



# WILLASTON

Residents' & Countryside Society

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting

15 May 2023 at 7.15pm - Willaston Methodist Hall

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

**Committee Members present:** Councillor Myles Hogg, Annette Troake, Sue Unsworth, Roy Spraggon, Jane Townsend, Fiona Mosley, Sandra Kettiros, Sheila Smith, John Fisher, Lyn Jackson-Eves.

**Also in attendance:** Michelle Swann, Paul Jackson, Miranda Mason, Jan Rothwell, John Hawkins.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman congratulated Cllr Miles Hogg on his re-election to CWAC and looked forward to his continued support for Willaston over the next four years.

**Residents Consultation** - On behalf of Willaston Community Farm Paul Jackson expressed his wish to find a way to move forward & work together with WR&CS to benefit the village community. He stated that he had been told that if he attended this evening, he would be able to hear the report that had been prepared by Mel Chapman & Ceri Jones, who had visited him at the farm recently. The Chairman stated that this review had only recently been circulated to the Committee in advance of this meeting & we had not yet had chance to discuss.

Comments were as follows & Paul stated that he was willing to take & answer any questions:

- The farm has been there for 18 years.
- The farm brings a great deal to the community, including benefits to schools, veterans, vulnerable people & improvement of mental wellbeing of many people.
- He is happy to accept that there has been communication issues & apologised for any upset caused which was unintentional.
- Paul J. stated that he had expected a response after the WR&CS visit to farm.
- He stated that he does not have any direct contact details for WR&CS & therefore can only use social media to communicate.
- He said that he has no plans to build houses on the farm & covenants would be added to prevent this. His planning applications were not for houses but for Class Q which is change of use from agricultural building to a dwelling.
- Mel C. stated that regarding the planning application, 'residential use' is prime for later development whereas a 'dwelling with PDQ' is not.
- Sarah S. & Vicky S. both stated that comments & objections from WR&CS are always made according to our Constitution & every planning application is treated in the same way. Other village residents have the right to make their own comments &/or objections & these are totally separate from WR&CS.



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## Actions

- (a) Communication will take place with Paul J. as soon as possible.
- (b) Sue H. gave Paul J. her email address & advised him that she would be in touch in approx. 2-3 weeks.
- (c) Paul & 3 colleagues left the meeting at 7.45pm.

## Committee Meeting

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Ruth Hampshire, Fiona Ennys, John Woodrow, Helen Mayles, Rob King, Madeline Hughes, Barry Vowles, Andrew Walton, Ruth McElroy, Susie Dixon.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were expressed.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 20 March 2023

No issues raised. Minutes were approved by Sarah Shannon & seconded by Hilary Booth.

### 4. Actions arising from the Minutes of meeting on 20 March 2023

#### 4.0 Traffic

Myles was still awaiting a response from Harriet Cleaves &/or school.

**Carry this forward.**

**Action: Myles Hogg**

#### 4.1 Slow Down sign

No Progress. **Carry this forward.**

**Action: Myles Hogg**

#### 4.2 Hooton Road Speed Issue

Hilary B. commented about the altered road surface in Neston, near to Tesco, where cars appear to give way to pedestrians. She suggested perhaps a possible use of similar in Willaston. Myles H. will request a further speed survey.

**Carry this forward.**

**Action: Myles Hogg**

#### 5.1.6 Planter by bus stop in Neston Road

Completed. Hilary B. has replanted & moved planter to top of Hadlow Road next to bench.



5.1.11 Removed trees on Neston Road

Jane T. suggested that the removed cherry trees should be replaced by the Council.

Fiona M. has been informed by another villager that these trees were removed as they were decayed. No one yet knows who removed them.

**Action: Environmental Subgroup to investigate**

Sue U. suggested that there may be funds available to plant new trees in village.

6.3 Willaston Telephone Box

To be covered in today's agenda.

6.5 Wildflower Planting on Johnston Recreation Ground

To be covered in today's agenda.

7. How does WR&CS adapt for the future?

7.1.2.(h) Actioned. Mel C. & Ceri J. did visit Willaston Community Farm.  
To be covered in today's agenda.

8. Planning Matters

8.1 Actioned. Planning Officer Chris Swanick was stood down by non-engagement & informed by letter.

8.7 It was agreed that an 'Enforcement' addition would go into future reports.

Other planning issues to be covered in this agenda.

10. Financial Matters

10.1 Actioned. Letter sent to Drax. To be covered on today's agenda.

10.3 Actioned. Annette T. thanked WR&CS for funds received for insurance costs. Sarah S. said that WR&CS can put in an application to Myles on behalf of Playgroup for costs for new toys etc.

**Carry Forward.**

**Action: Annette Troake**

10.4 Actioned. Toddler Group will be advertised on Facebook.



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## 11. Footpaths & Bridleways

11.1 Wall on footpath between Pollards & car park. Action not yet completed.

**Carry Forward.**

**Action: Sue Hunter**

11.2. Myles H. informed us that although there will be a celebration of 50 years of Wirral Way, details have not yet been confirmed.

Lyn JE. informed us that a celebration event to mark this will take place at Hadlow Road Station on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023

## 13. Councillor's Report

13.5 Actioned. Myles informed us that the 22 bus service will continue after Sept. 2023 & will hopefully be running more frequently. Also it is highly unlikely that there will be a new bus service from Willaston to Croft Retail Park.

13.9 Re. Sound system in Memorial Hall. Brian G. to arrange meeting.

**Action: Brian Greenhalgh**

13.10 Pavement along Birkenhead Road. Actioned.

## 14. Any Other Business

14.2. Actioned. Jane Townsend has contacted Cheshire Wildlife Trust. To be covered in today's agenda (in AOB).

## 5. Environmental sub-group (Ceri, Fiona M., Sue U., Sandra K)

5.1 Successful planting of planters throughout village centre, mainly outside shops.

5.2 Ceri J. has decided to step down from this sub-group.

5.3 Sandra K. felt that many villagers would like to be involved in litter picking, keeping village tidy, etc. but it's now becoming too complex. She felt that it is everyone's responsibility & they should be able to do it independently.

5.4 Ceri J. informed us that the Risk Assessment was in place for protection of those involved. Sarah S. stated that it is important to have risk assessments in place and followed, as we are not covered by insurance if this is not the case.

5.5 It was decided by remaining sub-group members that there would no longer be a submitted Environmental Report & that comments would be submitted to Sue H. to include as an admin. report only.

**Carry Forward.**

**Action: Sue Unsworth, Fiona Mosley, Sandra Kettiros**



5.6 Myles H. suggested that litter picking dates should be planned & advertised & include those who attend.

## **6. Issues raised by members**

6.1 Village celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles were very successful. There was a good attendance at the exhibition.

6.1.2 Sarah S. asked that a letter be sent to Anita Mitchell thanking her for the work she had done decorating the village.

**Action: Sue Hunter**

6.1.3 Fiona M. confirmed that prizes were being distributed by Rotary Club for 'Best Dressed House' in village; first prize went to Millmead in Mill Lane.

### **6.2 Plastic Free Willaston initiative**

Nothing further to report.

### **6.3 Willaston Telephone Box on Village Green - presented by Sarah S.**

Sarah S. has contacted the owner on 2 occasions with no reply yet.

**Carry Forward.**

**Action: Sarah Shannon**

### **6.4 Wildflower planting on Johnston Recreation Ground**

Myles informed us that he had contacted the Council about this. They had chosen this position as it was felt to be a good location. Other sites will be identified for years 2 & 3.

## **7. How does WR&CS adapt for the future?**

7.1. Brian G. felt that the more formal WR&CS becomes, the less likely we are to attract new members.

7.1.2 Myles H. enquired if all Organisation Representatives inform their individual groups of WR&CS meetings & the content of such? Can they feedback to this group on this matter?

7.1.3 As Sarah S. has already informed us that she will be resigning from her role as Treasurer at next AGM in October, she expressed concern re. continuation of the WR&CS Lottery as the current license expires in August this year. Hilary B. agreed to take over the Lottery until a new Treasurer is in place.

**Action: Sarah Shannon & Hilary Booth**



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7.1.4 Mel C. is planning a village Treasure Hunt to promote active involvement. She will also be soon producing a Newsletter.

**Carry Forward.**

**Action: Mel Chapman**

7.2 Vicky S. suggested that we should advertise vacant WR&CS positions & their associated roles & responsibilities. She also felt it important that we promote what we do more proactively & positively.

7.2.1 Vicky S. said that she would be willing to take the role of Treasurer as long as she can be elected into the role at the next AGM. Hilary B. agreed to act as Assistant Treasurer/manage the Lottery.

7.2.2 Sue H. suggested that we consider the addition of Willaston's shops & businesses in future. They have a vested interest in the success of the Village & may be keen to be involved & even contribute.

7.2.3 Lyn JE. informed us that for the Coronation celebrations in Parkgate, all businesses there were asked if they would like to contribute any food or money etc., which they all did.

## **8. Planning Matters**

No report submitted for this meeting.

8.1 Mel C. will continue to cover the Planning Officer role in the short term, with support from Michelle S. who is providing background research. Michelle S. will write planning comments for approval by Mel C. & also write the monthly planning reports.

8.1.2 Michelle S. was co-opted onto the Committee as Assistant to the Planning Officer. This was proposed by Mel C., seconded by Roy S. and agreed by all present. Michelle S. informed us that she would like to apply for the role of Planning Officer at the next AGM.

8.1.3 Myles H. advised that all comments related to planning must be restricted to Willaston & District only.

8.2 Myles informed us that a CWAC Enforcement team will be investigating the Benty Heath Lane development; he has urged them to act as a matter of urgency as bulldozers are already on site.

8.2.1 Myles confirmed that the Enforcement Notice has been appealed by Mr S. Penny from the property 'Kerry'.

8.2.2 Myles plans to visit Mr Penny this week following his complaints of people trespassing on his private land.



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## 9. Correspondence / Social Media

9.1 Sue H. discussed the correspondence from Mr Colin Brown from the Knowe regarding their road surface. Myles has already contacted the Council on several occasions to no avail. This was an experimental road surface put down 30 years ago which has now become badly degraded. Unfortunately WR&CS have no power to act in this matter but would continue to support the residents.

Fiona M. suggested that WR&CS should contact CWaC to show support for residents of the Knowe. Sue H. will inform Mr Brown of our discussion & contact CWAC.

**Action: Sue Hunter**

## 10. Financial Matters

10.1 Regarding the Christmas Lights, Sarah S. had initially received a positive response from Drax. However they require a credit check from the 'business' (which WR&CS are not). Subsequently, Mr Mark Mitchell has now agreed to host it on our behalf. Sarah. S. is meeting with him this week to progress this.

**Action: Sarah Shannon**

## 11. Footpaths & Bridleways

11.1 Margaret S. had to leave the meeting early. Sue H. to contact her for her report.

**Action: Sue Hunter**

11.2 Jane T. reported that the historical black & white signs were being painted in South Wirral.

11.3 Wirral Footpaths & Open Spaces Preservation Society are having a footpath tidying session in Willaston; Jane will enquire & let us know of any further details.

## 12. Organisation Reports

12.1 Only one alteration to tabled reports.

PLEASE NOTE: Sue H. meant to inform the Committee of a change in the report submitted by Viv Ley re. Christ Church's forthcoming concert. The date of the concert has been changed from **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.30pm**. The correction will also be made to the previously circulated Organisation Reports.

**Action: Sue Hunter**



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## **13. Councillor's Report**

Myles commented on the following:

13.1 The 22 bus service will continue after Sept. 2023 & will hopefully be running more frequently. Also there is no likelihood of a new bus service commencing from Willaston to Croft Retail Park.

13.2 Overgrown hedges in the village are becoming problematic & even dangerous. He feels a list should be compiled of these locations & submitted to him.

13.3 Following discussion of cars parked in car park behind Christ Church, we were informed that as long as the car has a valid MOT & road tax, then no action can be taken.

## **14. Any Other Business**

14.1 Regarding Jane T's request for Hilary Ash (speaker from the Wirral/Cheshire Wildlife Trust to attend the AGM) it was agreed that due to possible time restraints, it may be a more appropriate session for some of the Organisation meetings.

**Action: Sue H. to contact appropriate Organisation Reps**

14.2 Hilary B. enquired as to who else is a key holder for the new notice board at the front part of Johnston's Recreation Ground? No one present could confirm this.

14.3 Sheila Smith requested a summarised version of the minutes for the Notice Boards.

**Action: Sue Hunter**

14.4 Sandra K. enquired about how much money was left from the £200 allocated for planting flowers. Answer is approx. £75.

14.5 Sue U. is concerned about the dreadful state of some local houses, which are mainly rental & some are empty. Myles H. replied that eventually the Council can take possession on health grounds.

14.6 The date of the AGM has been confirmed for the evening of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting concluded at 9.50pm.

***Date of next Committee Meeting is Monday 17 July 2023***





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## APPENDIX

### Organisation Reports - May 2023

#### **Willaston Christ Church** *(submitted by Viv Ley)*

After two years without a Priest-in-Charge in place at Christ Church, we believe that a new Priest-in-Charge is shortly to arrive in Willaston. We are grateful to our parishioners for their patience and support during the period of vacancy. Our regular services have continued to be held and important national events have been marked, including the Platinum Jubilee and the sad death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Coronation of her son, King Charles III.

We have been able to reintroduce some local events which we all enjoy, including our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve and our Willaston CE Primary School class visits to explore the church and churchyard and whole school visits for end-of-term services. Floral displays in the church and churchyard have been a feature over the last few months. The work of our flower-arrangers as well as members of our community has been much admired and appreciated.

Music and musical events continue to be developed. Our pipe organ and digital piano are used to accompany our two Sunday services each week. Choral Evensong with a visiting organist and choir has been held every two months and occasional organ and guitar concerts have been very well-received. We have been grateful for the wonderful support given by many individuals, societies and businesses from our local community as well as further afield.

All are welcome to join us at our 9am and 1030am Sunday services and at our special services and events, including: Sunday 28 May 10.45am Joint Pentecost Service on the Green (or in the Memorial Hall, if wet) Friday 23 June 7.30pm Church Anniversary Concert: Music for Organ and Guitar with Colin Porter and Ignacio Lusardi Monteverde Tickets £12 (from church members). All proceeds for the upkeep of the organ.

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

##### MAINTENANCE

Hopefully be the time this goes to print the white line platform edge painting will have been completed, from the crossing gates right up to the signal box. (This is totally dependent on the weather)

Following on from this work maroon colour painting of various replacement timbers can then be undertaken.

We are getting quotes from CWAC to replace, rather than repair, the 4 crossing gates. FRHS have offered to pay half of this cost as our contribution from the monies we have raised over the years.



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## GARDENING

Monthly light gardening sessions are continuing. The grassed embankment area has been cleared of weeds ready for planting bulbs for flowering next spring.

A couple more trees will be planted when the time is right.

The next garden days are Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August. Come and join this happy group, and also enjoy a “cuppa and a biscuit” as a thanks for your help. Sue is continuing her litter picking. Thank you, Sue.

## SIGNAL BOX

Dominic Beglin is very kindly providing additional signal box memorabilia, to make it much more authentic, at no charge to FRHS. Very many thanks to Dominic.

## POP-UP-CAFÉ

At the pop-up-cafe for the Coronation we were inundated with customers. This event was solely run and organised by FRHS. Many thanks go to Western Approaches for their lovely rendition of songs and also to the Morris Men or their great presentation. Both of the groups performed for no charge (donations only). We will be donating £360 for the children who want to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

There will be a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event to mark the opening of the Wirral Way on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1973. This is now being planned and we will let you know Next Pop-up-Cafe Dates are: Sunday 11th June - Musical entertainment with Simon le Barber and signal box tours/talk with Dominic Beglin. Then Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June, Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July, Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

All sessions are 10am - 1pm.

Hilary Booth 327 8325

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

The Meadow is coming to life. The frogs have spawned and tadpoles have now dispersed around Jackson's Pond. We have been very pleased to see at least a dozen ducklings being watched over by a very protective mother. We are asking people not to feed them bread as this is not good for their development. The fruit trees are blossoming, and flowers include snake-head fritillary and marsh marigold.

At our last volunteer session, we continued to dig out the area we cleared over winter and planted primroses, ox eye daises, clematis and honeysuckle around the area. We always welcome volunteers at our working group sessions, normally 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.



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

The March concert in Christchurch was a great success. Faure's Requiem was much appreciated by the audience. This term we are singing a variety of more modern popular pieces including songs from My Fair Lady and Abba. Summer concert dates are 14th and 15th July.

Choir practices are on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. New members are welcome.

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

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June when we will be having a talk on Tillandsia (Air Plants) by Mr Don Billington. It should be interesting to learn how to look after an air plant. I look forward to seeing you.

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 £8.00 per year, and you can get 10% discount at Burleydam Garden Centre on all gardening products on production of your Membership card.

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

Nothing new to report.

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

A meeting of the committee took place on 9th May. Bookings for the Hall/Committee room continue at a healthy level having picked up again post the pandemic.

The Coronation Afternoon Tea held late April proved to be an extremely popular event. Over 60 people attended and whilst the final net profit has yet to be confirmed it appears likely that it will be in the region of £700. We are grateful to WRCS for the £50 donation they have made.

## **Scouting**

No report received.



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## **Willaston CE Primary School**

No report received.

## **Willaston Football Club** *(submitted by John Fisher)*

Nothing new to report this time as there has been little change.

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

Since my last report, the W.I members have had a talk by Gavin Hunter on the three Lord Leverhulmes in March, and in April Yvonne Mathews came to talk to us on the subject of Bee Pollen.

The meeting in May will be our birthday meeting and also a vote will take place on the W.I Resolution of Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife. After that we will have a Celebration of the Coronation.

There are several outings planned this year, including visits to Puddington, Inglewood, Nantwich and the Floral Pavillion. Our day out is to Lytham.

Our groups continue to thrive after the Easter break and we also took part in the annual quiz in April in Thornton Hough.

Our meetings are on the fourth Tuesday in the month in the Memorial Hall commencing at 7.30pm. Our speaker for June is Roger Browne on the subject entitled New Orleans to New York.

If you would like to come along you would be very welcome or email [willastonhey@gmail.com](mailto:willastonhey@gmail.com)

## **Willaston Methodist Chapel** *(submitted by Sheila Smith)*

Symbols relating to the last week of Jesus' earthly life were displayed on the Cross in Chapel in the weeks up to Easter. The Easter Sunday service was preceded by the annual Church family Easter breakfast.

The Chapel joined the village in celebrating King Charles' Coronation with events over the bank holiday weekend.



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The Children's Coronation Crafting Day was a huge success. The schoolroom was packed from 10 until 4pm with enthusiastic children happily engrossed in creating simple Coronation themed items. Apart from the "crafters", the tea and cake team kept the adults happy with refreshments.

The 2022 Jubilee video was on view in the Chapel all day, too. It was also Volunteers Day, and we had a Church full of those! Thank you to all who helped, and those who came and enjoyed the weekend.

There will be a joint service on the Green to celebrate Pentecost, on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, led by Christ Church this year. Let's hope the weather is favourable!

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

A number of members from Willaston & South Wirral Rotary Club visited Maggie's, one of the club's adopted charities, at the start of the month. As a part of this they were given the opportunity to tour the amazing facilities and had the chance to see the great work that Maggie's does first hand.

The club has also held one of its regular book sales on Willaston village green at the start of May which was very successful. Nearly £40 was taken during the morning, thank you to those who bought a book and helped raise this money which will go to charity. There is another book sale coming up on the morning of 27<sup>th</sup> May, come along if you want to buy a book or just chat about what the club does or how you can be involved.

The club's contribution to the Coronation weekend, the "Best Dressed House" competition (with prizes kindly donated by the Willaston Residents Society, White Feather and Spar) was well received from the positive feedback via social media. Deciding the winners was extremely difficult with numerous contenders from all around the village but after a lengthy discussion the top four were finally agreed upon. Congratulations to those who won a prize and thanks to everyone who decorated their houses and made the judging such a pleasure.

The opportunity was also taken to spruce up the planters created and adopted by the club with red, white and blue flowers.

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

I am holding a Patient Group meeting in the Methodist Chapel at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. I hope to see you there and I will put up posters in the village to remind you of the event nearer the time. It would be appreciated that if you have a question or query you would let me have it in advance so that we can give a considered response. I will, of course, take questions on the night.



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Dr Hamilton has gone on maternity leave and Dr Carrington is our locum to replace her. At the moment it is assumed that Dr Hamilton will return after her maternity leave.

As, ever, in the meantime if you have a matter you would like me to take up with the Surgery then please let me know at [johnwoodrow@btinternet.com](mailto:johnwoodrow@btinternet.com) or on 3273260.

John Woodrow, Chairman, Patient Participation Group.

## **Willaston Tennis Club** *(submitted by Andrew Walton)*

No report received.

## **Willaston Toddler Group** *(submitted by Annette Troake)*

No report received.

## **Willaston Village Festival Society**

No report received.