very popular. The Chapel was full for our annual Candlelit Carol Service, organised, once

again, by John and Teresa Edwards, and friends and families came together for our Christmas morning service. 100's of "Surprise" knitted little angels suddenly appeared on bushes and railings on the route to school one morning, too, with Christmas messages to take them home as a gift from the Methodist Church!!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the February Soup Lunch which we are, once again, hosting at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 9th February. All are welcome to our regular Sunday worship services at 10-45a.m and all the other activities which take place on our premises.

#### **11.2.12 Willaston Royal British Legion**

No report received.

#### **11.2.13 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club** (submitted by Debs Jerrett)

The Christmas lights switch on took place as arranged on 3rd December. The event opened with Carols sung by the Hadlow Green Singers ahead of the countdown by Myles & Ceri. Santa arrived on his sleigh with his own musical accompaniment to meet over a hundred children, before departing on his first tour of the Village. Simon Le Barber continued the music in his own inimitable style and our members continued to distribute mulled wine and mince pies to villagers throughout the evening. Pizza and ice cream were available outside and there was a small "Food Hall" inside with many Christmas Gift stalls in the main part of the Memorial Hall. Our thanks to Friends of Hadlow Road Station who moved their meeting to the Methodist chapel to facilitate a trouble-free meeting for them and maximum enjoyment by the attendees of the Christmas market.

Santa's visits on 11th & 17th December were well received by many young families throughout the village and we were also fortunate to be able to fundraise at Gordale this year. All of this allowed us to have a record-breaking Christmas collection of over £1500! The main charity chosen for our fundraising this Christmas is Wirral Women's and Children's Aid, providing refuge for families in crisis, and we are extremely grateful for the generosity of all concerned.

#### **11.2.14 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group**

No report received

#### **11.2.15 Willaston Toddler Group**

No report received.

#### **11.2.16 Willaston Village Festival**

No report received

### **12. Councillor's Report**

#### **12.1 New 20mph Speed Limits**

Myles reported that an initial evaluation of the new 20mph speed limits put across the CWaC area had led to a small reduction of average speed (less than 1mph) but vehicles travelling at higher speeds had reduced their speeds more. There was an overall reduction of 65% in road traffic collisions and 40% reduction in killed and seriously injured collisions. Myles noted that the Neston Road scheme, which was put in earlier than this programme, had seen average speeds decrease from around 31mph to 24mph.

#### **12.2 Smithy Lane**

Myles reported that no through road signs had been put at each end of Smithy Lane.

#### **12.3 Sexual Health Services**

CWaC has undertaken a procurement process for integrated sexual health services from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The contract has been awarded to Virgin Care Services Ltd, which will work in collaboration with established local third sector and specialist national sexual health providers.

### **13. Footpaths and Bridleways**

Jane reported that the footpaths and bridleways are in better condition than normal for this time of year.

The promised improvements of filling in the hollows of BR66 (end of Street Hey Lane) and FP33 (Change Lane) and remedial work to FP30 (Hooton Road to Mill Lane) have not yet taken place as CWaC has no budget for this work currently. Jane has also reported a dead looking tree overhanging BR66.



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

The CWaC Rights of Way Officer has 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. It was noted that any risk is with the land owner. Cheshire Wildlife has submitted a report with evidence to support the area nearest to Hadlow Road being designated as a Local Wildlife area.

Jane reported that she has been gathering evidence from people who have used the land at the end of Smithy Lane. So far, she has eight completed forms and needs 20 to submit a claim that it should be a public right of way. Jane proposed and Sarah seconded that WR&CS should submit the public right of way application. This was agreed by all present with one abstention. Jane also agreed to speak to the Ramblers and Wirral Footpaths to see if they would support an application. **Action: Jane**

The committee thanked Jane for all she does on footpaths and bridleways and encouraged her to keep going, despite the slow progress that is sometimes made.

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

#### **14. Any Other Business**

##### **14.1 Dog Fighting**

Sue reported rumours that there is a dog fighting ring in Willaston.

##### **14.2 WR&CS Minutes pre-2001**

Jane asked if anyone was aware of early minutes of WR&CS meetings. She suggested that the minutes we have should be put in the Cheshire archives. **Action: Sarah**

##### **14.3 Stuart Milne Development at Hooton**

Rob expressed concern about people wanting to join the surgery when the houses are sold. John Woodrow said that at the time of the planning application, local GPs had said that they had capacity to manage the additional demand.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

#### **Dates for future Committee Meetings:**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

AGM on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (NB Change of date to a week earlier)