

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 15th November 2021  
in Willaston Methodist Chapel Schoolroom

Present - Officers: Brian Greenhalgh (Vice chair), Vicky Spraggon (Co-opted vice-chair), Sarah Shannon (Treasurer), Ceri Jones (Social media officer), Mel Chapman (Planning officer) Margaret Smyth (Footpaths officer),

Present – Committee Members: Roy Spraggon, Rob King, Suzie Dixon, Ruth McElroy, Sue Unsworth, Annette Troake, Cllr Myles Hogg, Sue Hunter, Barry Vowles, Sheila Smith, Helen Mayles, Remco Buckley and Sandra Kettiros

## **Residents' Issues**

Julie Whalley-Sims attended the meeting to discuss concerns they have regarding a property due to be built adjacent to their property (Millmead). Julie discussed when purchasing the property, they were aware that there was planning on the land by the previous property owners and there were no concerns that there was to be a property built. Julie raised concerns that the plot size has changed from the original plan submission and believe the plans to be different from what was approved by CWaC. Construction has commenced and they have engaged with the landowners regarding their concerns.

Barry Vowles advised that Julie could raise this to CWaC enforcement office and if the plans have changed these should be submitted as new plans to the CWaC planning department.

## **Committee Meeting**

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

Apologies were received from Lyn Jackson-Eves, Madeline Hughes, Sheila Greenhalgh, John Woodrow, Liz Young, Fiona Ennys, Ruth Hampshire, Viv Ley, Jane Townsend and Fiona ~~Mosley~~, Mosley.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 21st September 2021**

There was one correction – 13.1 Scout Hut

The minutes wrongly stated that the scout hut had been condemned. Remco Buckley stated there are no plans for anything to be built on there. Currently there is an issue with the hut that it has suffered a second leak in the roof and with the building being unused it has become damp.

The Scouts are currently in discussions with the church regarding a lease and this has been ongoing.

Ruth McElroy read a statement confirming that the site has not been condemned and confirmed that the lease is currently being looked at.

Roy Spraggon raised a concern that if the church was to give the land to the Scouts, there would not be land in the future for burials. Brian Greenhalgh stated that this is an issue between the scouts and Diocese of Chester and not for WR&CS to comment on.

With this correction, the minutes were proposed as correct by Ceri Jones, seconded by Hilary Booth, and unanimously accepted by members present as a true record of the meeting.

#### **4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021**

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

##### **4.1 Speed Watch (item 4.3)**

Sarah Shannon advised had received another contact. Myles advised will pick this action up

**Action: Myles**

##### **4.3 Slow down sign (item 11)**

Myles is still in negotiations with CWaC Highways where the redundant sign from Hooton Green can be re-located to.

**Action: Myles**

##### **4.4 Noticeboard on Johnston Rec (item 13.4)**

Sarah has identified a couple of companies. Next steps are to agree new dates for one of the officers to visit the suppliers. Myles advised that the new noticeboard needs to be invoiced by February 2022.

Sue Unsworth raised that the noticeboard is situated on land gifted by Mrs Johnson. Like the current board can this be included on the new board. All agreed this should happen

**Action: Officers**

#### **5. Co-options to the committee**

5.1 Brian stated at the AGM that the positions of Chair and Secretary there were no nominations, and these roles are still vacant. Brian discussed that he would not be able to commit to the role of Chair, due to other commitments.

We have three people to be co-opted onto the committee.

5.2 Vicky Spraggon has agreed she would like to continue in the role of vice chair alongside Brian. Vicky was proposed by Hilary Booth and seconded by Ruth McElroy to be co-opted as joint Vice Chair. By a show of hands, the appointment was agreed by all present.

5.3 Barry Vowles would like to be co-opted onto the committee. Barry was proposed by Myles Hogg and seconded by Sheila Smith. By a show of hands, the appointment was agreed by all present.

5.4 Sue Hunter would like to be co-opted onto the committee. Sue was proposed by Annette Troake and seconded by Sue Unsworth. By a show of hands, the appointment was agreed by all present.

#### **6. The way forward**

6.0 Brian discussed as no one had been nominated for the Chair and Secretary role, there was a paper issued 'a way forward' for WR&CS.

Sarah Shannon advised after the AGM a meeting of the Officers was held of what can be done to cover the aspects of the Chair and Secretary role. Vicky and Brian have agreed to chair the meetings between them but are unable to take on the responsibility of being chair.

In the interim Sarah and Ceri agreed to split the preparation of the November 2021 meeting.

The officers agreed that correspondence sent into WR&CS will be split out and will deal accordingly.

Margaret has taken on queries in relation to pavements in the village, alongside footpaths.

The ask of the committee is the Officers are unable to take on all the work and we are looking for help such as taking minutes (rotational basis), preparation of papers for minutes (rotational basis), helping with issues as and when required.

Barry and Sue Hunter are happy to help with minutes, Helen Mayles happy to help with collating organisation reports.

Myles discussed that many of the correspondence that WR&CS receive, he receives as Councillor. He suggested whoever is dealing with the correspondence to contact and will be able to help/advise.

Brian thanked members of the committee who volunteered to help.

Going forward Brian had the view that everyone is a member of WR&CS. He believes the committee is an umbrella committee and should have the ability to delegate down. For example, if there is an issue relating to an organisation, the organisation should come to the committee with a proposed way forward/approach.

Annette Troake raised about the walking bus and whether it should be WR&CS or the school PTA who should drive the idea. Sarah Shannon advised that the idea had not come from the school but herself but is not a priority she can look at for WR&CS currently. Vicky Spraggon felt if this initiative was wanted then it should be driven by the school/PTA. Ruth McElroy advised that she is no longer the representative for the school and could not raise it with Mrs Chambers (Willaston CofE Headteacher). Annette requested that it was noted in the minutes, if there is no interest from the school then this should be put on hold.

**Action: Ruth Mc**

## **7. Jubilee celebrations**

7.1 Brian and Sarah updated how the festival plans are moving forward. The Pollards Inn are looking to hold a beer festival on the Friday Saturday and Sunday of Jubilee weekend. The Nags Head are also looking at ways they can be involved. On the Sunday there will be a picnic on Johnston's recreation ground and will be looking to organisations to undertake activities. More information to follow.

7.2 It was raised that there were mixed messages that came out of the AGM in relation to the art trail. The Jubilee committee are still in negotiation with the University of Chester, who are investigating budgets. Sarah shared that a core part of the student's brief is to engage/work with the community.

7.3 Vicky believed that it should be a full village consultation and people may be more accepting of the art installations being displayed in the village for over six months. Sarah asked what Vicky would see as a full consultation. Vicky felt the jubilee committee to make the information to people who don't have access or use social media, website etc. Sarah explained the plan was to present the proposals on boards at a venue in the village. The University of Chester students would attend and answer any questions and talk through the proposed ideas. Vicky said that anyone who has a house directly impacted by any installation, should receive a personal invitation.

7.4 Fiona Ennys asked how many installations were proposed. Sarah fed back that currently this has not been decided. Fiona felt it is difficult to understand any proposals, whilst so many unknowns.

7.5 Brian shared that the Jubilee committee are meeting with the students on 19<sup>th</sup> November, with the aim for the students to commence the brief in January 2022.

7.6 Members of the committee raised that could there not be a tree planted in the village as a legacy. Sarah fed back that no one has come back with a suitable location for a tree to be planted. Sue Unsworth advised she will take this back to the Johnston's recreation committee for consideration.

**Action: Sue Unsworth/Jubilee committee**

7.7 Annette suggested could a stained-glass window in the Methodist Chapel be considered as a legacy for the Jubilee celebrations.

## **8. Planning**

8.1 Mel Chapman confirmed that an objection had been submitted for the Hooton Crematorium planning submission.

8.2 Barry Vowles gave an update on the status of the McCarthy & Stone legion application. There will be an appeal against the planning refusal, and this will be overseen by the CWaC case officer. If WR&CS would like to be formally involved, we will need to advise the planning office by the end of November. Barry has recommended that we don't need to submit any further additional information, but rather put in a comment that our existing objections are still the society's stance.

Barry raised if anyone was interested in understanding how planning inquiries are undertaken, he has documentation he can share.

Myles commented that WR&CS should consider putting in a request to advise that they are happy to be involved in the inquiry. Myles asked if the villagers who were involved in the original appeals would be involved. Barry advised that Ian Henrys plans on raising issues and awaiting to hear from Glen Ayres, who lives next to the site.

8.3 Myles updated that Coach house, Heath Lane and 8 Elm Road planning applications had been accepted. Badgers Butt Mill Lane had been refused due to being an intrusion on green belt land.

## **9. Correspondence**

9.1 Sarah advised that there had been three main issues raised since the last meeting. The land at the bottom of Change Lane (leads to Pemberton Close) where there has been a lot of activity with a large pond built had been a particular concern.

9.2 Contact was made regarding the Royal Mail postbox at the top of Briardale Road disappearing. Sarah advised that she has been in contact with Royal Mail, and this will be reinstated when building work has been completed to the house where the post-box is situated outside of.

9.3 Vicky updated that contact has been made with the company that has purchased the telephone box opposite the green and is awaiting a response.

## **10. Financial**

10.1 Sarah updated that there has not been much financial activity since the previous meeting. Currently there is £1,454 in the current account.

10.2 The costs for the Christmas Lights electricity have increased but the society will continue to use the same provider.

10.3 The WR&CS lottery has 28 people who have not re-signed up for this year. Hilary advised that she is happy to contact people. Sarah advised she will pass on the names to Hilary.

**Action – Sarah & Hilary**

10.4 Sarah raised that that there are changes coming in through HSBC bank where we will be charged for using the account. Barclays bank are offering a community account where organisations will not be charged. With the changes in the committee there is a requirement to remove Chris Hampshire (previous Chair) as a signatory. Signatories for the new account to be Sarah Shannon, Hilary Booth and Sue Unsworth. This was put to a committee vote. Proposed by Vicky Spraggon, seconded by Sandra Kettiros and approved by the rest of the committee.

## **11. Councillor report**

11.1 Myles discussed the local heritage list and whether there are any buildings/sites in the village that could be added. For example, in Parkgate the parade has been added. Vicky raised that this Jane Townsend had investigated assets of community ~~value~~..value.

11.2 Myles shared that the council have recently secured successful prosecutions for fly tippers due to dashcam evidence.

11.3 There are 86,000 gullies in the Cheshire West and Chester council borough. If residents see issues with gullies, please report to the council.

11.4 Myles requested to put on record thanks to all involved in the remembrance Sunday in the village. Remco raised that it was disappointing that a parade was unable to take place. Myles raised that if organisations wish for the roads to be closed for future parades to approach Ellesmere Port and Chester trustees who may be able to support the financial cost to do this.

## **12. Footpaths**

12.1 Margaret reported that footpath 28 has been cut back by the owner to make the path accessible.

12.2 The owners of Corner Cottage (near the Pollard Inn) have cut back overgrown foliage and footpath 70 is now easier to access.

12.3 The wooden gate footpath 29 (on Johnston's recreation ground) has been removed by the council and it is unclear if this is being replaced. Margaret to investigate.

**Action – Margaret**

12.4 Margaret wants to encourage residents to utilise the footpaths in the area, particularly the one from Change Lane to Pemberton Road especially if footpaths could be of risk of future developments.

## **13. Organisations' report**

### **13.1 Johnston Recreation Ground**

Sue advised that she had not submitted a report on behalf of the Johnston's recreation committee but can give a verbal update.

We're waiting for two new allotment plots to be developed at the front of the current location of the allotments.

The playground continues to be well used and litter is improving.

The football pitches (land at the top right) are needed to be levelled to be used for the junior teams.

Dog mess continues to be a problem and requires eye-catching signs and a new bin. Sarah updated that the council have advised that the request for a bin at the end of the footpath from the recreation ground to Mill Lane has been declined, as it does not fit the criteria.

The reports below had been submitted in advance.

### **13.2 Christ Church**

No report received

### **13.3 Friends of Hadlow Road Station Community Group** (submitted by Hilary Booth)

The recycled plastic picnic table has now been erected adjacent to the fence, by the kissing gate. The fence will be painted white when the timber preservative has had chance to soak into the wood.

The electricity supply to FHRS kitchen, is finally installed, which is wonderful news. We will however still continue to us paper plates, cups, and napkins, until the catering staff review the catering provision for the Pop-up-cafe for 2022.

90 children from Wirral Primary School had a very enjoyable and informative visit to the station on October 27<sup>th</sup>.

The gardening morning in October was again very well attended by volunteers. Thank you so much for coming to help, and thanks to Jenny for all her effort. Thanks also to Sue U for her litter picking around the station.

Friends of Hadlow Road Station Community Group will be having a Mini Santa's Grotto event on Sunday December 12<sup>th</sup> at Hadlow Road Station. 120 children will be able to meet Santa in his beautifully decorated Grotto in the Signal Box. Santa will arrive at the station at 12 noon, and he will be leaving us at 4pm. Each child will receive a gingerbread biscuit and a carton of fruit juice. Musical entertainment is very kindly provided, in the waiting room, by Simon-Le-Barber, and our balloon man will be back to keep the children entertained once again. In addition, there will be available free, - tea, filtered coffee, and mince pies for adults, which will be provided by FRHS.

Friends of Hadlow Road Station are funding all the costs for this event as our contribution to our wonderful local community.

Dates for the next Pop-up-cafe are Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November, and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November. We look forward to your company once again, and let's hope that it is not too cold or wet! There will be no Pop-up-cafe days in December.

### **13.4 Friends of Willaston Meadow** (submitted by Sarah Shannon)

We held Apple Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> October on the village green. Although attendance was limited, those that did come enjoyed tasting a variety of apples from the orchard. On 30<sup>th</sup> October, we had a pruning workshop attended by 11 people, who then went into the Meadow to start pruning the trees in the orchard. We were surprised how much we had to remove! This work will continue over the next few months.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December, we will be planting a tree in memory of Jean Hockridge. Anyone who remembers her is welcome to come along.

### **13.5 Hadlow Green Singers** (submitted by Helen Mayles)

Hadlow Green Singers rehearse every Thursday evening in the Memorial Hall. We are planning two concerts at Christmas time on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. New members always welcome.

### **13.6 Horticultural Society** (submitted by Pam Irving)

The October meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> will be Steve Halliwell talking about 'Gresgarth Hall and Gardens'. These are the gardens of Arabella Lennox-Boyd in Lancaster. Tickets will be on sale for our Social Evening on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November at the Woodcote Hotel. Price £26.00 including coffee/tea.

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, Jill Thompson, on 336 5367. 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.

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

Nothing of significance to report.

### **13.8 Scouting**

No report received.

### **13.9 Willaston CE Primary School**

No report received.

### **13.10 Willaston Football Club**

No report received.

### **13.11 Willastonhey W.I.** (submitted by Susie Dixon)

Members are enjoying getting back together again. Ken Clark came to talk to us in September on The Old Mill and Hilary Green in October on Women who broke the mould (FANY the wartime nursing service). The next talk on 23rd November is by Ken Pye on The Curious origins of our Christmas traditions.

Our celebration of our 40th Anniversary took place at The Woodcote Hotel in September. Over 50 members enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea.

Carols on the Green will be returning on 21st December 7.30pm.

Our rambling group had a lovely walk around Thurstaston and Heswall in September with lunch at the Cottage Loaf. Walking Netball continues in the Memorial Hall every Friday 3.30pm to 4.30pm

We have welcomed several new members recently. If you are interested in joining the W.I you would be made very welcome.

### **13.12 Willaston Methodist Chapel**

The Chapel continues to follow the Methodist Covid recommendation whilst slowly easing the restrictions, and it is good to welcome back old and new friends. Some services will also continue to be available on Zoom. Please contact Jim Shaw for details. (327 7183)

December Services;

5th Dec. 10-45am Communion

12th Dec. 10-45am Toy Service  
19th Dec. 10-45am Carol Service  
24th Dec. 9pm Service at Little Neston Methodist Chapel  
25th Dec. 10am Christmas Day Service  
26th Dec. No Service

Following positive remarks from last year, we plan to have the Nativity Tableau back in position in the Chapel front porch for the days leading up to Christmas Day.

### **13.13 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club** (Submitted by Fiona Mosley)

The club visit to the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum was a great success. We had a guided tour, followed by tea and biscuits. We paid a little extra to enable our tickets to last a year, so we can go back any time!

Our purple cupcake sale at the Country Market was to raise money for Rotary International's Purple4Polio campaign. Rotary have raised millions over the last 40 years in order to eradicate the disease from the planet. We're nearly there! Each polio vaccination costs around 20p, so your donations can literally save lives and be part of making history. Every donation to Rotary will be trebled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, so every £1 will become £3. If you didn't get chance to buy a cupcake, you can still donate by leaving some money for us at the Nags Head, in an envelope marked Rotary Polio please. You might just have seen Christchurch lit up purple too! In total we made £153. Thanks to all who donated.

Our charity quiz night is back! Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November at the Memorial Hall, 7.30pm. Entry (£10) includes delicious food cooked by Jackie at the Country Market. There will be a cash bar. Please note we are unable to accept card payments. Get a team together and book your place now! Contact Fiona 0151 3843081 or Brian on [willaston.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:willaston.secretary@gmail.com) All monies raised will go to our charity of the year, The Hive in Birkenhead, and other local and Rotary charities.

Covid prevented the Christmas Lights Switch-on event last year, but this year its back and so is Santa on his sleigh! Save the date: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November, village green and hall from 5pm. We'll be entertained by Sarah Kincey, The Willaston Ladies Choir and Simon Le Barber. The Country Market will be held in the hall, with extra craft stalls for your Christmas shopping. The ice cream man and the pizza man will be outside providing sustenance, along with late night opening for the shops and food outlets in the village. Santa will be listening to the children's Christmas wishes and handing out sweets between 6.10 and 6.30pm before heading off on his rounds. Santa will also be travelling around the area on his sleigh collecting donations on several dates in December – look out for our notice on Facebook and on the village notice boards in the next couple of weeks.

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

Nothing to report

### **13.15 Willaston Toddler Group**

No report received.



### **13.16 Willaston Village Festival Society**

Separate report on Joint Co-ordination Group on agenda

### **14. AOB**

14.1 Sandra has advised that the emergency access sign on the gate at the bottom of Johnston's recreation ground has been removed. Can a new replacement sign be installed?

**Action –Johnston's Rec Advisory Group**

14.2 Sheila Smith is updating the organisations list. If there are any updates, please can committee members advise.

**Action - All**

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

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

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022