



WILLASTON

Residents' & Countryside Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting

16 January 2023 at 7.15pm - Willaston Methodist Hall

Officers present: Sarah Shannon (Treasurer), Ceri Jones (Social Media), Margaret Smyth (Footpaths), and Hilary Booth (Publicity).

Committee members present: Helen Mayles, John Fisher, Annette Troake, Councillor Myles Hogg, Sue Unsworth, Rob King, Fiona Ennys, Andrew Walton, Sandra Kettiros, Ruth Hampshire, Lyn Jackson-Eves, and Sheila Smith

Also in attendance: Hannah Troake and Michelle Swann

Residents' consultation - No residents consultation this meeting.

Committee Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Sue Hunter, Mel Chapman, Vicki Spraggon, Roy Spraggon, Barry Vowles, Brian Greenhalgh, John Woodrow, Madeline Hughes, Fiona Mosley, Jane Townsend and Suzie Dixon.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were expressed.

Annette Troake left the room when discussions took place on part of the planning matters.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 21 Nov 2022

3.1 Ruth raised organisational reports were not contained in minutes. Sarah agreed to discuss this with Sue.

Action: Sarah

3.2 Ruth also asked that the working group reports be added into the minutes going forwarded as they would be a historical record. Sarah and Ceri both discussed that these reports have never been included as they are working documents that aid discussion in the meetings. No action is required.

3.3 Minutes were approved by Margaret Smyth & seconded by Helen Mayles.



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

4.0 Resident's consultation -

Update from Harriet received. She is investigating putting up signs in the area about speeding. Myles offered advice that signs being put in house windows are fine, but signs on lampposts will need to be requested via the council. Myles will attend the traffic working group meeting when set up.

Sarah proposed that we formalise help from WR&CS with volunteers. Sue U and Myles advised they would help. Sarah will circulate contact details to Myles who will set up a meeting with Harriet.

Action: Sarah/Myles

4.1 Slow Down sign

Myles advised to carry action over. Previous minutes stated 'there was still no direct action to report 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. Myles also added he has officially requested for traffic officers to attend Willaston.

Action: Barry

4.6 Correspondence/social media

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

Action: Ceri

5.1.6 Environmental sub-group

Myles updated about councils grant status. Ruth asked about the possibility of additional street lighting along Hooton Road. Myles advised this was being looked at. No further action required.

5. Groups

5.1 Environmental sub-group

5.1.1 Little progress has been made since the last meeting. In relation to the bus shelter there has been no response from the request for further information following quotes. We are continuing to seek further quotes.

5.1.2 To note Fiona M raised that some residents had commented to her that the shelter should be removed due to lack of use.

5.1.3 Sue U has undertaken litter picking.



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5.2 Christmas lights sub-group

5.2.1 Sarah updated that the electrical supply contract has rolled over and currently in credit. We continue to have the issue of being on an unmetered supply, which makes it difficult to get alternative quotes. Drax or Scottish Power won't take responsibility for this status. The council advised to request the supply directly from Scottish Power but this has not proved to be possible.

5.2.2 Two options currently available - disconnect supply for a cost of £2,000 and look for another supplier, risk that won't be able to secure a new supplier before December 2023. Second option to continue with Drax, with a daily charge of £4 and keep exploring the options.

Sheila proposed we remain with current supplier and this was seconded by Ruth H. All members present voted in favour.

5.2.3 Clarification was given that Scottish Power is the supplier of the electricity and Drax is the company purchase the supply from (similar to how a domestic supply works). Discussed how other villages/town fund their supplies, and the use of solar panels. Solar panels had been previously rejected as an option because of their unreliability in Winter.

5.2.4 Myles asked if there was an Ombudsmen we could go to regarding the issue. Sarah advised she had spoken to the Ombudsman but it is not the role of them to help find alternative suppliers.

6. Issues raised by members

6.1 Coronation of King Charles

6.1.2 Sarah has spoken to a couple of organisations including the memorial hall, Friends of Hadlow Road Station, and spoke with Ruth H regarding the jubilee exhibition being re-run.

6.1.3 Sarah proposed setting up a group. Not to meet but to correspond by email to look to encourage street parties, decorate the village, publicise what is happening in the village. Sarah, Ruth and Ceri will support on this.

Action: Sarah

6.2 Wildflower sites in the village

6.2.1 Myles is continuing looking for suggestions for locations for wildflowers in the village. Ruth suggested on the left-hand verge between Birkenhead Road and Damhead Lane. Another suggestion is the corner of Meadow Lane (by bus stop). Myles will feedback to council.

Action: Myles



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6.2.2 Ruth asked if snowdrops had been planted. Sarah advised this is something we could investigate in the future. No further action required.

6.2.3 Sue U asked if the commemorative/jubilee trees will be planted before May 2023. No updates have been received from Andy James, Myles will follow up and email Andy.

Action: Myles

6.2.4 Ruth asked if the plaque has been agreed for the trees. Advised the priority is to get the tree planted, then the plaques will be completed.

6.3 Post box on Briardale Road

6.3.1 Sarah confirmed that a new post box has been located in Overdale Road. This is not the original Victorian post box from Briardale Road.

6.3.2 Sarah has written to Royal Mail and had no response in relation to the Victorian post box. The post box is the property of Royal Mail.

7. How does WR&CS adapt to what village residents may want for the future?

7.1 Carry over to next meeting and allocate more time to this.

7.2 Helen suggested a paper be produced to help aid the conversations and distributed to groups to complete. Next steps to discuss with Brian.

Action: Brian

8. Planning matters

8.1 Myles raised that a flyer had been circulated in the village in relation to a planning application that uses WR&CS logo and looks like it is from the committee. Officers confirmed that WR&CS would not door drop to households on individual applications. All comments are submitted to the council planning portal. We also put a monthly planning summary on the website and link to this from Facebook.

8.2 There is an auction taking place for 16 plots for the land opposite the end of Benty Heath Lane (Hooton Road side). These would be purchased speculatively in hope to gain planning permission in the future. Sarah advised this was the land that WR&CS had contacted the agents late 2022 about potential to purchase but had been told it was already under offer.

8.3 Objection have been submitted for Jacksonwood.

8.4 Myles updated re the 'Kerry' application. Council enforcement officers have attended and there is a deadline for the owner to respond to them with their findings/requests. Sarah raised WR&CS had been approached by village individual to set up a meeting regarding the



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land. WR&CS advised that we only put in comments/objections via the council planning portal and would not get involved in individuals' meetings.

8.5 Sarah advised that any objections on planning from WR&CS are based on agreed framework that is on our website and the local plan.

8.6 There has been some adverse comments on social media following the negative decision on Willaston Community Farm's planning application. Ruth enquired if we could include comments on people's posts in what we had commented on for the planning applications. Ceri advised from a social media perspective we create posts on our Facebook page. We would not comment on what we have done, give response on other people's pages to issues. We are consistent in the way we behave on social media.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Ruth asked can we put tagged posts on the main page. Ceri advised that if they are seen and feeling relevant for main page will share. The community section in Facebook has changed so it is not as easy to see the posts. We would not automatically put up every post WR&CS are tagged in.

10. Financial report

10.1 Sarah advised as of 2nd January we have a total of £18,695.70 in the account. This is broken down as £3,847.18 (general funds), £11,313.99 (Christmas lights), £2,283.86 (play area) and £1,250.67 (lottery).

10.2 We have received £1,678 in Lottery sales and prizes will come to £1,200. We anticipate making a profit of around £400 to be used for general funds.

10.3 Sarah advised ff the £3,847.18 in the general, we are committed to a further £1,365 for the noticeboard, £617 for website development and hosting. Therefore, we have £1,865 available for other projects. If there are any village initiatives that may be able to benefit to contact WR&CS (Sarah).



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11. Footpaths and bridleways

11.1 Sue U advised that the wall on the footpath between the pollards and car park is dangerous and at risk of falling. Myles advised that the car park owners have responsibility for the wall, and he is trying to contact them.

Action: Myles

11.2 Ruth enquired if the footpath sign between Change Lane and Pemberton Road was found and back up. Others commented that this footpath is hard to use now it is fenced in. Margaret will look at this footpath.

Action: Margaret

11.3 Ruth raised that the footpath on Mill Lane to Johnston's rec has a black and white fingerpost and is one of a few left on the Wirral. Are we able to try to keep it and it is in need of painting. Myles advised would need to get in touch with right of ways. Margaret to investigate.

Action: Margaret

12. Organisations' reports

12.1 John advised that a new defibrillator has been fitted on the pavilion building on the rec. John to send further info to Mel and can be featured in the next newsletter.

Action: John

12.3 There is a craft group that will run on Monday's in the Methodist Chapel school room.

12.4 A book club meets on the last Thursday evening of the month, 7pm at Pollards Inn. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Bonnie Campbell on 07834 420331.

12.5 Sheila raised we seemed to receive fewer reports and a have not seen a report from school. Hilary advised that there is one in the church magazine and will enquire if this can be sent for inclusion. Annette advised she had asked if a member of the school could attend the meeting (Mr Graham - deputy headteacher).

Action: Hilary/Annette

12.6 Christ Church

No report received.

12.7 Friends of Hadlow Road Station Community Group

Maintenance - Our thanks go to John who is renovating an additional donated sack truck, which will then be securely fitted onto the platform. Please don't forget that the waiting room will be closed for redecoration so there will be no access to the toilets from the third



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week in January 2023.

Thanks also to Sue for her regular litter picking.

The Katona Twins held a concert in Christ Church which was well attended and enjoyed. Friends of Hadlow Road Station will receive 1/3 and Christ Church 2/3 of the profit from this concert. Our very grateful thanks go to both Zoltan and Peter and also the church for this very kind donation.

Grotto 2022 - Santa's Grotto was held at the station on 11/12/22 with the signal box looking fantastic, for Santa to welcome all the children. It was very cold, but the sun was shining so we can't complain.

Councillor Myles opened the event, and he welcomed Santa with a countdown to 10 as he walked down the platform at 12 noon, to the excitement of the children. John was also dressed up for the occasion, with the best " carrot nose" you will ever see !!!.

The balloon man gave every child an animal balloon of their choice, or a sword etc. Fabulous balloons. And Simon-le-Barber sang lovely songs and carols all afternoon for 4 hours. for everyone to enjoy. The cafe team worked solidly, again for 4 hours, serving hot drinks and mince pies. Ruth was kept busy checking in all the children, with the help of 7 elves from Ellesmere Port Church of England College, together with two volunteers. What a great team, and a great event. Thank you ALL.

Our sincere thanks also go to Station Master's House, who are donating 50p from every cake they sold that afternoon, to Friends of Hadlow Road Station.

As you know every penny we take is put back into the station, for the pleasure of the community.

Hope you all have a VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR. We look forward to seeing you all once again when the weather is good enough for us to open the Pop-up-Cafe.

12.8 Friends of Willaston Meadow (submitted by Sarah Shannon)

During our volunteer sessions over the winter, we have cut back the hedge by the top gate to the Meadow which had become very overgrown. There was lots of interest on social media where we showed a small tree Cllr Myles Hogg planted in 2002, compared to the large one in that area that it has grown into. We have also part-cleared Jackson's Pond of the reed mace and cut back some of the willows, to keep them under control and planted some bluebells, wood anemone and red campion in School Wood.

Our group of volunteers is growing and we always welcome new members. We normally meet on the first Sunday of the month. We're a friendly group that share a love of the Meadow. Please get in contact if you would like to join us.

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

The next meeting is Feb. 2023.



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12.9 Hadlow Green Singers

Choir rehearsals began on Thursday 12th Jan.

This term the main choral piece is Faure's Requiem.

The concert date is Friday 31 March 2023 in Christ church, Willaston

New singers are always welcome. Here is no audition but an ability to sight read is an advantage.

12.10 Horticultural Society

No report received.

12.11 Johnston Recreation Ground

Sue advised at the meeting that the sand in the playground has been renewed. No further report was required as nothing to report.

12.12 Memorial Hall

Nothing new to report. Relevant information from last report included below.

POST OFFICE (in Committee Room). From 2 Jan 2023 the Post Office opening times will be as follows:

- Tuesday - 9.30am - 11.30am
- Friday - 2.30pm - 4.30pm

FUNDRAISING - The Trustees have decided to host a Coronation Afternoon Tea with a provisional date of Saturday 29th April 2023.

12.13 Scouting

No report received.

12.14 Willaston CE Primary School

No report received.



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12.15 Willaston Football Club

Firstly, I must correct an error in my previous report where I incorrectly stated that Remco Buckley was a member of the Willaston Committee. For clarity Remco is still a member of the Club and a team coach but no longer serves on the Committee.

Since my last report in November there has been a significant increase in rainfall which meant for two consecutive weeks matches on the Recreational Ground were cancelled.

This meant some teams did not play until this first weekend in January. Just prior to this spate of cancellations Willaston Ladies recorded a second win in the League and hopefully will continue this trend in the New Year. As training normally takes place on AstroTurf pitches all teams were able to concentrate on skills development and fitness. Some teams also organised a Christmas treat for their players as a reward for their hardwork. The Johnston Recreation is in a very wet and muddy state at present and more rain will only make it more so.

12.16 Willastonhey W.I.

No report received.

12.17 Willaston Methodist Chapel

There was a wonderful response to all our Christmas activities. The school children were very enthusiastic and engaged with the "Meet the Characters" live nativity event. A generous number of toys went to the Charles Thompson Mission from our Toy service.

The Candlelit Carol service was very atmospheric, and all enjoyed the traditional carols and readings. The Tableau in the front porch of Chapel received many favourable comments across the week it was exhibited. Finally, the celebration of Christmas day with the family service.

Willaston Methodist Chapel sends warm wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone and extend a welcome to anyone who would like to attend our services.

12.18 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club

Willaston and South Wirral Rotary have once more had a successful month up to Christmas, providing one of the main opportunities in the year for engaging with the local community as well as raising money for charity. The two nominated charities for the club this year are Maggie's (providing support and information for those affected by cancer) and Autism Together.

The centrepiece of the programme was the switching on of the Residents Society lights on the tree on the village green. A huge turnout, one of the largest yet, showed the popularity of this event with extra voluntary helpers this year aiding the safe and orderly arrival of



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Santa's sleigh. The participation of the stall holders in the Memorial Hall and late-night opening of local businesses also added to the evening.

In addition to this event, money was also raised by club members at the Burleydam Garden Centre and during the "sleigh runs" through the village. Despite the best efforts of the weather and football World Cup these were successfully completed with a lot of positive feedback received from members of the community of all ages. Initial figures suggest takings in the region of £1500 which is phenomenal, particularly given the current uncertainties we all face.

12.19 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group

Nothing to report as there is no Parish News in January.
John Woodrow, Chairman, Patient Participation Group. Tel 0151 327 3260.
Email johnwoodrow@btinternet.com

12.20 Willaston Tennis Club

No report received.

12.21 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

12.22 Willaston Village Festival Society

No report received.

13. Councillor's Report

13.1 The X22 bus contract has been handed back to the council.

13.2 For the local election in May voters will be required to bring I.D to be able to vote. More information can be found at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call 0800 328 0280.

13.3 There is a £2 single ticket fare cap scheme that runs until 31 March 2023. This covers the 22 bus service. In the borough stagecoach, Arriva, D&G and Als coaches are supporting the initiative. More details can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap



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14. AOB

14.1 Lyn enquired is there any updates in relation to Quarry Road. Myles advised individuals need to feedback on the current trial themselves to the council for them to review.

14.2 Sandra raised concerns about the speed of some tractors in the village is concerning and could the farm be written to. Sarah advised we have done this in the past and you need to write to all farms in the area. Recommend individuals reporting to PCSO concerns on farm vehicles and provide examples.

14.3 Ruth wished to express her thanks to everyone for the Christmas festivities, for the Christmas decorations in the village, the organisations and thank you to everyone behind the scenes.

14.4 Rob raised that the memorial hall trustees had recently put a safeguarding policy in place and should WR&CS do something similar. Sarah was not sure if this was required for WR&CS but this can be taken away and investigated. If needed, one can be put together.

Action: Sarah

The meeting concluded at 9.13pm.

Date of next Committee Meeting: Monday 20 March 2023