

Willaston Residents and Countryside Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th September 2006 in the Memorial Hall

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all present to the AGM.

1) Apologies for Absence

John Sones, Cllr. Graham Smith.

2) Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 16th September 2005

The Chairman reviewed the minutes of the last AGM. These were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were proposed by Mr K Butcher and seconded by Mrs E MacDonald.

3) Chairman's Report.

The Chairman opened his remarks by stating that he had thought the past year to have been a quiet one. That was until he reread the minutes of the meetings held during the year.

Mr Max Kirby was thanked for his involvement in the Neston Market Town Initiative. It was through Max, with funding from the NMTI, that the new Willaston leaflets had been produced.

The Walking Bus project has stalled. It has been approved in principle but a lack of funding will prevent any progress until the next financial year.

We did get the Pelican Crossing, which is a big improvement, although we lost a couple of parking spaces.

Roads: It had been hoped by now that the pedestrian refuges would have been installed in Hadlow Road and Hooton Road. We should get these in due course.

Thanks were given to those who man the speed guns. They are out in all weathers and it is thought to be having the desired effect.

The number of articulated lorries travelling through Willaston is becoming an increasing concern to residents and the Society has written to the Council's Highways Dept. requesting weight restrictions be placed on all roads leading into the Village. Hadlow Road already has a weight limit of 7.5 tonnes.

The closure of Birkenhead Road had a serious effect on surrounding roads, particularly Quarry Road.

Countryside Matters: Thanks were given to the Friends of Willaston Meadow for their hard work. The facility is growing from strength to strength but there is a lot to be done and residents should try to support activities and become members.

Willaston came fourth in the Best Kept Village awards last year, although the Chairman felt that not too much activity had been seen this year. He will, however, be at Tatton Park on 28th September to hear the results of this year's competition.

Crime: There has been a minor crime wave in the Village recently including £2,000 of damage to the roof of the Memorial Hall. The Police Community Action Team (CAT) is paying us more attention these days.

Memorial Hall: A grant from Awards For All has enabled the Hall to install a new sound system which also allows a loudspeaker to be used on The Green. An application is to be made to Waste Recycling Environmental Limited (WREN) for the repair work to the exterior of the Hall. The Chairman thanked Mike Kennedy and his Committee for the work done in refurbishing and maintaining the Hall.

Village Event: Pleased to say that this was a success.

Planning: The Society does not get involved in border disputes but reviews planning applications, e.g. plans for the proposed houses in Hadlow Road, which cannot be agreed by the Council, Residents' Society and the builder.

The proposed Crematorium at Hooton is on most people's minds at the moment. Our Planning Officer, Gerald Higginbotham, wrote the Society's response reflecting a number of issues, but our major concern is the intention to build on green belt land and that this should not be allowed to happen.

A separate meeting of the Council's Planning Committee to discuss the application has been postponed. The Society will keep an eye on this application.

The Chairman thanked his fellow Officers and Committee Members for their efforts during the last year and to Councillors Myles Hogg and Graham Smith for their work on our behalf.

In concluding his report, the Chairman spoke of the retirement from the Committee of Mary Dougherty. He thanked her for the huge amount of work she had done stating that where Willaston is today is due to Mary's enthusiasm.

4) Annual Account and Treasurers Report

The Treasurer was unable to be present so the Chairman conveyed the details of the Society's Accounts. He remarked that it was only the 15th September and yet we had the provisional accounts for the year to 31st August 2006.

The Society's only income throughout the year had been bank interest. Expenditure had remained roughly the same as last year.

Overall, the accounts showed a deficit of £326.02 for the year, leaving a balance of £1,279.72.

In the relatively near future we will need to do some fund-raising.

There were no questions and the accounts were approved by Mr R Wilton and seconded by Rev. R Dent.

5) Election of Officers

There had been no nominations received for Officers of the Society and the existing officers were re-elected en-bloc.

Proposed by Mr P MacDonald and seconded by Mrs H Morris.

The officers for 2006/2007 are therefore:

Chairman	- Roger James
Vice Chairman	- Mike Kennedy
Treasurer	- John Sones
Secretary	- Jim Goodwin
Planning Officer	- Gerald Higginbotham
Footpath Officer	- John Sones
Trustee Memorial Hall	- Ray Wilton

6) Any Other Business

The Chairman was asked if any ideas had been raised for fund-raising. There may be another Festival but any ideas would be considered.

Mr Ray Wilton proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers and Committee and especially to the Chairman and Secretary for the prompt production and distribution of agendas and minutes.

There being no other business, the AGM was closed at approximately 8.30pm.

The evening concluded with the customary cheese and wine for which thanks were due to Mrs Pat James.

These Minutes are subject to ratification.

Jim Goodwin,
Secretary