

# WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Willingham held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 7.30pm  
(meeting held remotely)

Present: Councillors: Law (Chair), P King, L King, Harris, Mansfield, McKee, Hutchcraft

County Councillor: Wotherspoon

District Councillors: Handley, Percival

Parishioners: five

Clerk: Mandy Powell

Compliance Administrator: Annika Osborne

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## 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:

CLlr Croft, Manning, K Cook, A Cook, Anderson, Tassell, Combined Charities, Willingham Schools Trust, Willingham Youth Trust, Scouts, Public Hall User Committee, Police

## 3. To deal with matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019

None

## 4. To receive an update from the Chair of Willingham Parish Council on the Council's activities for the year.

The Chair summarised the Council's actions for the last twelve months including:

### Highways issues

- successfully achieved extending the 30mph limit on Station Road
- purchase of additional portable speed signs
- HCV signage now in place reminding Northstowe traffic not to travel through the village. This was achieved with the help of District Councillors Handley and Percival
- successfully applied for a grant from the A14 legacy grant for a footpath to the orchard.

### Environment

- the Council have agreed to support County and District where possible with the zero carbon initiatives and have contracted a green energy supplier for the SCDC streetlights that they are responsible for the electricity charges.
- The Council have been looking into more efficient heating solutions for the Ploughman Hall

### Health and Wellbeing

- the Council have agreed to work with SCDC to implement a mobile warden scheme in the village
- they continue to provide 14 community lifeline units to residents in need of them
- are working towards providing a third defibrillator for the village
- the Council had also supported various organisations throughout the year including Over Day Centre, Willingham News and MAGPAS.
- have provided fencing on the B1050 side of the orchard for safer dog walking,

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Council's annual report along with any organisation reports provided could be found on the Council's website.

**5. To receive questions regarding reports from the following local organisations/bodies (submitted reports can be found on the parish council website)**

(i) Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Wotherspoon reported that the County Council's covid-19 co-ordination HUB had been working extremely hard and there were just over 17,000 people on the shielding list. The Council were working on facilitating cycle routes so that people could get to work without using public transport.

(ii) South Cambridgeshire District Council

Councillor Handley reported that they were pleased about the positive outcome with Northstowe developers regarding HCV signage and confirmed that the ANPR system was ready to be installed once the situation with covid-19 allowed. It was hoped that the mobile warden scheme would be in place by the autumn. Local business had been able to access the grants allocated by Central Government via SCDC and a small amount of extra funding had been made available for those businesses that did not fit the criteria set out by Government

The District, Council and Parish Council all thanked the Willingham Love HUB for their outstanding efforts during the covid-19 outbreak. The volunteers had and continue to offer excellent support for the village and all their work and efforts was very much appreciated by everybody.

(iii) Cambridgeshire Police

The Police were not present at the meeting and no questions were raised.

(iv) Willingham Youth Trust

The Trust were not present at the meeting and no questions were raised.

(v) Willingham Action Group

The Chair of WAG was present, but no questions were asked. The Council Chair thanked WAG for all their continued work on behalf of the village.

(vi) Willingham Combined Charity

The Chair reported that the allotments were running very well and extremely popular. No questions were raised.

(vii) Willingham British School Trust

The Trust were not present, and no questions were raised. The Chair reported that the Trust continues to help residents in particular students going into further education.

(viii) Public Hall Users Committee

The Group were not present, and no questions were raised. The Chair reported that some improvements were being undertaken at the hall, but the building is very old and would likely need significant work to address some of the larger maintenance issues.

(ix) Willingham Scouts

The Group were not present, and no questions were raised. The Chair reported that the group continues to thrive and grow in numbers.

(x) Willingham News

The Chair reported that the magazine continues to serve the village well and is positively received by residents. The Council continue to support the magazine financially if needed.

(xi) Willingham Bowls Club

The group were not present, and no questions were raised. The Chair reported that the Council had provided the Club with a small grant for green maintenance and was pleased that one of the oldest clubs in the village was still running.

(xii) Willingham Wolves

The Secretary and Chair of the club were present and reported that both matches, and the June tournament had been suspended due to covid-19 which will have an impact on the club's income. The club is growing in numbers and currently has over two hundred players registered. The club has managed to secure grant funding for ladies and girls' football as well as for pitch improvements, goals, and mobile flood lights. Councillor L King commented that the club relies very heavily on many volunteers to keep it working and offered thanks to all of them for their continued efforts.

(xiii) Willingham Cricket Club

The club were not present, and no questions were raised.

(xiii) Library Service

No representative was present, and no questions were asked. The Chair reported that the summer reading challenge would not be going ahead this year due to covid-19. An on-line alternative would run instead.

(xiv) Over Day Centre

Mr Couper thanked the Council for the grant awarded to them and reported that the Centre was currently closed, and staff had been furloughed. The Centre were investigating ways to re-open the facility and would do what they could when they could. In the meantime, they were checking in on clients as often as possible to ensure they were managing during the current pandemic. The Centre were working with SCDC to ascertain the feasibility of producing meals for neighbouring parishes.

(xv) Relate

No representative present and no questions raised.

(xvi) MAGPAS

No representative present and no questions raised.

## 6. Any other business

Willingham Wolves expressed disappointment with dog walkers still using the recreation ground despite signage banning dogs. The Council were asked to provide larger signage at entry points which the Wolves were prepared to contribute towards.

**Action: WPC**

Willingham Wolves also reported that as both the club and the village continue to grow, they were unsure whether enough open space is available for the number of population. The Council were asked to look into the guidelines for open space. County Councillor Wotherspoon advised the meeting that the space allocation should be 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population.

**Action: WPC**

Willingham Wolves raised some concerns regarding the bottom half of the recreation ground flooding during winter which limited the space available to them for playing matches. Councillor L King confirmed that drainage pipes were under the recreation ground and they had been looked at to ensure they were clear. She also believed that the lode had been dredged relatively recently. Councillor Handley offered to look into whether the lode could be dredged again if the Council thought this would help.

**Action: WPC, Cllr Handley**

A resident put forward a proposal that a group be formed to look at a parish plan to ascertain what was wanted by the village. He felt that the Council had not really moved forward since last year. The Chair explained how the previous parish plan had been put together and confirmed that some

funding had been allocated for the Council to start looking at a new parish plan during the current financial year.

**Action: WPC**

District Councillor Percival took the opportunity to thank the Council office staff for all their help and support during the year.

*Meeting closed at 20:28*