



Minutes of the Committee Meeting

17th July 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).

Committee Members present: Councillor Myles Hogg, Barry Vowles, Madeline Hughes, John Woodrow, Susie Dixon, Fiona Ennys, Annette Troake, Sue Unsworth, Roy Spraggon, Jane Townsend, Fiona Mosley, Sandra Kettiros, Sheila Smith, John Fisher, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Helen Mayles, Andrew Walton, Michelle Swann, Ruth Hampshire, Rob King.

Also in attendance: Peter Farrall (observer).

Committee Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Margaret Smyth, Ruth McElroy, Mel Chapman.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were expressed.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 15 May 2023

No issues raised. Minutes were approved by Annette Troake & seconded by Sheila Smith.

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

See Appendix 1 for Actions from previous meetings brought / carried forward.

5. Issues raised / Updates by members

5.1 Development of land in Hooton Road (opposite Benty Heath Lane)

5.1.1 It was agreed unanimously that WR&CS should make a position statement on this developing situation.

5.1.2 Michelle S. had made general enquiries directly with a gentleman on the site who said they had planning permission for all work.

5.1.3 Myles confirmed that no planning applications had been submitted to CWaC. Land was initially auctioned & initially claimed to be for grazing for horses. It appears that the land may have been purchased by travellers.



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- 5.1.4 Myles H. feels this needs immediate action as this is the remaining area of Green Belt between Willaston & Hooton. He has had over 100 emails about the activity on site. Enforcement Officers have now visited the site and confirmed that the roadway does require planning permission.
- 5.1.5 Sarah S. asked if we could send advisory letter to owner.
- 5.1.6 Ruth H. informed us that there was significant activity on Facebook about this matter. She queried if retrospective planning permission would be given.
- 5.1.7 Vicky S. asked if Hooton were involved & also taking action?
- 5.1.8 Jane T. enquired if we could approach the landowner & ask about **buying** fields 2 and 3.
- 5.1.9 Barry V. suggested some comments that could form part of a WR&CS position statement. Brian G. asked Barry to compose this & circulate to Officers.

Action: Barry Vowles

5.2 New PA / Sound system for Village

- 5.2.1 Proposal put forward by Helen Mayles (of Hadlow Green Singers). Benefits were discussed, however there were issues that needed to be considered, such as: where would this equipment be stored, who would have access to it, who would take responsibility for it, who would insure it & maintain it?
- 5.2.2. Christ Church have indicated that they may be able to store on their premises. Helen M. will contact Christ Church to pursue this. Carry Forward.

Action: Helen Mayles
- 5.2.3 Rob K. advised that the Memorial Hall already has a significant storage problem & storage there virtually impossible.
- 5.2.4 Barry V. advised that it is highly unlikely that storage would be possible at Hadlow Road Station.
- 5.2.5 Fiona E. commented that there were many logistical problems that would need to be dealt with.
- 5.2.6 Brian G. indicated that WR&CS could support this initiative & possibly offer some funding. However, a more detailed proposal would be required which needs to include issues raised.

5.3 Planted trees on Johnston Recreation Ground

- 5.3.1 Sue H. advised the Committee that she has been in touch with Andy James of CWaC who has agreed to register both planted trees as part of the Queen Elizabeth's 'Green Canopy Project' (which is part of the legacy of her Platinum Jubilee).



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- 5.3.2 Ruth H. enquired about the plaque from CWaC to identify the commemorative trees. She felt a good position for this would be on the sandstone wall next to the gate (facing inwards towards the trees). Myles H. will address this with Andy James at CWaC.

Action: Myles Hogg

5.4 Fly tipping in Village

- 5.4.1 Lyn JE informed us that there had been fly-tipping at end of Hawthorne Drive. It had taken great effort to have this removed. Myles H. was surprised as CWaC usually respond very quickly.
- 5.4.2 Andrew W. suggested that it would be beneficial if CWaC informed us that their services had changed as that could potentially encourage people to do more on an individual basis.
- 5.4.3 Brian G. suggested that we should use the 'Love Where You Live' logo more frequently to encourage this idea throughout the Village.

6. Correspondence / Social Media

Minimal direct activity via website & social media.

7. WR&CS adapting for the future

7.1 Proposed amendment to Constitution

- 7.1.1 The document prepared by Sarah S. was discussed by all present with the request that all Organisation Reps take to their groups for further discussion, with feedback at the September meeting.
- 7.1.2 Anyone who wishes to apply for Associate membership should apply by September so that it can then be voted on at the AGM in October.
- 7.1.3 Jane T. noted that as it stands, an Associate Member would have a lifetime membership. Sarah S. will amend & change it to a 3-year time span, then send to Sue H. for onward distribution to all Organisation Reps.

Action: Sarah Shannon

- 7.1.4 Jane T. also felt that in principle non-resident individuals and non-resident business owners should not have same rights as residents.

7.2 Website development

- 7.2.1 The current website designer has now completed their work. Sarah S. stated that she would be happy to continue with the website maintenance.
- 7.2.2 Brian G. would like the WR&CS website to be an early source of information for new villagers regarding local facilities, businesses, organisations and as an overall picture of the community.



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- 7.2.3 Sarah S. advised that currently, all member organisations have the option to host their own website via the WR&CS website. She will now add additional details for local businesses to our website.

Action: Sarah Shannon

8. Financial Matters

8.1 Christmas lights update:

Sarah reported that she had heard from the Broker that afternoon and it is likely that we will be able to move the account to SSE. The cost will be £5 a month, as opposed to £4 a day with Drax, plus the cost of electricity, which will be more than previously. She warned that she had not yet received the contract which would have more detail. The contract will be with Mitchell Motors North West as we are not a legal entity but we will set up a direct debit for the new contract from our account. It was unanimously agreed that Sarah can go ahead with the arrangements as she sees fit. She was also congratulated on her persistence in this matter.

8.2 Handover to new Treasurer

Discussions are all underway with Sarah S., Hilary B., Vicky S.

9. Planning Matters

- 9.1 Myles H. commended Michelle S. on her planning reports. She will now liaise directly with him re. individual issues.
- 9.2 Barry V. commented that the Committee needs to be happy that Michelle S. is now the main point of contact.
- 9.3 Myles H. advised that we need to be careful that we are not seen as vigilantes or act in an overly zealous manner. It is important that we do not alienate the village residents.

10. Footpaths & Bridleways

- 10.1 No report submitted.
- 10.2 Jane T. was concerned that the Council have reduced their 'strimming' activities around the village.
- 10.3 Jane T. also advised us that Wirral Footpaths & Open Spaces Preservation Society has received a generous donation from an anonymous village resident. This money has been ringfenced for work to FP28.
- 10.4 Regarding the footpath signs on Mill Lane, it is still unclear who has painted these.



11. Councillor's Report - Myles Hogg

- 11.1 Councillor's £5K fund has now become available again; it expires in March 2024. This covers projects of £250 or more.
- 11.2 Discussed the 'Streetcare Update - seasonal maintenance' document (no. 2412) from CWaC which gives details of maintenance operations during summer months.
- 11.3 Police & Crime Commissioner's monthly newsletter - no major issues regarding Willaston.
- 11.4 Discussed 'Space Hive' which is aimed at organisations who undertake renewable energy projects.
- 11.5 Overgrown hedges in the village are becoming problematic & even dangerous. He feels a list should be compiled of these locations & submitted to him. Myles can then contact the appropriate department at CWaC.

Sarah S. mentioned that WR&CS can write to homeowners directly to express their concern and request action. Template letter already available. Sarah S. to share with Sue H.

Action: Sarah Shannon

12. Organisations' Reports (please see Appendix 2)

All comments regarding the Environmental sub-group have been incorporated into Organisations' Reports. However, this was deemed to be inappropriate as not an organisation as such. Sue H to contact Sue U., Sandra K., Fiona M. for feedback.

Action: Sue Hunter

Vicky S. commented that Risk Assessments (RA) will still need to be used for any activity advertised by WR&CS so that all participants are covered by the WR&CS Public Liability insurance. Fiona M. offered to adapt RA used by Rotary Club. Ceri J. to share WR&CS versions.

Action: Ceri Jones

13. Any Other Business

- 13.1 Sue H. has visited Anita Mitchell and discussed the Welcome Pack that is distributed to new village residents. Anita has also been invited to attend a WR&CS meeting to discuss the Welcome Pack & her involvement with new residents. She hopes to attend our September 2023 meeting.
- 13.2 Lyn JE advised us that the Willaston Horticultural Show will take place in the Memorial Hall on 5th August 2023 from 12-4pm.



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- 13.3 Barry V. enquired about the flyer for the AGM in October. Sarah S. to send previous flyer to Sue H. for completion.

Action: Sarah Shannon & Sue Hunter

- 13.4 Ruth H. noted that as Willaston Primary School have an inclusion in the Parish News magazine, they be interested in using same text in our Organisations' Reports. Annette Troake offered to contact school to enquire.

Action: Annette Troake

- 13.5 Sue U. commented that the refurbished Pavilion on Johnston's Recreation Ground looked very impressive; all work was completed by volunteers.

- 13.6 Sheila S. asked Myles H. whose responsibility it is to maintain the footpath linking Old Vicarage Rd. through to the Green. Myles will approach CWaC.

Action: Myles Hogg

The meeting concluded at 9.40pm.

Date of next Committee Meeting is Monday 18th September 2023.



APPENDIX 1

Actions & Issues from previous Minutes

Item	Actions	
Traffic issues in village	Myles awaiting response from Harriet Cleaves and/or School.	Myles Hogg
Slow Down sign	Item closed.	
Hooton Road speed issue	No further action at present. Item closed.	
Removed trees on Neston Rd.	MH suggested that we contact CWaC to enquire if we can replace trees with their permission. Treasurer confirmed WR&CS has sufficient funds.	Sue Hunter
Telephone box on Green	No further contact with owner Vicky Marsden. Sarah S. to forward contact details to Sue H.	Sarah Shannon
Toddler Playgroup	Insurance costs paid by WR&CS. Funds available from Myles for new toys for Playgroup.	Annette Troake
Wall to footpath between Pollards & car park	No response from CWAC. Carry forward.	Sue Hunter
Environmental sub-group feedback	Carry forward. Sue Hunter to progress.	Sandra Kettiros / Sue Unsworth / Fiona Mosley
Risk assessments	Need to be used for any activity advertised by WR&CS so that all participants are covered by the WR&CS Public Liability.	Fiona Mosley / Ceri Jones
Newsletter & Treasure Hunt	To promote village involvement.	Mel Chapman



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<p>'Kerry', Hooton Road</p> <p>Condition of road surface at 'The Knowe'</p> <p>Summarised version of Minutes for notice boards</p>	<p>Myles has visited Mr. Penny regarding his complaints of Trespass from the public footpath. Situation still ongoing.</p> <p>Sue H. contacted Mike Powell at CWaC. Concern expressed re. state of road & support offered for residents of the Knowe. No reply received. Sue H. also contacted Colin Brown from the Knowe & informed him of action taken.</p> <p>Secretary has produced these for posting.</p>	<p>Myles Hogg</p> <p>Item closed unless further correspondence received.</p> <p>Item closed</p>
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APPENDIX 2

Organisation Reports - July 2023

Environmental Sub-Group *(submitted by Sandra Kettiros & Sue Unsworth)*

Sue U's 'litter' picks continue to be held every 3rd Sun. each month with a meet time of 10:30 on the Green under the tree.

Sandra K. is to purchase the same stain that was previously used on the benches, as well as clear varnish for the notice board on The Green. She is hoping to do a couple of painting sessions over the coming months and will let Ceri J. know so that it can be advertised to allow any other interested parties to join in. She will draw up a risk assessment for these works.

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

Maintenance

Painting has commenced on the new timber, supporting the main Hadlow Station Sign, but this still needs more coats of paint.

A train made of wooden logs, is being made by John Williams for display on the platform. Some improvement work will be done to the middle of the South platform section, and we are hoping to get the upgrade to the West section of the South platform. FRHS volunteers will be meeting the CwaC's landscape Architect to catch up on the proposed works for this section.

A decision on the Lottery Heritage £6k grant award, for the new level crossing gates is due any time.

Gardening

Lots of plants have now been planted around the station grounds. They are exploring having a water butt off the shelter on the South platform, which will make watering plants during the hot weather much easier (when it rains!).

CWAC have applied to draw down two lots of funding that will be used to improve the Wirral Way from Hooton, this will include a disabled access by Hooton Station.

The next garden days are Wed 5th July & Tues 1st August. Come and join these happy helpers, you will be made very welcome.

Signal Box

Thirty people went into the signal box for a talk very kindly given by Dominic Beglin, giving up his own time, for which we are very grateful.

Pop-Up Café

The cafe on 11th June was a huge success and our thanks go to Simon-le Barber for his entertaining songs throughout the morning, which were enjoyed by everyone in glorious sunshine.



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The cafe is so well supported by our own village, and now visitors coming from St Helens and Wigan, showing how far people are prepared to travel. A BIG thank you to everyone for all your wonderful support.

Two Duke of Edinburgh volunteers are also helping as part of their award scheme.

The next Pop-Up café dates are Sundays 16th & 30th July from 10am - 1pm.

Hilary Booth 327 8325

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

The Meadow is looking wonderful again this summer. We are pleased that eight ducklings are now almost grown up. There is a second brood on Dead Man's Pond. We have had many different plants flowering in the area including two varieties of orchids.

We have plans to improve the Forest School area and are intending to install benches in both the current area and in School Wood. We have asked for support from the PTA and from Myles' councillor fund.

We welcomed a group of students from Ellesmere Port CE College to put together a video about the Meadow. The children, aged 12 to 16 were very enthusiastic, took some lovely photos and we are really looking forward to the final product. We are hoping that this will build into further pieces of work with them.

At our last volunteer session in July, we tidied up the path through School Wood and trimmed around the fruit trees. We then had a Barbecue for volunteers hosted by the Seedhouse family at Willaston Mill, which we all enjoyed. 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.

Hadlow Green Singers *(submitted by Helen Mayles)*

The summer concert is on 14th and 15th July. The choir meets at 7.30pm on Thursdays in the Memorial Hall and new singers are always welcome.

Johnston Recreation Ground *(submitted by Sue Unsworth)*

The last meeting was held on 23rd May.

Allotments

Still waiting for more plots (planned on ground adjacent to original plots) MOST plots are looking really good.



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Playground

Very well used. Lots of picnics in the glorious sunshine! At last we have 'No Dogs Allowed' notices on all entrances.

Tennis

The courts are looking really good after a lot of refurbishment.

Football

Posts have been taken down for the Summer. A great deal of work has been done on both the inside and the outside of the Pavilion. It is looking really good now (a great improvement). Thank you to the Club for all their hard work!

The "WILD FLOWER" area at the entrance to the "REC" has been much admired and photographed by residents and visitors. It was, and is, looking beautiful. Many thanks to the Council.

The 2 Commemorative trees were a worry in the very dry spell but a resident has been watering them and they are growing well. It would be sad to lose them before the plaques have been placed! We hope to have a little ceremony before too long.

The next Recreation ground meeting will be held in Christ Church on 20th September at 7:30 pm. All welcome.

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.

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

Our 43rd birthday meeting and delayed Coronation Celebration in May, were very much enjoyed. After the resolution vote, we were treated to some delicious food from our members, toasted the King, and had a royal themed quiz. In addition each member received a chocolate covered with a coronation crown cosy, knitted by our fabulous knit and natter group.

Instead of our ramble in May, rambblers were treated to a lunch by a very kind member and a walk around Puddington's old village including Puddington Hall, we were also given a tour of Rosewood, a garden in the village.

A visit to Inglewood Gardens was enjoyed in June.



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Our usual rambles will take place July 18th and August 15th. The speaker at our July meeting is yet to be advised.

'Our Day Out' this year is a visit by coach to Lytham. Members can plan their day with an option to visit Lytham Hall.

There are plans for a three-day break in Nantwich at the end of August and a two-day coach trip to York and Durham in the autumn.

A visit to the Floral Hall is planned in November to see The Mousetrap.

Weekly groups continue to thrive, and our knit and natter groups hope to meet in members gardens, weather permitting.

Meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, in the Memorial Hall, commencing 7.30pm. If you would like further information our website is www.willastonhey@gmail.com.

Willaston & District Horticultural Society *(submitted by Pam Irving)*

There will be no meeting in July as our outing will be on Tuesday 1st August to Rufford Old Hall. The coach will leave The Green at 9.30am and return at approximately 5.00pm.

Our Annual Flower Show is on Saturday 5th August. There are many classes to enter for everyone from Flowers, Vegetables and Produce. If you would like a schedule, you can ring me on 327 6048 and I will drop one off for you. Try it, it is fun and makes the Show more interesting to visit.

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.

Willaston Christ Church *(submitted by Viv Ley)*

No report submitted.

Willaston CE Primary School

No report received.

Willaston Football Club *(submitted by John Fisher)*

Willaston Football Club teams have come to the end of one season and are eagerly planning for next. The majority of the 9 teams play in the Eastham and District Junior League ranging from the U7's to U15's and the only adult team is Willaston Ladies who play in the Cheshire Women's and Youth League.



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The Willaston Ladies made Willaston football history this season by playing in the first two rounds of the FA Cup in September.

In 2022/23 season there were exceptional performances by the U10 and U11 Junior teams who won their divisional cups and leagues. The U7's deserve a mention as at the beginning of the season they were losing badly every week, but they kept turning up every week and playing. In the New Year the results started to improve, and by the end they were drawing and winning games. They embodied the ethos of the Club in that they played to the best of their ability and, win or lose they carry on enjoying their football, and with the support of their coaches they improve and achieve success.

In the Eastham Ferry Football tournament in May, and the U7 and U9 teams won their age groups. Congratulations to them both. Other teams reached semi-finals and finals only to lose in the last seconds, or in the dreaded penalty shoot-out. They all had an enjoyable and fun day.

Willaston FC welcome along all players of any ability to train and play football and wish to join teams who enjoy their games of football throughout the season. Besides the teams mentioned above there is a Willaston Tots (5,6,7-year-olds) for any child who wishes to try out football. Any parents who wish their children to join a local football Club they should contact Steve Blackledge at chairman@willastonfc.org.uk or John Fisher on 07780 693284 or secretary@willastonfc.org.uk

John Fisher. Willaston FC Secretary

Willaston Methodist Chapel *(submitted by Sheila Smith)*

The Methodist Church nationwide, after much prayerful consideration and discussion, made the decision some time ago to permit local congregations, where they choose, to become places where same sex marriages can be celebrated. Willaston Methodist Church Council has accepted this opportunity and the Methodist Chapel has now registered, so we can offer to same sex couples the same opportunity as male-female couples to commit to marriage before God.

Jim Shaw, the Local Lay Pastor, has been certified by the Registrar General as the Authorised Person for the solemnization of marriages including those of same sex couples, as has Rev. Gwynfor Evans who is happy to officiate marriages.

Contact either with God's love. Details are as follows:

- Jim Shaw - phone 0151 327 7183. Email-dr-jim.shaw@ntlworld.com
- Rev. Gwynfor Evans - phone 07783 824827. Email - gwynforandjean@googlemail.com

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

The club was pleased to welcome District Governor Paul Dutton and Assistant Governor Simon Butonshaw-Gunn to the 26th April meeting which provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas for the future.



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The book sales on Willaston Village Green continue to be successful, our thanks as always to all those who buy books and thereby raise funds for the charities. The planters in the village that the club look after, continue to be maintained by its members with weeding duties regularly undertaken and watering duties being particularly important during the current heat wave. The club is also in the process of organising a visit to Autism Together.

The “Human Fruit Machine”, that proved such a hit with children and adults at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Willaston, made an appearance at Neston Village Fair on July 1.

Willaston Scouts *(submitted by Remco Buckley)*

No report received.

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

Nothing new to report for the Surgery this month. 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 or on 327 3260.

John Woodrow, Chairman, Patient Participation Group

Willaston Tennis Club *(submitted by Andrew Walton)*

Court Re-surfacing

The final court resurfacing paint was applied in May and has received favourable comments from all who have played on it. Again our thanks to club members who donated and the contribution from the CWAC CIL fund.

Membership

After a concerted effort to advertise the club through fliers and emails there has again been a disappointing downward trend in families and juniors joining the club. Senior and Adult membership is however increasing slightly. Interest in coaching sessions has however increased with Junior Saturday and Tuesday sessions being popular. The club will canvas previous members to understand reasons for family decline.

Safeguarding

In line with updates to LTA safeguarding policies the club has updated its own policies which are available to view on the club website and on notices on the courts.

Notice Board

For many years the club has been without a notice board at the courts to display policies and information. At the June committee meeting it was decided to purchase a new board to be erected at the court entrance - the size will be 6 x A4.



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Walking Tennis

We now have a small and growing group who have started this form of tennis. As the name suggests running is not allowed and the slower ball may bounce twice before being hit. This is proving popular with those of limited mobility and is a great social game - again please email Willastontennisclub@gmail.com with your interest. All are welcome generally playing on Tuesday mornings but also Thursdays if there is a demand.

Free Coaching

The free coaching ran during May and June and was well attended by adults particularly.

Coaching

Our LTA affiliated coach has been running junior coaching sessions during summer and these will restart in September

Anyone interested in future sessions please see the following link [Ace Tennis Academy / Ace Tennis Academy Chester \(lta.org.uk\)](#) and contact Berin Ames directly

AGM

The AGM was held on 18th April 2023 in the memorial hall - minutes are available on the website.

Court weeds/vegetation clearance

The recent weather conditions have resulted in rapid undergrowth increase around the court. Working parties are being organised to clear the edges and cut down the shrubs that are growing through the netting.

Andrew Walton. WTC Chairman. 07961 680 683

Willaston Toddler Group *(submitted by Annette Troake)*

Nothing further to report at this time.

Willaston Village Festival Society

No report received.