

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

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022
in Willaston Methodist Chapel Schoolroom

Present - Officers: Vicki Spraggon (Vice chair), Sarah Shannon (Treasurer), Ceri Jones (Social media officer), and Mel Chapman (Planning officer).

Present – Committee Members: Sue Hunter, Sandra Kettiros, Fiona Mosley, Rob King, Fiona Ennys, Roy Spraggon, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Sheila Smith, Annette Troake, Cllr Myles Hogg, Hilary Booth, Ruth Hampshire, Jane Townsend and Andrew Fisher.

Committee Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from Margaret Smyth, Brian Greenhalgh, Sue Unsworth, Helen Mayles, Barry Vowles, John Fisher, Ruth McElroy, Suzie Dixon, Liz Young, Madeline Hughes, and John Woodrow.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 No declarations of interest were expressed.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 1st August 2022

3.1 Vicki raised if there are adjustments requested to draft minutes then this should only be sent to the minute takers and officers only, not to a wider circulation list.

3.2 The document requested amendments to minutes was discussed and it was agreed which points were to be changed/dis-regarded. The points agreed to be amended were as follows;

3.3 (item 5.1) Joint Coordination Group for Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Add in Jubilee video is available to purchase.

3.4 (item 5.5) Environmental sub-group. Requested amended that thought agreed by committee that £15 could be spent for the land registry search. Amendment to reflect that it was agreed in principle to spend funds on the search. For reference, no funds were required to be utilised.

3.5 Subject to the changes the minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 1st August 2022

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

4.1 Slow down sign (item 4.1)

To carry over. Myles advised there has been agreement in principle to re-locate the sign to Hooton Road where you begin coming into the village. There is a new highways officer is joining the council and once started in role, Myles will look to progress accordingly.

Sue U asked if there was the potential to consider a slow down sign being put up on Neston Road.

Action: Myles

4.2 Hooton Road speed issue

(item 4.3) Carry forward - Barry confirmed that he had raised to the inspectorate at the McCarthy & Stone site visit regarding moving the 20mph zone where Old Vicarage Road entrance is. In the inspectorate decision this was not taken forward as one of the conditions.

Jane T raised that there was a recent car accident by the crossing and council must be aware of this. Sarah S raised could we speak to the council about moving the start of the 20mph zone. Barry agreed to send a letter on behalf of WR&CS to CWAC highways officer and copy Myles into email.

At September meeting Myles wrote in role of councillor. Jane advised that an image of the car crash in the summer could be submitted as part of the letter from WR&CS.

Action: Barry

4.3 Footpaths and bridleways

(item 9.2) Carry forward - Margaret advised she has reported the dangerous wall that is situated on the footpath between the Pollards and the Memorial Hall to Richard at the council. No response received from the council to date. Sue U advised that she had reported the dangerous wall as well.

Action: Margaret

4.4 Councillor report

(item 11.2) Carry over to next meeting. Myles advised the signage has been erected but road markings for the disabled designated space on the green still to be completed.

Action: Myles

4.5 Environmental

(item .6.2) Add suggestion CWaC list/link of suggestions of what they can be used for.

Action: Ceri

4.6 Correspondence/Social Media

(item 8.2) Ceri discussed the opportunity to create an Instagram account that will replicate the content we post on Facebook.

Action: Ceri

5. Groups

5.1 Environmental sub-group

5.1.1 Ceri on behalf of the environmental group gave an update on the progress the group had made in relation to the bus shelter following the report submitted. The sub-group were approached via Myles and Sarah regarding potential funding applications with a requirement to obtain quotes. Ceri discussed how the environmental sub-group agreed it was something they would like to investigate and approached the Officers' to see the approval to proceed. This was agreed.

The group have contacted and met with three stonemasons and received two quotes. They are awaiting a further quote and further questions have been raised to investigate from the meetings. The group will also continue to obtain further quotes, before submitting a recommendation for approval by the committee.

5.1.2 Ruth H raised what would happen if the building was deemed as dangerous. Do WR&CS need to pay for insurance? It was discussed in the meeting that there is no known ownership for the bus shelter so currently there is no liability for any parties currently.

5.1.3 Vicki raised an example if the roof collapsed what would happen? Would the council cordon off the area? It was thought if it impinged onto the pavement then the council would be involved/in contact.

5.1.4 Fiona M raised if the council had a recommended stonemason on approved contractors list.

Action: Environmental group

5.1.5 No further questions were raised in relation to the investigations being completed and the environmental group were to continue with their investigations.

5.1.6 Myles was due to have a call with council officers' in relation to potential grants being available and the rules/regulations surrounding being able to apply for. Feedback to the environmental sub-group.

Action: Myles

5.2 Christmas lights sub-group

5.2.1 Sarah on behalf of the sub-group. No quotes have been received from the electrical companies previously met with.

5.2.2 Sarah has not had any response from CWaC Officers Gary Pollitt and Mike Powell. Sarah asked if Myles could help contact them for an update/guidance.

Action: Sarah/Myles

5.2.3 Rob King raised that the memorial hall had not agreed to anything currently. The trustees of the hall have concerns that plugging into the electricity supply may affect the contract they are tied into until 2025.

5.2.4 Myles stated he is pleased that the Christmas lights will be on this year in December.

5.2.5 It was raised could the chair of the memorial hall have a meeting in relation to the lights electricity supply. Sarah advised until the discussions have taken place with the council the group would not have the information available to understand if it would be possible to run the supply across the highway to the hall.

5.2.6 Vicki stated that we will be required to justify the expense of a permanent solution.

6. AGM and committee members

6.1 We have received an application for the role of planning officer

6.2 Vicki confirmed that with no chair the committee is able to continue as the constitution states it is possible with two vice chairs. Vicki confirmed as she is co-opted as deputy chair she will need to stand down at the AGM and be voted back on at the committee meeting in November.

6.3 Hilary and Mel would like to stand as joint publicity officers and Sarah confirmed this would be possible.

6.4 Mel will be chairing the AGM.

6.5 Sarah suggested that the jubilee DVD playing when people come into the hall ahead of the AGM starting and the DVD could be sold at the AGM if Martin Eves would like.

6.6 Jane asked who do the resident representative nominations go to. Sarah confirmed for them to be emailed directly to herself or via the website.

7. Remembrance day

7.1 Myles confirmed that there will be no road closure in Willaston, but is hoping that the local organisations will march, but not currently confirmed.

8. Planning matters

8.1 Mel raised concerns about the number of planning applications that have been received recently in the green belt areas. WR&CS are custodians and should aim to protect the greenbelt. Jane wanted to thank Mel for objecting on greenbelt applications.

8.2 Myles advised that he will oppose applications where necessary. Myles raised applications looking to object are the Hanns Hall development, Saddlewood farm (Lydiate Lane) and Heath lane nurseries. Myles wished to thank Mel for the work she has done in the role of planning officer.

8.3 Myles advised that the CWaC planning department is running six months behind and there are challenges within the enforcement department.

8.4 Mel highlighted that any objections submitted by WR&CS are not personal and planning rules are in place for everyone.

9. Correspondence/Social Media

9.1 The correspondence report was presented to the committee.

9.2 Ruth raised that she sent a direct message to the Facebook page sharing a post made by Ghosha McCain that highlighted lovely places in the village and hoped that it would have been posted on the main page. Ceri fed back that the Friends of Hadlow Road Station had already shared it and we would not want to duplicate it. We would also seek to gain approval from an individual who originally posted to ensure they were happy for us to use their content.

10. Financial

10.1 Sarah advised we have circa £21,000 in the account and have available funds of £3,500 to spend. £1,000 has been ring fenced for the new website, with a further £2,000 waiting to be allocated.

10.2 Cheques are becoming more inconvenient and people do not wish to receive these including suppliers and lottery winners. Discussions took place as to whether we could set up online banking but this would mean there would be a single sign on to online banking and auditing of one person managing account. Agreed to continue investigating.

Action: Sarah

10.3 Mel raised with having other people's banking information is there a risk. There is fraud insurance available and will send over further details in relation to this.

Action: Mel

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

11.1 Jane raised that footpath 29 (Mill Lane to Johnston's rec) is uncomfortable to walk on and could it be smoothed over. Jane to contact Margaret directly.

Action: Jane

12. Organisation' Reports

12.1 Christ Church

No report received

12.2 Friends of Hadlow Road Station Community Group (submitted by Hilary Booth)

Maintenance - Improvements to the Old Signal Box location - work has been agreed with CWAC and will start shortly to cement in the brick outline, then stone chippings will be applied as a top finish.

Three quotes for re-painting the Waiting Room and Vestibule, and all the doors, have now been received. The painter and decorator has now been selected. The work is scheduled for the last week in January 2023.

The waiting room and toilets will be CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC for several days, whilst this work is undertaken.

The platform white line painting had to be cancelled due to wet weather, as the platform needs to be TOTALLY dry before applying the paint. Fingers Crossed we will see this work completed very shortly.

Gardening - Regular gardening days are continuing to be very well attended, and the gardens are looking very attractive. Further tree planting will be undertaken on the north platform, car park embankment, in late autumn.

Regular talks by Chris are being given to outside groups, and this is now generating a regular income for the station work to continue. Thanks, Chris, for giving up more of your time.

FHRS are working closely with CWAC and the Wirral BC on plans for the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Wirral Way, with various events to be held across 2023. We will keep you updated with further details of these events, as and when they are confirmed.

Plans are still moving forward for our Christmas Grotto on Sunday December 11th. I will keep you updated each month.

Recent Pop-up-Cafe sessions have seen record takings, as we continue to attract new customers, so thank you to everybody. We now have a 2-slice toaster which uses less energy.

The next Pop-up-Cafe dates are as follows – Sunday 10am - 1pm on 16th and 30th October, 13th and 27th November. Looking forward to seeing you all again.

12.3 Friends of Willaston Meadow (submitted by Sarah Shannon)

At our volunteer session in August, we cleared some brambles, cut down some willows by Jackson's pond and began construction of a bug hotel. We always welcome volunteers at our working group sessions, normally on the first Sunday of the month. At our session on 2nd October, we will be laying the hedge along Jacksons Pond. We're a friendly group that share a love for the Meadow. Please get in contact if you would like to join us

This is a beautiful time of year in the Meadow, with the grasses growing and wildflowers appearing. Our bird watching team counted 20 species in July. We recently had a survey of the grasses undertaken by Hilary Ash and will be receiving her report in the Autumn. This helps us decide our priorities for our work.

We will be celebrating Apple Day on Saturday 22nd October with a sketchbook walk which will be led by an artist, Neil Greenhalgh. Suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

For more information, please see our webpage on the Residents' Society website, our Facebook page /friendswillastonmeadow or ring Sarah Shannon on 0151 327 5318.

12.4 Hadlow Green Singers (submitted by Helen Mayles)

Our summer concerts were a tremendous success, and the audience participation was superb. Both choir and audience members commented on the excellent choice of music and how well the choir sounded.

The new term started on 8th September and will finish with our Christmas concert – one night only this time - on Friday 9th December.

New singers are always welcome to join this friendly choir. There is no audition, but an ability to sight read is an advantage. Choir practices are on Thursdays at 7.30pm during school terms, in the Willaston Memorial Hall.

12.5 Horticultural Society (submitted by Pam Irving)

Tuesday October 18th we are having a talk on Hedgehogs by Greer Lacey. This will be an opportunity to learn how to help Hedgehogs with the right food at the right time of the year. Should be good.

Tickets are now available to book for our Social Evening at the Woodcote Hotel on Tuesday 15th November 6.30pm to dine at 7.00pm. The cost this year is £29.95 for three courses including tea and coffee. Tickets can be purchased from Gary (317 6587) Pam (317 6048) or Alison (327 4686) with your choice of meal. Look forward to seeing you there.

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, Val Brizell, on 07786 982845. 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.

The Annual Show was a success again after a 3-year break.

12.6 Johnston Recreation Ground (submitted by Sue Unsworth)

Nothing to report.

12.7 Memorial Hall (Rob King)

No report received.

12.8 Scouting

No report received.

12.9 Willaston CE Primary School

No report received.

12.10 Willaston Football Club

No report received.

Players interested in joining the Club's teams need to contact the Football Development Officers, Harry Mates on 07947 749742 or Steve Blackledge on 07899 063336, for more details.

Besides new players joining the Club there are opportunities for people to join the Club as a Coach or a volunteer on the Committee. Anyone interested in joining needs to contact the mobile numbers given above, or the Chairman Remco Buckley on 07930 603944.

12.11 Willastonhey W.I. (submitted by Susie Dixon)

Willastonhey W.I have enjoyed lots of activities throughout the summer. Members were taken by coach to Llandudno in July. After coffee at a hotel, members organised themselves into smaller groups to enjoy different activities. The Great Orme was chosen by some, either by train or walking up to enjoy the views. A walk down the prom and the pier were enjoyed by others and the day finished with some retail therapy.

Our rambling group had a lovely walk along the coastal path from Waterloo to Hightown in August.

Next ramble is on 20th September and will be a local walk.

We all enjoyed a very informative talk on Gardening and Astronomy in July. Our speaker in September is Anthony Annakin-Smith.

A trip to Oxford is planned in September.

Our visit to Jodrell Bank is booked for October 6th.

We are arranging to go to the Nordic church in November and hope to go to the Empire in December to see White Christmas.

The darts group are back at their Bromborough venue after a break for the summer.

They have entered a competition later in the year.

Knit and Natter and the Bridge group are meeting back in the Memorial Hall and Walking Netball.

Our monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are very welcome with a view to finding out more about the W.I.

12.12 Willaston Methodist Chapel (submitted by Sheila Smith)

Our Chapel joins with the world in prayer as we mourn the death of our Queen Elizabeth II. We pray she is now in the Lord's loving arms as she leaves a huge void of sadness in our world. The Chapel has been open for private prayer in the days following the announcement. We pray for King Charles III, that the guidance the Queen gave him will sustain him in his grief and new role.

The Chapel will hold our Harvest Festival service, 26th September at 10.45am. All welcome. Non-perishable donations will be collected and sent to the Wirral Ark project.

There will be a Macmillan Cancer Coffee morning in the Chapel Schoolroom on Saturday 1st Oct. Please support it.

The Chapel will, once again, be supporting the Shoe-box appeal, collecting suggested items which, this year will go to Ukraine.

12.13 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club (Submitted by Fiona Mosley)

Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club book sale on 27th August was another success. The annual "outdoor games" for members of the club also went well. There were rounds of croquet, swing ball and giant "Jenga" to keep those present occupied.

Crocus corms have been obtained to ensure that the planters installed at the village signs by the Rotary club with the help of Willaston Community Farm are kept spruced up. Keep your eyes open for changes through the coming months.

"Purple for Polio" is one of the big annual events for Rotary International and to help raise funds we shall be holding a professional online cocktail tutorial from 7:30pm on Saturday 1st October. Once registered, and the donation made, attendees will receive the list of cocktails with the required ingredients before the event. It is then up to the individual to select the ones they want to try making and tune in via Zoom on the evening. Tickets are £6 per zoom screen, purchased via

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cocktail-tutorial-on-zoom-in-aid-of-end-polio-now-saturday-1st-october-tickets-396583310357>

Other activities centred on 22nd October are being planned to help raise funds for Purple for Polio. We hope to light up Christ Church purple again and provide the opportunity to buy cup cakes in support of this important cause. You may also like to keep the evening of the 22nd clear for our annual fund raising quiz!

Willaston & South Wirral Rotary Club is your local branch of Rotary Great Britain & Ireland. The members raise money for charity, are involved in activities within the local community and also enjoy a healthy social life. Membership is open to anyone aged 18 and over. If you are interested in joining, then please contact willaston.secretary@gmail.com or ring Fiona on 0151 3843081. Alternatively, you could drop in on our next meeting. These are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at the Nag's Head but please get in touch to confirm beforehand.

12.14 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group (John Woodrow)

No report received

You can contact John Woodrow, Chairman, Patient Participation Group on 01513273260 and at johnwoodrow@btinternet.com

12.15 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

12.16 Willaston Village Festival Society

No report received.

13. Councillor's report

13.1 There is a mobile library consultation and the bus is well used in the village. Need to continue to use the facility or risk it being lost.

13.2 Myles discussed the Quarry Road traffic system put in place. It is an 18-month trial and is technically not a one-way system. Jane fed back she felt the road was now safer. Ruth has contacted highways as Louise Gittins stated on social media channels to do so. Myles also stated that people need to comment/write to the council them to gain feedback on the trial.

Action: Agenda item next meeting

13.3 CWaC have energy saving grants available but there is a strict qualifying criteria. Applicants can have a maximum income of £30,000 per annum and have to be in receipt of certain benefits. Their current home energy rating should be 'F or G'.

13.4 The council will be making improvements to their website, app and phone systems.

13.5 The Plus bus contract has been renewed.

14. AOB

14.1 Mel raised for planning report feedback submissions to CWaC is there any way to not individualise the comments e.g. have submitters name/address on as the council request this as part of online submission. Ceri stated you can email comments and ask for details to be removed. Mel will investigate further.

Action: Mel

14.2 Fiona M advised that the Willaston & South Wirral rotary club will be holding an online cocktail making tutorials. All are welcome.

14.3 Rob advised Willaston surgery will be offering flu jabs. Fiona also advised that the pharmacy has also been offering flu jabs.

14.4 Fiona raised having solar panels in the village in the future utilising a field to push green utilities.

14.5 Roy discussed that received comments that the village is looking 'tatty' and is there anything as a society we could do about it. It was discussed could WR&CS promote message 'get our village looking smarter' via communication channels – messages on noticeboard, Facebook, website etc. Myles can raise with the council the rota for cleaning.

Action: Ceri/Sarah/Myles

14.6 Sue H advised that her email address is changing and to use the new one going forward. Also, wanting to collate committee member's mobile numbers if they are willing to share. Please reply back to Sue's new email address with number.

Action: All

14.7 Vicki advised that she has been reported to the CWaC dog warden of dog walking businesses visiting Willaston with excess of six dogs, who are not cleaning up dog mess. Warden has asked if seen to make note of date, location seen and business. Report to Andy James, dog warden at CWaC.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 9.43pm.

Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 21st November 2022

AGM: Friday 7th October 2022