

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Willingham held on 28th April 2021 at 7.30pm
(meeting held remotely)

Present: Councillors: Law (Chair), P King, L King, Harris, Mansfield, McKee, Hutchcraft, Watson,
Cook (arrived 20:05)

County Councillor: Wotherspoon

District Councillors: Handley

Group Representatives: Nine

Parishioners: None

Clerk: Mandy Powell

Compliance Administrator: Annika Osborne

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 Police, Wolves, Willingham News, Councillors Tassell, Todd, Manning, and District Councillor Percival.

3. To deal with matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2020.

Item 6 – work on open space allocation and the community plan had started and was ongoing.

4. To receive a presentation from Community Warden regarding the scheme set up for Willingham and Over.

Joanne Twin provided the meeting with an update on the community warden scheme. The scheme started in December 2020 and could accommodate twenty-two places. There were currently five residents from Willingham and one from Over using the scheme. Covid had presented some challenges around promoting the scheme but it had been advertised on social media, the village magazine and via the pharmacy.

5. To receive a presentation from the Parish Community Plan Group on the work they have done to-date and their future plans for the project.

Chris Thornhill reported that a diverse group of village volunteers had been formed and was putting together a timetable to roll out questionnaires to the parish covering a wide range of issues. There would be two public meetings in June and July and a website and email address would be publicised so that residents could get in touch. The group were in the process of putting together a budget for the project which would be presented to the Parish Council as soon as possible.

6. To receive reports from the following local organisations/bodies

Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Wotherspoon summarised what had been a challenging year for the County Council. They had redeployed four hundred and fifty staff members to set up the Covid co-ordination HUB, looking after the extremely critically vulnerable across the County. Five thousand people were actively supported throughout the shielding period. Thanks were passed to the Love Hub for all their efforts during the year.

Councillor Wotherspoon had also been actively involved in the flood recovery work following the flooding in the area between December and February. He had been liaising with the various bodies involved, including the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Boards.

Other areas that Councillor Wotherspoon had a keen interest in and had been working on included carbon emissions, sustainable transport, and affordability of housing.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Councillor Handley reported that SCDC had been working closely with CCC over the last year with regards to the Covid response and flooding issues. They had been managing the discretionary and hardship funds to support local businesses and residents in need. It had been very heartening to see how well communities had risen to the Covid challenge. The Love Hub had proved to be an extremely well run and organised voluntary group and he passed his sincere thanks onto the co-ordinators and their team.

Other areas that Councillor Handley and the District Council were working on included the provision of more council housing in the area, the doubling nature strategy, converting their streetlights to LED, and retrofitting their council homes with enhanced insulation etc.

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

The Clerk notified the meeting that all reports received from the various groups had been posted on the Parish Council website.

Cambridgeshire Police

No representative present but the Chair reported that our two PCSOs were about to start their training to become regular officers and all being well would be back in the village in September as qualified police officers.

Willingham Youth Trust

Jack Stinton (Chair of the Trust) introduced himself and the new secretary, Vicky Richards. The Trust was looking forward to re-opening the centre as soon as possible and passed on their thanks to Bonnie Twiss and Emma Mason for all their efforts with the Trust in the past.

Willingham Parish Council

The Chair summarised the work of the Council over the past twelve months. This had included the successful donation of the land on Black Pit Drove known as Barton Field (an open green space available for parishioners to walk through and enjoy) and the purchase of two table tennis tables and a cycle shelter. The Council had also been working hard on the MUGA project but due to the flooding at the start of the year, the planning application had been withdrawn while the Council look at location options. The elections that were due to take place on the 6th May would be uncontested as only eleven of the fifteen seats were filled. The Chair passed his thanks onto the office staff for all their hard work throughout the year dealing with the extensive challenges that the Covid pandemic had created.

Willingham Action Group

Mike Tidball reported that the group had been looking at sustainability over the last twelve months and had several projects underway. They continued to maintain the orchard which remains a popular venue for residents to enjoy.

Willingham Combined Charity

The Chair reported that the charity had had a stable year. The allotments were doing well, and no property had been bought or sold.

Willingham British School Trust

No representative present. Report on the website.

Public Hall Users Committee and Scouts

No representative present but the Chair reported that the hall had had a quiet year due to Covid restrictions. The Front door had been replaced this year and ongoing maintenance issues were to be discussed with the Parish Council at a future date.

Willingham News

No representative present but the Chair reported that the magazine had continued to publish editions on-line throughout the year meaning they had far fewer printing costs this year, leaving them in a stronger position financially.

Willingham Bowls Club

No representative present but the Chair reported that the club has suffered as a result of the flooding at the start of the year. Now that the surface was dry, they were now hoping to start playing soon.

Willingham Wolves

No representative present but the Chair reported that the clubs were now back training within the restriction guidelines. The Wolves had worked very closely with the Parish Council to resolve the flooding issues on the recreation ground. The drainage pipes had been jetted and verti-draining was underway. The Club has gone from strength to strength over the last couple of years with an increasing number of teams forming. This has resulted in a space issue for the Club, and it is hoped that additional recreational space can be found soon.

Willingham Cricket Club

No representative present. Report on the website.

Library Service

Sue Shimmens (representing the library staff) and Rosemary Tiley (representing FOWL) reported that the library had been opened briefly last year in August and November providing a limited service. It has re-opened again for limited browsing and they were looking forward to opening fully as soon as they were permitted to. FOWL had supported the library throughout the year and had arranged a successful bookmark competition.

Over Day Centre

Steve Couper (Chair of the Trustees) reported that the Centre had been mainly closed for just over a year. It reopened on the 13th April and clients were very happy to be back. Numbers were down due to various factors including the need for social distancing which will mean a reduced income for the Centre for the time being. During the pandemic, the Centre had been working with SCDC to provide a chilled meal service to residents and had provided approximately one hundred meals a week. They were continuing to run the scheme whilst client numbers were low, and they could manage both functions but once they were fully open the scheme would probably come to an end.

Relate

No representative present.

MAGPAS

No representative present. Report on the website.

8. Any other business

None raised.

Meeting closed at 20:35