

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Willingham held on 17th May 2023 at 7.30pm
in the Octagon at St Mary and All Saints Church, Willingham

Present: Parish Councillors: Law (Chair), Harris, Mansfield, McKee,
County Councillor: Gough
District Councillor: Handley
Group Representatives: Five
Other Parishioners: None

Clerk: Mandy Powell
Deputy Clerk: Amy Rudderham

1. Reading of notice convening the meeting

The Chair read the notice and convened the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Councillors L King, P King, J Watson, and B Todd

The Police, Willingham Action Group, Willingham News, Community Warden, Willingham Wolves
Willingham Youth Trust

3. To deal with matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2022

None

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

Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Gough's report had been put on the website and was tabled. Councillor Gough gave a presentation on the areas of responsibility of the County Council, their budgets and how they were spent. This included their annual expenditure of just over one billion pounds a year, 73% of which was spent on adult social care and children's services. 37% of that expenditure is derived from Council tax which was increased by 5% for tax year 2023/2024.

Councillor Gough also reported on the current unacceptable state of the roads which he reported were a result of many years of under investment in maintenance coupled with the unusually very hot summer and prolonged severe cold weather in the winter. The Government had allocated an additional one-off payment of 3.6 million to address the problem and the Highways team had begun a program of works to address the ten thousand potholes currently in need of repair across the County.

The B1050 did not form part of this program of works as it needed substantial investment and work. Although 6.8 million had been put aside for the road this would be insufficient to solve the problems and the County Council had appealed to Government for a special funding to rectify the issues.

Councillor Gough was asked if a weight limit could be applied to the road and confirmed that whilst these can be applied for, an application could not pass the impact of such traffic onto similar roads and have a strict criterion for acceptance.

Councillor Gough was also asked for an update on the current situation regarding the congestion charge and confirmed that the survey had been completed and comments were currently being

reviewed. Once that had been done the results would be looked at and a decision made as to the best way forward. Councillor Gough reported that the proposal was not without its issues and as it stood doesn't really work for Willingham as there was not a suitable bus service accessible as an alternative to car use.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Both Councillor Handley's and Lentell's reports and been tabled and added to the website. Councillor Handley summarised in his report including the heart-warming successful Homes for Ukraine response and the cost-of-living support South Cambs had offered to residents who sat just above the benefits threshold.

The District Council were offering support for small businesses and as part of that scheme were encouraging villages to hold farmers markets within their parishes.

Willingham Parish Council

The report and been tabled and added to the website. The Chair summarised the role of the Parish Council and outlined some of the work that had taken place during the last year. This included the provision of an additional defibrillator (bringing the total to four). The installation of a footpath to the orchard, a 40mph buffer zone at the entrance to the village on Earith Road, the enhancement of the Barton Road and Meadow Road fields and the support and grants offered to the various groups in the village.

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

Willingham Youth Trust

Report and been tabled and added to the website. There was no representative present, but the Chair reported that the Youth Club continued to be very popular and was currently oversubscribed. In order to accommodate as many young people as possible the group rotated their attendance every three weeks. The group would welcome additional volunteers to help deliver this very popular provision.

Willingham Library

A representative from the library gave a brief report and thanked the community for making use of the facilities and also thanked to the Council for the funding support for the reading challenge. The library would be very happy to support local groups in the village with any pop-up ad hoc sessions they may wish to hold.

Community Plan Group

Report had been tabled and added to the website. The Chair of the Group reported that the group was formed in 2021 to update the Community Plan of 2008. The Survey had now been completed and was at the analysis and report stage. They were using a professional to edit and pull the report together and it would be presented at a public meeting in the primary school on the 27th June.

Public Hall Users Committee

The New Chair of the Committee introduced herself and confirmed that once she was settled, she would be in touch with the Council to discuss needs and options for the Public Hall.

British Schools Trust

Councillor Mansfield reported that the Trust had passed funding to the Primary School and Cottenham Village College to help implement the Governments requirements for maths, reading and geography. They had also approached Hills Road so that students from Willingham were made of the Trust.

Bowls Club

Report had been tabled and put on the website. No representative present, their report confirmed that the Club was doing well and are hoping to recruit new members this year.

Scouts

Report had been tabled and added to the website. A representative reported that following Covid numbers had dropped but were now picking back up. There was currently a waiting list of 90 young people. The firework display had been very successful.

Clerk left the meeting and the Deputy Clerk continued minuting.

Cricket Club

No representative present and no report provided. The cricket nets had been removed and the club continue to play jointly with Over.

Willingham Wolves

The report had been tabled and added to the website. The Chair reported that the club continues to grow, and their fundraising tournaments are a huge success.

Clerk returned to the meeting and took over the minuting.

Willingham Action Group

Report had been tabled and added to the website. No representative was present, but the Chair reported that the Group continue to support the village and had just organised a very successful Coronation event at the Ploughman Hall. The exiting Chair, Mike Tidball had arranged for and installed the new sign at Barton Field and the Parish Council are extremely grateful for all the work and support the Group offer.

Over Day Centre

Report was on the website. A representative of the Centre reported that numbers were slowly starting to pick back up and that they were currently running at about 50% of capacity. They had redesigned their website and continued to hold fund raising events such as the five-pub challenge. Thanks were passed to the Parish Council for their continued support.

Willingham News

Report had been tabled and added to the website. The Chair reported that costs continue to increase, and the team are trying to build the advertising back up.

Willingham Combined Charity

The report had been tabled and added to the website. The Chair reported that the Charity holds six bungalows on Over Road and one on Haden Way. One of the properties was currently vacant and was being made ready for a new tenant.

Community Warden

The report had been tabled and added to the website. No representative was present, but the Chair reported that the joint scheme with Over continued to run, and the Council had agreed to provide funding for the tax year 2023-2024.

7. Any Other Business

None raised.

Meeting closed at 20:35