



# WILLASTON

Residents' & Countryside Society

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting

18<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2023 at 7.15pm - Willaston Methodist Hall

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

**Committee Members present:** Councillor Myles Hogg, Barry Vowles, Fiona Ennys, Annette Troake, Sue Unsworth, Roy Spraggon, Fiona Mosley, Sandra Kettiros, Sheila Smith, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Helen Mayles, Andrew Walton, Ruth Hampshire, Rob King, John Fisher.

## Committee Meeting

The meeting began with a moment of reflection for Paul Janvier, a previous and highly respected Committee member, who died recently.

### 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Brian Greenhalgh (Vice Chair), Madeline Hughes, Ruth McElroy, Jane Townsend, Susie Dixon.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was expressed by Roy Spraggon.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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

### 4. Actions / Issues arising from previous Minutes

See Appendix 1 (pg. 6) for Actions carried forward from this & previous meetings.

### 5. WR&CS adapting for the future

#### 5.1 Proposed amendment to Constitution re. associate membership

5.1.1 The final draft document prepared by Sarah S. was discussed by all present with submitted comments considered & in the main, included. These were that associate membership should be limited to 3 years & should have same age restrictions as full membership.

5.1.2 Sarah S. confirmed that there had been no applications in the past 5 years.



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5.1.3 There were some objections to the number of 20 advocated. Vicky S. suggested that the number be reduced to 10 with the restriction that only 3 can become officers at any one time. This was put to the vote & agreed by all but Jane T. This motion was then proposed by Barry V. & seconded by Hilary B. This will now be taken to the AGM in October for voting.

5.1.4 Helen M. enquired how this is to be circulated? Sarah S. confirmed that it would now go onto WR&CS website & the noticeboards.

**Action: Sarah Shannon**

## **5.2 Associate membership vote**

5.2.1 Vicky S. has applied to become an associate member. Sarah S. chaired this part of the meeting & read out this application. It was put to the vote & agreed by all but Jane T. This motion was proposed by Hilary B. & seconded by Lyn JE.

## **6. Correspondence / Social Media**

6.1 Vicky S. informed the Committee that a Subject Access Request had been received from Mr. P. Jackson. This was being dealt with by the Officers. There was no further discussion or questions allowed at this time. The Committee would be fully informed at a later stage.

6.2 Sue H. & Ceri J. reported minimal direct activity via website & social media. Photographs of Hadlow Road Station had been submitted & sent on to Friends of Hadlow Road Station.

## **7. Financial Report**

### **7.1 General summary**

7.1.1 Sarah S. reported that the Christmas Tree Lights account has finally moved to SSE on a 12-month contract. Barry V. congratulated Sarah S. on her perseverance in this matter.

7.1.2 Sarah S. will be meeting with the Auditor soon in preparation for the AGM.

### **7.2 Handover to new Treasurer**

7.2.1 Sarah S. is standing down at the October AGM; she said that all documents would be handed over after this meeting.

## **8. Planning Matters**

8.1 Since the last meeting, both Mel Chapman & Michelle Swann have resigned from their roles. Barry V. has since been supporting the planning role.

8.2 Mel C. had already completed the Planning Report for July & August.



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- 8.3 Barry V. commented that in the current situation, members of the Committee now need to increase their involvement & take on additional responsibility.
- 8.4 After considering the planning report, where many applications relate to trees, Barry V. advised that this topic should no longer be included in our reports.
- 8.5 Barry V. has received information from Mel C. regarding the formation of the 'Green Belt Alliance' which is a group covering the districts of Willaston, Hooton & Burton. This group is currently in its infancy & may, at a later stage, be developed further to form a Community Interest Company.
- 8.6 A new planning application has been submitted by the now disused poultry farm on Mill Lane. The owners wish to store cars on only part of the site. Carry forward.
- Action: Myles Hogg**
- 8.7 Myles H. was notified in early September that CWaC are following up on earlier applications regarding the Damhead Lane fishing development. Carry forward.
- Action: Myles Hogg**
- 8.8 Vicky S. formally thanked Barry V. for his input & support in planning matters for this meeting.

## 9. Footpaths & Bridleways / Environmental Group update

- 9.1 Margaret S. informed us that Wirral Footpaths & Open Spaces Society are funding improvements to the surface of FP 28, which runs between Street Hey Lane & Mill Lane.
- 9.2 Sue U. informed us that only 1 person had participated in last week's litter picking session (there is usually a greater turnout). She questioned if the sessions could be more widely promoted.

## 10. Councillor's Report - Myles Hogg

- 10.1 The request for double yellow lines at corner of Hooton Road & Overdale Road is still ongoing with CWaC.
- Action: Myles Hogg**
- 10.2 Residents in Cheshire West & Chester have an opportunity to sign up to group-buying scheme for solar panels & battery storage. Residents have until 27 October 2023 to register their interest. For more information or to register please visit: [www.solartogtgher.co.uk/cheshire-west-and-chester](http://www.solartogtgher.co.uk/cheshire-west-and-chester)



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- 10.3 The Shared Prosperity Fund Delivery Plan was mentioned. This aims to support local businesses to increase productivity, relating to start-up & innovation. For more information please visit: [gemma.davies@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.davies@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
- 10.4 Local Councils now have access to the Rural Mobility Fund; this is being used for improved bus services in other parts of Cheshire. It is hoped that this scheme will be extended to our area.
- 10.5 Sue U. expressed her concern for people over the age of 75 years who currently have to re-apply for driving licenses; this then impacts on those who now or in future may have to rely on local bus services.
- 10.6 The Police & Crime Commissioner has re-opened his Community Action Fund enabling local projects to apply for funding. It makes £100,000 available for projects (with an individual value of up to £5,000) submitted by applicants working with local policing teams to address safety issues in their area. Applications welcomed from community groups. Closing date is 20 November 2023.
- 10.7 PCSOs will no longer be allowed to attend "Speed Watch" sessions. Volunteers in groups of 3 can continue at pre-approved sites.

## 11. Organisations' Reports - tabled

- 11.1 Ruth H. enquired if the 2 new trees planted at Johnston's Recreation Ground can be given a tree preservation order (TPO)? Barry V. informed the group that any villager can apply for a TPO.

See Appendix 2 (pg. 8) for all reports.

## 12. Issues Raised / Updates by Members

- 12.1 Sue H. has had a request to change date of next meeting to 13 November; this was agreed by all.
- 12.2 Sue H. informed the group that she had again progressed the issue of the damaged wall near Pollards with CWaC. Carry forward.  
**Action: Sue Hunter**
- 12.3 Fiona M. had earlier suggested the need for role profiles for WR&CS positions vacant. This was deemed to be a good idea & will be completed moving forward.
- 12.4 Lyn JE. informed us that charity boxes were ready for collection from herself or Methodist Church. They will be dispatched to children in Ukraine.



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- 12.5 Fiona M. enquired why CWaC state that you cannot park at Hooton Station overnight, when many people do & payment machine allows it? Myles will enquire directly with CWaC.

**Action: Myles Hogg**

## **13. Any Other Business**

None.

The meeting concluded at 9.19pm.

Date of the AGM is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Date of next Committee Meeting is Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023.



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## APPENDIX 1

### Actions & Issues from previous Minutes

Original date	Descriptor	Action / Issue	Actioned by
March 2023	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
March 2023	Telephone box on Green	Carry forward	Sue Hunter
May 2023	Wall to footpath between Pollards & car park	Further email sent to CWAC by Sue H. No response as yet. Carry forward	Sue Hunter
May 2023	'Kerry' Hooton Road	Situation still ongoing	Myles Hogg
July 2023	Newsletter & Treasure Hunt	To promote village involvement	Mel Chapman
July 2023	Development of land at Benty Heath Lane	Ongoing. A position statement was issued by WR&CS. Carry forward	Myles Hogg
July 2023	New sound / PA system for village	Ongoing. Carry forward	Helen Mayles
July 2023	Commemorative plaque on Johnston's Rec.	Myles H. will address this with CWaC this week.	Myles Hogg
July 2023	Associate Membership of WR&CS	Committee voted in favour & matter now to go to AGM in October	Sarah Shannon
July 2023	Willaston Primary School	School to be contacted re. their input into the WR&CS Organisation Reports	Annette Troake
July 2023	Footpath between Old Vicarage Rd & the Green	Raised as an issue as severely overgrown. To be taken to CWaC.	Myles Hogg
July 2023	Associate membership	Information to be added to website & noticeboards in preparation for AGM.	Sarah Shannon & Hilary Booth



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Sept 2023	Disused poultry farm, Mill Lane	Planning application has been submitted to store cars on part of the land	Myles Hogg
Sept 2023	Fishing development Damhead Lane	CWaC review of Enforcement issues	Myles Hogg
Sept 2023	Double yellow lines	The request for these at corner of Hooton/Overdale Roads is still ongoing with CWaC. Carry forward	Myles Hogg
Sept 2023	Wall to footpath between Pollards & car park	Progressed again with CWaC	Sue Hunter
Sept 2023	Hooton Station	Parking overnight - CwaC state not allowed. Direct enquiry with CWaC. Carry forward	Myles Hogg



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## Organisation Reports – September 2023

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

#### Maintenance

The new level crossing gates are being made by Jardines (a local joiner in Hooton) and they hopefully will be fitted before the Wirral Way Event on 1<sup>st</sup> October. They will be primed and undercoated ready for the FRHS maintenance team to apply the gloss paint. The old crossing gates will be taken away by Churney Valley Heritage Railway, who will give a small donation to the FRHS funds.

Jardines are also going to give us a quote to repair the timber on the rear door of the waiting room. The painting of the waiting room, the ticket office, the toilets, and the kitchen area, has now been fully completed. G.R. Bradshaw (a local electrical contractor) are ascertaining if additional electric sockets could be installed in the waiting room.

#### Gardening

The volunteer gardeners are still working hard to keep the grounds looking attractive. Some plants have been donated and are now planted behind the signal box.

The next garden days are Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. All are from 10.00am - 12 noon. Please come and join in and enjoy a “cuppa” and a biscuit at the end of all your hard work.

#### History of Hadlow Road Station

The ticket office in the waiting room will be open for members of the public to have a look around on SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER from 10am - 4pm. Space in the ticket office is limited, so only 2 members of the public will be able to enter at any one time; please be patient. There will also be a display of pictures in the waiting room for you to look at. Railway enthusiast Bryan Johnson will also be giving talks that explain railway signalling, including explaining how the signal men at Hooton, Hadlow Road, and Parkgate worked together for the safety of all the train movements.

#### Pop-up-Cafe

This is still as popular as ever and our sincere thanks go to all our visitors and customers for coming and supporting us. Also a very big thankyou to the cafe volunteer kitchen staff, who work so hard every pop-up-cafe day.

Next cafe dates are Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event), Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October. All 10.am - 1.00pm.

Hilary Booth 327 8325

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

We had our AGM in August, which was well attended, and we had an interesting speaker from Park Fields in Parkgate. They do a lot of similar things to us and face similar





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difficulties, although they have a much larger area of land. The meeting raised £20 in donations which was passed on to Park Fields. At the AGM we also launched our video made by students from Ellesmere Port CE College. This is delightful and the enthusiasm of the young people really comes across. It can be seen on our Facebook page. We are planning to do more activities with them, starting with a visit to the orchard in September.

We are also improving the Forest School area and will shortly be installing four 2.5m solid pieces of douglas fir into the seating area. These are being provided by a young local timber merchant who can tell us exactly where they have come from. The Forest School will also help replenish the bug hotel in School Wood.

At our last volunteer sessions we have laid a large quantity of wood chippings provided by ASH Tree Surgery, for which we are very grateful. We are hoping that this will mean the entrances are more accessible throughout the Winter. 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)*

No report received. 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)*

Nothing to report other than our next meeting will be held in Christ Church on Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7:30pm.

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

Nothing specific to report for the Memorial Hall.

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

'Our Day Out' to Lytham took place at the end of July. Although the weather was mixed, members enjoyed some shopping, a visit to the windmill and the RNLI museum. After lunch, the weather changed to sunshine and we went to Lytham Hall and gardens, followed by cake and tea, before returning home.

In July Dr. Hilary Ash gave us a very interesting talk about the wildlife in Wirral, which included information about the Butterfly Park at New Ferry. In August our talk was by Steve Halliwell about Tresco Abbey Gardens.

Members enjoyed a two break in Nantwich at the end of August. A coach trip to York and Durham has been arranged in October and there will be a visit to see The Mousetrap at the Floral Pavilion in November.



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Our rambling group went on a walk around New Brighton in June, Heswall in July and walked from Waterloo to Hightown in August.

September's ramble is around Delamere.

Walking netball, darts and bridge continue to thrive. Our Knit and Natter group are knitting bonding squares for use by premature babies and their mums in the Neonatal unit at Arrowe Park Hospital.

Our talk in September will be given by Anthony Annakin-Smith entitled Cheshire's Forgotten Saltmakers - Sea Salt Production on the Wirral.

The Annual Dinner will be held in February, venue yet to be decided. In the meantime we are hoping to return to The Nags Head for our Christmas Lunch.

Meetings take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm. For further information about our W.I our website is [www.willastonheywi.weekly.com](http://www.willastonheywi.weekly.com)

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

Our October meeting is on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October when we will be having a talk on The History of Gordale with Jill Nicholson. Another interesting talk on a local business.

Tickets for the Social Evening on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November will be on sale. Speak to either Liz or Dorene who will be on hand during the evening.

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)*

The main focus of the close season was the cleaning and redecoration of the Pavilion on the Johnston Recreation Ground. This was completed by members of the Committee, coaches and parents who voluntarily spent many hours of hard work to improve the look of the pavilion. At the same time coaches worked at developing the skills and fitness of their teams in readiness for the start of the new season.



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For the new season there are the same Junior and competitive teams as last season with the addition of a new Under 12 and U15 teams. All coaches have a DBS and the FA Award for the Safeguarding of Children, as well all years have a qualified football coach to lead the training. Unfortunately, both the Veterans and Ladies Teams folded as they had insufficient numbers to make a viable team for this season. The Club is planning to develop girls' teams to eventually make a Ladies Team viable.

Willaston FC are still looking for volunteers to help run the Club including new coaches and new players for all age groups. Please contact either Steve Blackledge (Chairman) on 07899 063336 or John Fisher (Secretary) on 0778 0693284.

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

A new Church year has begun with the annual Covenant Service last week when we renewed our promises of faith.

This month, September, sees the celebration of the Harvest Festival on 24<sup>th</sup> when donations of non-perishable food will be brought, blessed and donated to The Ark charity. It is also time for the annual "Love in a Box" Shoe Box appeal. Boxes are now available to be filled with listed items which will be transported, in November, to children in Ukraine and other Eastern European areas.

Thank you to all who supported various fund-raising events for Linda's "Vision Aid" Himalayan Trek in October. Good luck to her and we look forward to hearing about it on her return.

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

Willaston & South Wirral Rotary Club has been kept busy through what has been a variable Summer. The regular book sales have continued on the village green and provide a steady income to go to the club's nominated charities. In addition the planters in the village have been given a spruce up with the Geraniums and Petunias, which were put in for the Coronation, being removed. They have been replaced with Pansies and Silver Leaf ready for the Autumn, these should last until the Spring.

On the social side the club members enjoyed a night out in Neston at the Kri-Kri Taverna with numerous other events in the planning stage.

## **Willaston Scouts** *(submitted by Remco Buckley)*

No report received.

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

I hope that those of you who joined me at the Group meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August found it helpful and constructive. I am pleased to advise that patients did not raise any major concerns with the operation of the Surgery, well done and thanks to the Surgery team. Ellie, our office



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manager reported that following Surgery reviews by patients nationally, we exceeded the average score on every heading.

Flu jabs for over 65s and vulnerable patients are now being given by the pharmacy and you can now book a slot at the pharmacy or online. Covid jabs will also be available soon and you will be advised by the Surgery when these are available.

I would encourage patients who have any issues concerning the Surgery either to contact the Surgery direct or advise me on 0151 327 3260 or at [johnwoodrow@btinternet.com](mailto:johnwoodrow@btinternet.com) as it is only if issues are raised can they be addressed.

Ellie, our Office Manager is leaving and will be replaced shortly, our thanks are due to her for all her hard work in running the Surgery so well for patients benefit.

John Woodrow, Chairman, Patient Participation Group

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

Willaston Tennis Club are proposing to erect a notice board next to the courts in the next month. It will be sufficient to display 6 x A4 sheets of information for members and cover policies like safeguarding.

Andrew Walton. WTC Chairman. 07961 680 683

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

Toddlers closed for 3 weeks over the holidays as attendance was low. It has now re-opened. Although several previous regular child attendees have now commenced full time pre-school, we hope that attendance will improve.

## **Willaston Village Festival Society**

No report received.