

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Willingham Parish Council held on Wednesday 1st March 2023 7.30pm, in the Octagon, St Mary and All Saints Church, Church Street, Willingham

Present:

Councillors: Clark, Gibbs, Harris, L King, P King, Law (Chair), Mansfield, McKee, Ramsden, Todd, Watson,
County Councillor: Gough
District Councillor: Lentell
Parishioners: Three

Clerk: Mandy Powell
Deputy Clerk: Amy Rudderham

35/23 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and ratified from Councillors Hutchcraft, Smith and Rogers all due to a personal commitments. Apologies were also received from District Councillor Handley.

36/23 Declarations of interest.

Item 42/23 – F&GP – Councillor P King declared a non-pecuniary interest with regards to the church clock maintenance. Councillor King did not vote on this item.
Item 43/23 – F&GP – Councillor L King – declared a non-pecuniary interest with regards to the library grant request. Councillor King did not vote on this item.

37/23 Public Forum

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the sustainable transport zone and the negative impact it would have on hers and other families with special needs who have no choice but to travel into Cambridge by car several times a week for necessary appointments etc. She also asked the Council where it positioned itself with regards to the proposed congestion charge.

The Chair confirmed that as a non-political body the Council had not made a formal decision regarding the proposals but had responded to the consultation raising its serious concerns about the poor bus service provided to the village. As the consultation had been restarted the Council would be reiterating these concerns. He would encourage everyone to respond to the consultation and have their say.

The Community Plan group gave an update confirming that the report was currently being drafted and it was hoped it would be issued within the next three months.

WAG confirmed that they had put a small notice in the Willingham News magazine regarding the Coronation in order to garner interest in a celebration event.

38/23 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 1st February 2023.

Councillor Ramsden proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Councillor Todd and **ratified** unanimously.

39/23 To deal with any matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on the 1st February 2023 not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

None raised.

40/23 To receive and consider any County Council reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda including:

Report circulated. A question was raised regarding the recent jet noise over the village and Councillor Gough confirmed that it was due to military exercises taking place.

41/23 To receive and consider any District Council reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda, including:

Councillor Lentell's report had been previously circulated and Councillor Lentell also confirmed that the Bar Hill Hotel would be used as a centre for refugees and asylum seekers. So that authorities could ensure the right support is put in place, local residents were asked to await instructions with regards to donations etc.

Councillor Handley's report was previously circulated and no questions were raised.

42/23 Chair's report including:

To receive an update regarding a recent councillor resignation and consider any actions

The Chair advised the Council that Councillor Memarzedah had resigned. SCDC had been notified and had confirmed that no election had been called. The Vacancy could now be filled by co-option.

To receive an update regarding some lost property and consider any actions.

Following the fair visit at the end of last year a small purse containing about £10 was handed in. It was agreed unanimously to put another notice in the Willingham News and if the item was not claimed then the funds would be returned to the finder.

Action: Clerk

To receive an invitation to the opening of Westmere play area and consider any actions.

An invitation had been received and Councillor Watson had volunteered to attend.

Action: Clerk/J Watson

To receive an update on the relocation of boundary signs

South Cambridgeshire District Council were liaising with County Council on our behalf and other neighbouring villages. The officer had been given our preferred locations and sign type.

To receive correspondence from a resident regarding the sustainable transport zone consultation and consider any action.

Taken under public forum.

To receive an update regarding the Coronation and consider any actions.

Councillor McKee proposed that the Council purchase mugs for the primary school children at a cost of approximately £750, seconded by Councillor Harris and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

43/23 To receive from the following Committees: reports from lead councillors, note any delegated decisions taken, and make any recommendations.

F&GP Committee – updates including:

To receive notification of grounds maintenance cost increase and consider any actions.

The Contractor had advised of an increase of 8% for the 2023 season. This was noted.

To receive and consider quotation for clock maintenance contract.

Smiths of Derby had provided two options for maintenance, an annual fee or a three year contract. Councillor Harris proposed the Council enter the three year contract at a cost of seven hundred and two, seconded by Councillor Watson and **ratified** with ten votes in favour and one abstention due to a declaration of interest.

Action: Clerk

To consider grant application from Willingham Library

A grant application had been received for two hundred and fifty pounds towards the reading challenge. Councillor Law proposed that the Council approve the grant request, seconded by Councillor Clark and **ratified** with ten votes in favour and one abstention due to a declaration of interest.

Action: Clerk

Planning Committee – updates including:

To receive draft minutes from the meeting held on the 15th February 2023

Previously circulated and noted. Councillor Harris confirmed that the application for the Piggery would be heard by South Cambs Planning Committee on 8th March and that the Council would be attending to reiterate their objections.

Action: N Harris

HALLS – Updates including:

To receive an update on the public hall and consider any actions.

The Council were still waiting to hear back from the Scouts and the Public Hall User Committee.

To receive an update on the auto-dialler and consider any actions.

The Chair reported that the insurers had confirmed that the policy required a working alarm only and not an auto dialler. Councillor Law proposed that the Council leave the system as alarm, seconded by Councillor Watson and ratified unanimously. This would also be the case for the Pavilion in 2025 when the phones go digital.

Action: Clerk

To consider request for Beer Festival attendance in 2023.

Councillor P King proposed that the Beer Festival be allowed to attend at a cost of one thousand pounds, seconded by Councillor Watson and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

Cemetery – updates including

To receive correspondence regarding Commonwealth war grave signage and consider any actions.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission had offered to install signage free of charge to indicate that the cemetery contains commonwealth war graves. Councillor Mansfield proposed that the Council accept the offer and place the sign on the wall to the side of the gate pillar, seconded by Councillor Todd and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

To consider quotations for repairs to the cemetery wall.

Two quotations had been received and the Clerk was asked to try and ascertain a third before the quotations were considered.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update on the trial pits for the new cemetery and consider any actions.

Trial pits had been dug but had unfortunately filled with water. If the land couldn't be used as a cemetery then the landowner was prepared to consider it being used as an amenity. It was agreed to look into the feasibility of raising the land level to an acceptable height to allow burials.

Action: Clerk/B Mansfield/V McKee

Green & Boundaries – updates including:

To receive and consider a request regarding installing a water supply to Barton Field.

The neighbouring land owner had approached the council to see whether they wished to share the cost of installing water to the site. It was agreed that there was no need to install water to the Council's land and the offer would be declined.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update on the Meadow Road project including a request for possible school engagement.

ACRE had sent information regarding the location and size of the proposed pond and it was agreed that the Council were happy with the proposals.

The Council had also received correspondence from PECT in relation to engaging the school children in the project and Councillor Watson agreed to discuss this further with them.

Action: J Watson

Councillor Watson also reported that recent fly tipping had been cleared by South Cambs District Council.

The Whips for Meadow Road would be arriving in the next week or so. It was hoped that volunteers would be available to help plant them. If not then Oliver Gawthrop would be asked to assist. There would be costs involved should the volunteers not be available and Councillor Watson was asked to confirm these as soon as possible so that they could be authorised ahead of the work taking place.

Action: J Watson

Councillor Watson asked if the office could look into the supply of water on site.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update on the Community Orchard volunteers.

The Clerk advised the Council that she was waiting for the final paperwork for the volunteers from WAG and that from April, the Council would be taking over the management of the Orchard as previously agreed.

Action: Clerk

Leisure & Amenities - updates including:

To receive an update regarding the pavilion door and consider any actions and quotations.

Two quotations had been received – one for repair and one for replacement (tabled). Councillor L King proposed the Council accept the quotation for repair at a cost of £475.30 plus VAT, seconded by Councillor Todd and **ratified** unanimously.

To receive and consider recommendations from the working party regarding storage at the pavilion for the Wolves.

Deferred to the April meeting.

44/23 To receive and ratify monthly accounts for payment

Items paid by bank payments

Salaries	February	Salaries	£3675.28
HMRC	February	PAYE	£ 603.77
Nest	Pension	Salaries	£ 147.88

Items paid by direct debit/standing order

British Gas	Ploughman Electric Feb	Halls	£1125.20
British Gas	Pavilion gas Jan	L & A	£ 15.45
British Gas	Pavilion gas Feb	L & A	£ 31.38
British gas	Public hall electric Feb	Halls	£1001.68 cr
British gas	Public hall electric Jan	Halls	£ 53.78
British gas	Green Feb	G & B	£ 44.23

British gas	Green Jan	G & B	£ 31.73
British gas	Pavilion Jan	L & A	£ 232.77
Co-op Phones	Will Hub	Willingham Hub	£ 10.20
Drax	Street Lighting	G & B	£ 37.30
<u>Items paid by bank transfer</u>			
British Telecom	Phone	Est	£ 235.78
A Lovell	Hall Deposit	Halls	£ 100.00
D Saunders	Hall Deposit	Halls	£ 100.00
R Thilakan	Hall Deposit	Halls	£ 135.00
Holywell-cum-Need	Fuel	Est	£ 26.78
Labosport	Risk Assessment	L & A	£1440.00
Cambs Lock & Safe	Pavilion Lock	L & A	£ 108.00
<u>Items paid by charge card</u>			
Amazon	Stationery	Est	£ 45.80
Amazon	Stationery	Est	£ 42.36
<u>Items to be paid by bank transfer:</u>			
Suds & Bubbles	Cleaning Ploughman	Halls	£ 560.00
Suds & Bubbles	Cleaning Pavilion	L & A	£ 241.00
Suds & Bubbles	Cleaning Office	Est	£ 40.00
Atlas	Christmas Tree	G & B	£ 48.00
Cromwell Fire	Ploughman Emer light	Halls	£ 427.20
Nick Flower	Pavilion Repair	L & A	£ 150.00
Konica Minolta	Photocopier	Est	£ 122.83
Jamie Harding	Digging Trial Holes	Cem	£ 435.00
WPCC	Octagon Hire	Est	£ 30.00

Councillors Harris proposed the accounts be accepted as listed, seconded by Council McKee and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: RFO

45/23 Police update including:

Councillor King reported that he had attended a recent zoom meeting and confirmed that there are less than ten officers dedicated to local policing in South Cambridgeshire District Council.

46/23 To receive an update on HCVs and traffic issues and consider any actions including:

To receive an update on Speedwatch and consider any actions.

Generic flyers had been provided by the Clerk and the team had applied to form a speed watch group. Councillor Harris reported that the Roadwatch team had been conducting speed checks and had written to the Commercial companies who had breached the speed limit.

Councillor Harris also reported that he was working on the 20mph zone application which had a deadline of the end of April. He would be liaising with officers at County Council to ascertain how widespread the Council could implement within the village.

Action: N Harris

Concerns were raised regarding the footpaths on Station Road and Earith Road. Both issued had been raised with Highways on more than one occasion and Councillor Gough agreed to chase this up.

Action: N Gough

47/23 Environment and Sustainability update including:

Councillor L King reported that the sign unveiling on Barton Field would take place at 11am on Sunday 2nd April. All Councillors were welcome to attend.

Action: All

48/23 To receive an update regarding the future of the Citi 5 bus route and consider any actions.

Revised timetables had been produced by Stagecoach but there were some concerns regarding some of the timings. These had been raised with Councillor Gough who confirmed that Stagecoach had agreed to meet with the parishes and he would arrange a meeting for us to attend. Councillor Gough also confirmed that he would be meeting with the Combined Authority later this week to discuss the issues,

Action: N Gough

49/23 Items for future meetings.

20mph Scheme
Recreation Ground Storage
Cemetery Wall

50/23 Date of next meeting

5th April 2023

Meeting closed at 21:00