

# WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Willingham held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30pm in the Octagon at St Mary and All Saints Church, Willingham

Present: Councillors: Law (Chair), L King, Harris, Mansfield, McKee,  
County Councillor: Gough  
District Councillors: Handley, Lentell  
Group Representatives: five  
Parishioners: five

Clerk: Mandy Powell

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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 Public Hall Users Committee, British Schools Trust, Scouts, Cricket, Willingham Youth Trust, Willingham News, Combined Charities, Rights of Way, Willingham Library, Councillor P King, and Councillor Watson.

## 3. To deal with matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021

None raised (minutes agreed at Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, item 84/21).

## 4. To receive presentation from Willingham Community Plan Group on the work done to date and future plans for the project.

The Chair of the community plan group gave a presentation summarising the work they have been doing to-date (copy on website under Annual Reports 2022) and a representative from the youth group also gave details of the survey targeted at eleven to eighteen year olds. Although the number of responses had been lower than expected the quality of the information received was excellent and the team were analysing the data. Both their reports are on the Parish Council website. It was hoped that the community plan would be published later in 2022.

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

### (i) Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Gough's report was on the website as part of the Parish Council's annual report. Councillor Gough summarised some of the areas worked on over the last twelve months including initiating quarterly highways meetings with the Clerk and the highways team so issues could be highlighted and addressed as quickly as possible. The civil parking enforcement process should begin soon, and a survey of all parking enforcement zones was under way. There would be a meeting soon to discuss the process for parishes to apply for 20mph zones within their villages. Councillor Gough also reported that there would be some S106 monies available from Northstowe for traffic management and he would organise a meeting to see what was achievable for Willingham.

**Action: N Gough**

### (ii) South Cambridgeshire District Council

Councillor Handley's report was on the website as part of the Parish Council's annual report. Councillor Handley summarised some of the areas worked on over the last twelve months including the District's Covid response and recovery action where they worked closely with parishes, businesses, and County Council to ensure support and help was available where needed. The team were now working hard supporting the Ukrainian crisis and Councillor Handley reported that South Cambs was one of the top areas to receive guests from Ukraine and the District Council would be facilitating face to face meetings for guests and hosts to help them all settle. A lot of work had been conducted over the last twelve months on green issues and it was hoped that the free tree scheme

would continue. With regards to the lack of audited accounts for the last few years, Councillor Handley reported that the systems were now working as they should, and it was hoped this issue would be resolved within the next year. Councillor Handley welcomed Willingham's new District Councillor, Dan Lentell to the team.

#### **6. 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.

##### CAMSAR

The representative from CAMSAR thanked the Council for their donation explaining that it had gone towards the purchase of a mobile defibrillator. He reported that the team was made up of sixty trained volunteers who collaborate with the police in the search for missing vulnerable people.

##### Cambridgeshire Police

Not present and no report provided. The Chair confirmed that our previous local officer Thomas Baugh had been moved on to a new area and Constable Chris Smitt would now be covering Willingham.

##### Willingham Youth Trust

Not present, report on the website. The Clerk reported that the group was back up running again, and numbers were good. The Club had a waiting list and was running groups on alternate weeks to provide as many places as possible.

##### Willingham Parish Council

Report on the Council website. The Chair summarised some of the areas that the Council had been working on including work to reduce the Council's environmental impact such as new infra heating in the Ploughman Hall (with the help of South Cambs Zero Carbon grant); hedging planted on both the Barton Field and Meadow Road sites; additional trees planted; flower tubs around the village; lighting replaced in the pavilion to LED and this year's project would be wild flower planting along the QEII Field edge. It was hoped that the footpath to the orchard would soon be in place as well as the work on Station Road following the successful minor highways improvement bid.

##### Willingham Action Group (WAG)

A member of WAG reported that the team continue to work for the parish and during the last twelve months have focussed on environmental initiatives including holding a repair café and a plastic free picnic. It is hoped that the community plan work would result in new members joining and revitalising WAG. The Chair thanked WAG for all the work they have done and continue to do for the village.

##### Willingham Combined Charity

Not present, report on Council website. The Chair reported that all seven bungalows are occupied. Both allotments sites are being fully utilised and there is a beehive on one of the sites.

##### Willingham British School Trust

Not present, report on Council website. Institutional grants had been made to Cottenham Village College, Willingham Primary School and Willingham Youth Trust and individual awards had been given to undergraduates studying Law, Theology and Nursing.

##### Public Hall Users Committee

Not Present, report on Council website. The Chair reported that the hall is predominantly used by the Scout group and requires a lot of maintenance/upgrading which was being looked at.

#### Willingham Scouts

Not present, report on Council website. The Chair reported that during the Covid pandemic the group ran online scouting sessions. The firework display was an enormous success and one of their members had been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023.

#### Willingham News

Not present, report on Council website. The year had not been without its challenges and as costs and the size of the village increase, the team would be looking for further support from the Parish Council.

#### Willingham Bowls Club

Not present and no report provided. Councillor McKee reported that the club is running a free open session on Wednesdays for anyone to come along and try it out. Details were on the notices on the Recreation Ground.

#### Willingham Wolves

Not present and no report provided. The Club continues to grow and would be holding its tournaments in June as normal.

#### Willingham Cricket Club

Not present, report on Council website. The Chair reported that the club had merged with Over Cricket Club. The Chair also reminded those present that the Parish Council were still looking for someone to help straighten the cricket net structure. Anyone able to help should contact the Parish Council office.

#### Library Service

Not present and no report required as no funding given last year.

#### Over Day Centre

A representative from the Centre reported that whilst things had been hard during Covid, numbers were beginning to increase again. It was hoped that through marketing, leaflets, and word of mouth that numbers would soon reach a point where the centre would break even financially. The building had been fitted with CO2 monitors which allowed for more people to be present at any one time and the Centre would be running five bike rides this year to raise funds.

#### Rights of Way Project

Not present, report on Council website. The Chair summarised the work done so far and confirmed that five routes had been put forward as rights of way. The process for registering can be lengthy and may take up to three years.

### **8. Any other business**

Some concerns were raised regarding the poor bus facilities within Willingham. Under the current proposals Willingham would be even worse off than it is now with residents potentially having to wait up to two hours to get a bus from the busway back to Willingham. Councillor Gough confirmed that both he and the Parish Council had raised these concerns and had stressed the need for better provision for the village.

A resident confirmed that the medical practice had held a meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and was considering holding an evening meeting for those who had not been unable to attend.

*Meeting closed at 20:37*