



# WILLASTON

Residents' & Countryside Society

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting

21 Nov 2022 at 7.15pm - Willaston Methodist Hall

**Officers present:** Brian Greenhalgh (Vice Chair), Sue Hunter (Secretary), Sarah Shannon (Treasurer), Ceri Jones (Social Media), Margaret Smyth (Footpaths), Chris Swanick (Planning), Hilary Booth (Publicity).

**Committee Members present:** Helen Mayles, Annette Troake, Councillor Myles Hogg, Sue Unsworth, Barry Vowles, Vicky Spraggon, Roy Spraggon, Jane Townsend, Fiona Mosley, Rob King, Fiona Ennys, Remco Buckley, Andrew Walton, Sandra Kettiros, Ruth Hampshire, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Madeline Hughes, Sheila Smith, Gareth Williams (Willaston Football Club).

**Also in attendance:** Harriet Cleaves (Willaston Resident).

**Residents Consultation** - Harriet Cleaves discussed the ongoing traffic & speeding problems throughout the village, particularly on Neston Rd. She understands that it is a complex issue but feels it needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency before a serious accident occurs. It was noted that although there is already a 20mph limit in village, this is often not adhered to. Her suggestions included larger & more visible 20mph signs & even possibly residents filming motorists whilst walking through village. A lively discussion took place raising several points:

- To achieve a 20mph zone, traffic must be proven to be travelling less than 24mph (Sarah).
- Possibility of speeding camera in village was raised - Myles confirmed that this could cost in excess of £20K.
- Previously, Police haven't appeared to be interested in getting involved (Vicky).
- Consider possibility of school becoming more involved as many culprits are parents (Margaret S). Harriet is a member of school PTA.
- It was noted however that there appears to be a lack of engagement between School Head & parents - may create a difficulty in moving this forward with school (Remco).
- Filming of motorists on mobile phones can be extremely contentious & problematic (Fiona E).
- This is not just a school issue - it involves entire village (Barry V).
- Does a 'B' road allow only limited restrictions? (Sandra K).
- Traffic signs designed by children seem to have greater impact (Remco B).
- Myles recommended that whatever is done would require Police involvement at an early stage (our PCSO is receptive to attend meetings upon request). Also, any initiative should cover all central roads through village & not just Neston Rd.
- Suggestion that Harriet could perhaps flag up the danger issue with local bus companies & local farmers & reiterate 20mph speed limit (Fiona E).
- Jane T. discussed traffic calming measures used in Neston - appear to be successful.
- Brian suggested possibility of setting up a joint Working Party of WR&CS & school PTA to move this forward. Sue U. happy to join.



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- Actions**
- (a) Harriet to contact school & explore options to progress this issue.
  - (b) Harriet to feedback to WR&CS.
  - (c) Sue H to exchange contact details with Harriet.

## Committee Meeting

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Mel Chapman, John Fisher, Suzie Dixon & John Woodrow.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were expressed.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 26 Sept. 2022

No issues raised. Minutes were approved by Sheila Smith & seconded by Sarah Shannon.

### 4. Actions arising from the Minutes of meeting on 26 Sept. 2022

#### 4.1 Slow Down sign

Myles advised there was still no direct action to report as yet. The PCSO has confirmed that signage can be placed wherever we would like. In addition, Mr Powell (new CWAC Highways Officer) has indicated that current 'slow down' signs can be re-painted.

**Action: Myles**

#### 4.2 Hooton Road speed issue

Barry confirmed that he will carry this forward.

**Action: Barry**

#### 4.3 Footpaths & Bridleways

In addition to her report, Margaret advised the good news that bushes had been cut back on Footpaths 28 & 29 allowing more space for walkers to pass through.

#### 4.4 Councillor's Report

Disabled space marking on Green has been completed. Blue Badges can now be checked to ensure appropriate parking.

#### 4.5 Completed.

#### 4.6 Correspondence / Social Media

Creation of Instagram account to replicate Facebook content. Carry forward.

**Action: Ceri**



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## 5. Groups

### 5.1 Environmental Sub-group

5.1.4 Completed.

5.1.6 Myles has had a call with CWAC re. potential grants. Any monies highly unlikely this year. Carry forward.

**Action: Myles**

### 5.2 Christmas Lights sub-group

5.2.2 Contact with CWaC officers - to be covered later in this agenda.

## 10. Financial

10.2 Re. lottery winners - difficulty to change from cheques to BACS regarding data protection. Cheques likely to remain method of payment.

10.3 Mel to provide further details re. fraud insurance re. above item. Carry forward.

**Action: Mel**

## 11. Footpaths & Bridleways

11.1 Completed (see 4.3 above).

## 13. Councillor's Report

13.2 Quarry Road traffic system remains in place on 18-month trial. Myles reiterated that people should send comments to Highways/CWaC to enable them to make judgements on success/or not of the one-way system.

Ruth H. questioned if comments were being received. Sarah confirmed that online comments do receive a response.

## 14. AOB

14.1 Mel had queried if planning feedback submissions to CWaC could be anonymised? Ceri previously stated that email comments can and request removal of personal details to be removed. Mel to investigate further. Carry Forward.

**Action: Mel**

14.5 Completed. Post put on Facebook.



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## 5. Co-options

5.1 Vicky Spraggon was proposed as Vice Chair by Myles H. & seconded by Sue U.

5.2 Barry Vowles was proposed as Committee member by Sarah S. & seconded by Jane T.

## 6. Consider Alteration of Constitution

6.1 Item was included on agenda in view of limited applications for Officer roles. Brian queried when Constitution was last reviewed. Sarah confirmed it was 4 years ago. Ceri suggested it may be worth re-visiting Constitution to future-proof Committee as we struggle to get new people involved.

6.2 Sarah suggested possible use of the current 'Associate Member' status as this allows 'strong links' to village rather than residency.

6.3 The consensus of the meeting was that changes were not required at this time but to keep the issue under review.

6.3 If it is to be taken forward then it will require further discussion/possible group set-up.

## 7. AGM 2022 - matters raised:

7.1 Traffic situation in village - already discussed at beginning of meeting.

7.2 Postbox - Briardale Rd. Sarah informed meeting that the Post Office has now confirmed that original post box will be erected approx. 200 yds away from its original position as it must be fitted to brick wall & not a fence. Confirmed site not yet disclosed. Work could take approx. 25 weeks.

*Action: Carry Forward*

## 8.1 Environmental sub-group - see previous full report

8.1.1 Bus Shelter summary - limited progress made. Stonemasons who've already quoted haven't replied to queries. Two further stonemasons have been contacted. Earlier agreement was to get quotes x 3.

Mike Powell (from CWaC) has been contacted & offered strategic suggestions e.g. closure of footpath, need for traffic management company input (approx. £200-£300), need for permits (which he can offer free-of-charge as gesture of goodwill). Some feedback received by Fiona M. has questioned whether we need the bus shelter at all??

8.1.2 Shared on Facebook the Liverpool Echo article on Willaston under the heading 'Love where we live'. It is hoped it will help promote a tidier village.



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8.1.3 Sue U is still litter-picking around village. All helpers most welcome.

8.1.4 Barry queried the legal situation if leaves etc. outside your property causes harm/injury?

8.1.5 Fiona M. would like it documented that residents should be responsible for their own hedges.

8.1.6 Vicky suggested possibility of doing a seasonal 'village tidy-up' to encourage everyone to join in.

*Action: Ceri*

8.1.7 Margaret S. suggested a possible 'pamphlet drop' to encourage residents.

8.1.8 Sarah cautioned that we need to take care that it's all not seen as 'preaching'.

*Action All: Carry forward to next meeting*

## **8.2 Christmas Lights sub-group - see previous full report**

8.2.1 Scottish Power has confirmed cost of disconnection is £2000. Drax remain difficult to deal with. We appear to be on an open 'roll-over' contract with SP @ £15.50/month. Sarah has emailed SP & awaits response.

8.2.2 Vicky commented that if we have donated money for Christmas lights then they cannot be switched off.

*Action All: Carry forward to next meeting*

## **9. Issues raised by Members: Coronation of King Charles - May 2023**

9.1 Brian confirmed that the Festival Society has funds available, originally intended for the Art Trail.

9.2 Sarah happy to organise 'low-key' event.

9.3 Barry suggests joining with Hadlow Station to form a joint venture.

*Action: All ideas to next meeting*

## **10. Planning Matters**

10.1 No new report as Chris Swanick newly in post as Planning Officer; he's now working with Mel to take over activity & report. Support also offered by Myles & Barry.

10.2 Myles commented that many applications don't have planning officer allocated for many months - very disappointing & unacceptable.



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## 11. Correspondence / Social Media

No new issues raised.

## 12. Financial Matters - *see previous full report*

Report was presented by Sarah to meeting. In summary - outstanding invoices awaited for new Notice Board & website development. This leaves approx. £2500 in account for other projects.

## 13. Footpaths & Bridleways

Margaret thanked Myles & Sarah for presenting a funding application to CWaC to cover cost of new kissing gate leading from Recreation Ground onto FP 29. If successful it should be completed in 2023.

## 14. Organisation Reports - *see previous full report.*

## 15. Councillor's Report

15.1 Myles thanked everyone for making Remembrance Day a success.

15.2 Myles has not received any suggestions for area in village for wildflowers for 2023 - please bring ideas to next meeting.

**Action - All**

15.3 Local stray dog service - was highly commended for its work.

15.4 Household Support Fund - supports vulnerable residents with energy bills, clothing, food etc. In latest round of funding to CWaC over £2m has been allocated. Information & application can be done via the Household Support Fund web page.

15.5 Parent's Parking Charter - set up by 2 schools in Borough. This topic will be put on a future agenda.

## 16. Any Other Business

16.1 Concern was raised about state of Pavilion (Andrew W). They are waiting on Andy James (CWaC) to arrange a meeting with appropriate Council officials.



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16.2 Concern raised about parking in Old Vicarage by vehicles belonging to McCarthy & Stone (Sarah). Request put forward that WR&CS write to McCarthy & Stone to request more responsible & safer parking takes place. Opposition voiced to this suggestion as WR&CS have never been involved in parking issues in other areas of village (Vicky).

Complaints already received re. many vans parking in locality of building work (Myles). Although some short-term issues will soon be completed, in the long term this is likely to present a potentially dangerous highways problem.

Barry informed meeting that a condition of planning approval for McCarthy & Stone was that a parking plan for their vehicles had to be submitted.

Brian agreed that a letter will be drafted to McCarthy & Stone re. ongoing parking problems.

***Action: Sue H & Brian***

16.3 Question was put to Myles about the early finish date of green bin collections - during height of autumn. Myles confirmed that there will be no alteration of this by CWaC.

16.4 Ruth H. informed the meeting of a message received from Francesqua Bragg whose company allows them one day of annual leave to volunteer & she wondered if there was anything she could help with in village. Fran moved here 18 months ago & is keen to get involved in our community. It was suggested by Brian that the Environmental subgroup may be able to help Fran; or if any other village organisation would like Fran to help as a volunteer, please let Ruth know.

***Action: All (to Ruth)***

The meeting concluded at 9.41pm.

***Date of next Committee Meeting: Monday 16 January 2023***