



# WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Willingham held on  
15th May 2019 at 7 30 pm in The Octagon, St Mary and All Saints Church

## Present

Councillors: Manning, Carlton (Chair), Law, Croucher, Mansfield, Cook, County Councillor Wotherspoon, District Councillors Handley and Percival

Local organisation representatives: eight

Parishioners: four

Clerk: Mandy Powell

### 1. Reading of notice convening the meeting

The Chair welcomed everybody and read out the notice convening the meeting

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following:

Councillors L King, P King, Croft, Harris, Watson, Smith, Cook, J Anderson; Willingham Library, Police, Combined Charity, Willingham News, Willingham Cricket club, Relate, MAGPAS, Social Club and Cambs Hearing Help (received after the meeting)

### 3. To deal with matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

It was noted that the HCV signage was still ongoing.

### 4. To receive reports from the following local organisations/bodies

#### (i) Cambridgeshire County Council

Report tabled – Councillor Wotherspoon reported that over the last year CCC had put forward some of their land for development including Belsar Farm. This application was being assessed for suitability by SCDC.

Plans were moving forward for the transfer of CCC from Shire Hall to Alconbury and it was hoped that this would save 46.5 million pounds over thirty years.

Councillor Wotherspoon had spent a lot of time trying to tackle some of the highways issues and was pleased to see the 30mph limit on Station Road finally in place. He was still hoping that the Combined Authority would consider the extension of the M11 going North to the A47 as this would effectively provide the village with a bypass. The route however is competing against other preferred routes and major improvement schemes.

#### (ii) South Cambridgeshire District Council

Report tabled. Councillor Percival reported that herself and Councillor Handley had had a very busy year dealing with issues within the village including the illegal traveller encampment and numerous highways issues. Councillor Percival invited Councillor Wotherspoon to join them at their surgeries in the Ploughman Hall as a lot of the issues relate to County Council. Over the coming year, the District Council would be working on a New Local Plan with Cambridge City as well as working to improve their complaint handling by 10% and an organisational restructure.

### 5. To receive presentation of accounts and/or annual reports from the following village bodies

#### (i) Cambridgeshire Police

No representative present and no questions raised

#### (ii) Willingham Youth Trust (WYT)

Report tabled. The WYT representative reported that the Trust had been very busy over the last twelve months. The youth club had seen a steady growth and at present received about twenty-five children each week. The pop-up café was being trialled and run by volunteers. Thanks were given to all those who have helped getting this up and running. The Trust reported that there may be a shortfall in funding this year and they were working hard to cover this. Parish Councillors were invited to visit on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June. There would be a coding club running that day and it would give Councillors an opportunity to see what the Trust are doing.

#### (iii) Willingham Parish Council

Report tabled. The Chairman thanked the office staff for all their hard work over the last year and also passed on his thanks to Councillor P King for all his efforts over the past year as Chair. He summarised the report noting:

The Village had seen quite a bit of crime/anti-social behaviour over the last 12 months and the Parish Council had been working closely with the Police to try and reduce the issues.

The cemetery was looking in excellent condition and the newly acquired WWI memorial bench was a welcome addition. Thanks were given to Councillor Cook for his kind donation of the plaque beneath it.

The village had enjoyed the Christmas tree again this year and thanks were given to Mr Cole who had kindly donated the tree free of charge.

The QEII Field has proved popular with families making the most of the new facilities and picnic areas. The surface in the toddler area was being looked at and would need some improvements.

Action

Wotherspoon  
Percival

Wotherspoon

Parish Council

*Carlton*  
5/6/19

The Ploughman hall had been increasingly busy over the last twelve months and offers a wide range of classes and activities for parishioners to enjoy.

The parish continued to see a steady flow of planning applications, but it was anticipated that now the local plan was in place that applications for large developments would be restricted.

(iv) Willingham Action Group

Report tabled. The Action Group representative reported that they were still supporting groups with their initiatives and co-ordinating the Feast activities. The Group would welcome new members who could bring new ideas for the village. The community orchard is looking good as the trees and plants become established. The bird boxes had been put up and thanks were given to Councillor Manning for his help and advice with regards to pruning and to Mr Gilbert for the grass cutting.

(v) Willingham Combined Charity

Report tabled, no representative present and no questions raised.

(vi) Willingham British School Trust

Report tabled. The representative for the Trust reported that the last year had marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Trust and it continued to support meeting the education needs of the young people in the village. The year had seen more funds given to schools rather than individuals to help with things like meeting their requirements for stocking their libraries etc.

(vii) Public Hall Users Committee

Report tabled. The representative for the Committee reported that the Committee were looking at improvements they felt were needed to the hall and would be presenting proposals to the Parish Council later in the year.

(viii) Willingham Scouts

Report tabled. The representative for the Scouts reported that the group continues to thrive and numbers of children using the hall was now over one hundred with fifty-three on the waiting list. The Group needed more leaders for the cubs and would welcome enquiries from any interested parties.

(ix) Willingham News

Report tabled – no representative present – no questions raised.

(x) Willingham Bowls Club

Report tabled – no representative present. The Chair read out an additional note from the Club offering their thanks to the Parish Council for their grant. It had helped to improve the green. The club were running a recruitment drive to encourage new members to join.

(xi) Willingham Wolves

Report tabled. The Chair of the Wolves reported that the club was going from strength to strength with 150 boys and girls aged six to eighteen on the books. They would be introducing a men's team next season and investing in new kit and equipment for the Club. Thanks were given to Councillor L King for all her support and to the Parish Council for the provision of the excellent Recreation Ground facilities.

(xii) Willingham Cricket Club

Report tabled, no representative present, no questions raised.

(xiii) Library Service

Report tabled, no representative present, no questions raised.

(xiv) Over Day Centre

Report tabled. The Chair of the Day Centre Charity offered his thanks to the Parish Council for their grant support and reported that the centre continues to provide a facility for residents about a quarter of which are from Willingham and helps combat loneliness and offers some respite for carers. The County Council grant funding had been cut from fifty-three thousand pounds to thirteen and to try and address the shortfall the Centre had increased their daily fee, carried out lots of fund raising and use volunteers to keep costs down. It was noted that the County Council are carrying out a review of day care so there was some concern that the grant may be cut even further.

(xv) Relate

Report tabled, no representative present and no questions raised.

(xvi) MAGPAS

Report tabled, no representative present, no questions raised.

*D CARLSON*  
5/6/19

(xvii) Cambs Lowland Search & Rescue

Report tabled. The representative explained that the group are an independent charity who are on call 24/7 to assist the police in the event of a missing vulnerable person. They provide the skilled manpower to carry out the search and aim to have twelve people on the ground within an hour of a call out. They receive no direct funding and expressed their thanks for the donation from the Parish Council.

(xviii) Cambs Hearing Help

Report tabled, no representative present, no questions raised.

(xix) Willingham Social Club

Report tabled, no representative present, no questions raised.

**6. Any other business**

Questions were raised regarding the loss of the dog walking field and what facilities dog walkers could use. The Chair confirmed that the Recreation Ground and QEII Field had both been considered unsuitable for dog walkers and the Orchard and Meadow Road site had been suggested as alternatives.

A resident asked about the number of large developments within the village and the Chair of Planning explained the situation regarding the local plan. Now that it is in place this should remove the number of large developments being applied for as the village is again a minor rural area.

*Dean  
D. CARLAW  
5/6/19*

*Meeting closed at 20:49*

