

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Willingham Parish Council held on Wednesday 6th December 2023 7.30pm, in the Octagon, St Mary and All Saints Church, Church Street, Willingham

Present:

Councillors: Clark, Harris, L King, P King, Law, McKee, Watson

District Councillors: Handley

Parishioners: Five

Clerk: Mandy Powell

Deputy Clerk: Amy Rudderham

195/23 Apologies for absence, including:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Barratt, Todd and Hutchcraft with personal commitments, and Councillor Mansfield due to being unwell. Apologies were also accepted from Councillor Ramsden as per item 127/23. In addition, apologies were received from County Councillor Gough and District Councillor Lentell.

196/23 Declarations of interest

None received.

197/23 Public forum (maximum 3 minutes per person, with an overall limit of 15 minutes) All parishioners wishing to speak, must make their name known to the Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting. Maximum of five people to speak. Large groups must decide on a spokesperson representative. (Please see important note above)

A resident raised concerns regarding parking on the pavements in the village, in particular delivery vans. He pointed out that this was illegal, and something should be done. The Chair confirmed this was a police enforcement issue and was unlikely to be included in the upcoming civil parking enforcement scheme.

The resident also raised concerns about the number of empty properties in the village. Councillor Handley asked for a list of the properties so that he could take it up with officers at the District Council. **Action: B Handley**

A resident raised concerns regarding flooding in and around the village green and felt that Anglian Water had done very little to address the issue. They believed that the village should appoint an independent valuer to look at the problem and in addition ask Anglian Water to install non return valves on domestic sewers in affected areas.

Councillor Handley suggested that as Over was having similar issues that the two Councils could work together to tackle Anglian Water. Councillor P King commented that as the Council had previously agreed to object to any development that put surface water into an already overloaded system that they should strongly object to any such development moving forward.

Councillor Handley agreed to make planners aware of the Council's concerns. It was agreed to add this to the January agenda for consideration. **Action B Handley/January meeting**

A resident raised concerns regarding the lack of footpath to Highgate stores. They reported that there had been 2 incidents recently where residents had slipped on the verge. He read out a letter of support from the Scout group who had recently held the firework display on site and would like to do so in the future although the lack of footpath was a safety concern to them in doing so. Both District Councillors were in support of a footpath if it could be achieved.

The resident also confirmed that the owner of Highgate was willing to contribute towards the scheme (ten to fifteen thousand pounds) dependent on the cost of the scheme.

The resident had also asked that the 30mph sign be moved to the Willingham boundary due to the high volume of traffic travelling to and past the site.

The Chair confirmed that some S106 monies that were not specifically allocated elsewhere could be available (between ten and fifteen thousand pounds) so this combined with the private funding and monies from the LHI scheme may be achievable dependent on the cost of the works.

The Council were very keen to see a footpath installed and Councillor Law proposed that the Council look to submit an LHI bid for the path at the earliest opportunity, seconded by Councillor P King and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk/N Harris

Councillor Handley stated that he believed the land may be owned by South Cambs District Council and once the Parish Council were in a firm position to move forward would speak to officers at the Council to arrange for the land to be transferred.

Action: B Handley

198/23 To receive and ratify minutes from the Council meeting held on the 1st November 2023.

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

199/23 To deal with any matters arising from the meeting on the 1st November, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

None raised.

200/23 To receive and consider any actions from the County Council reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda including:

Report previously circulated. Councillor Watson reported that the white lines in Wilford Furlong at the Rockmill End and Fen End junctions were missing and needed re-instating. The office would raise this at the next highways meeting.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Clark left the meeting.

201/23 To receive and consider any actions from the District Council reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda, including:

Both reports had been previously circulated. Councillor P King queried a statement in the recent newsletter from the District Council in relation to the four-day week. Councillor Handley explained the figures and how the trial was running.

Councillor Clark returned to the meeting.

202/23 Chair's report including:

To receive correspondence from a resident regarding a footpath to Highgate Stores and consider any action.

This was taken under the public forum.

To receive and consider invitation to CAPALC's Annual General Meeting on the 14th December 2023

All Councillors were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend, if not, the Clerk would pass on the Council's apologies.

Action: All

To consider invitation to take part in the Fen Edge Festival for 2024.

All Councillors were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to take part, if not, the Clerk would pass on the Council's apologies.

Action: All

To receive a thank you letter from the Community Hub team.

The Chair passed on the thanks from the Hub. Noted.

To receive an invitation to attend Over Day Centre's Annual General Meeting on the 14th December 2023

All Councillors were asked to notify the Clerk if they wished to attend, if not, the Clerk would pass on the Council's apologies.

Action: All

To consider request from resident to cut and use holly in the cemetery.

Councillor McKee proposed the Council allow this provided it is carried out under supervision which she was happy to do and that the person concerned made a donation to the church. Seconded by Councillor Watson and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: V McKee

To receive correspondence from Arville (twinned with Fen Edge) inviting members to U15 football tournament.

The Clerk was asked to pass on the Council's apologies and to ask if they would like the invite passed onto the Wolves.

Action: Clerk

To receive correspondence from a resident regarding Black Pit Drove and consider any actions.

A resident had written expressing concerns regarding cars driving down the Drove Way and owners not clearing up after their dogs. The Council agreed to add another message in the Willingham News magazine reminding residents. The Clerk had also responded to the resident with details of land ownership.

203/23 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 an update regarding land on Haden Way and consider any actions.

The Clerk had written to neighbouring landowners, but they were not all in favour of improvements being made to the Drove Way. As a result, the project for a cemetery could not be taken forward. The landowner asked if the Council would take the land for recreational space. It was agreed to defer this until the January meeting.

Action: January meeting

To consider grant application from Willingham Social Club

The club had requested three hundred pounds towards a heated defibrillator cabinet. However, the Clerk had been made aware of a spare cabinet in the pavilion, and it was agreed to offer the Social Club the unit.

Action: Clerk

To agree minutes of the F&GP meeting held on 15th November 2023

It was noted that the minutes show Councillor Clark as present although he was absent. Subject to this change Councillor L King proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Councillor Law, and **ratified** with two votes in favour and five abstentions due to not being at the meeting.

Action: Clerk

To consider recommendations from the F&GP Committee for pay scales and ground maintenance contracts for 2024-2027

Councillor Law proposed that the Council accept the recommendations of the F&GP committee in relation to salaries and the ground maintenance contract, seconded by Councillor L King and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

To review budget recommendations from the F&GP Committee and ratify the budget for 2024-2025

Councillor Law proposed the Council accept the recommendation of the F&GP Committee for the budget for 2024-2025, seconded by Councillor Watson and **ratified** with six votes in favour and one abstention.

Action: Clerk

To review precept recommendation from the F&GP Committee and ratify the precept demand for 2024-2025

Councillor Law proposed the Council accept the recommendation of the F&GP Committee for the precept demand of £179,975 for 2024-2025, seconded by Councillor Harris and **ratified** with six votes in favour and one objection.

Planning Committee – updates including:

To receive draft minutes from the meeting held on the 22nd November 2023 and consider any actions.

Previously circulated and noted.

To consider uptake of S106 monies for the adoption and maintenance of a bus shelter on Haden Way.

South Cambs District Council confirmed that the monies could be used for any bus shelter in the village and would not have a time limit applied for expenditure. Councillor Law proposed the Council accept the monies, seconded by Councillor Watson, and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

HALLS – Updates including:

To receive an update from the public hall working group regarding the future of the hall and the 2014 PHUC agreement due expire in December 2024.

Notice not to renew the agreement had been issued to and received the Trustees - ongoing.

Cemetery – updates including:

Nothing to report.

Green & Boundaries – updates including:

To consider fixed contract for Street Lighting electricity provision.

Councillor Law proposed that the Council accept the contract from SSE for 36 months, seconded by Councillor Clark and **ratified** unanimously.

Councillor Watson reported that the tree and lights were up and extended his thanks to Oliver Gawthrop, Ed Gilbert, and Councillor Clark for all their help in getting the lights sorted and installed.

Leisure & Amenities - updates including:

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

Councillor L King reported that the CCJ had been settled and the work would commence in January 2024.

204/23 To receive and ratify monthly accounts for payment.

Paid Items

Salaries	November	Salaries	4301.71
Paye	November	Salaries	881.18
Nest Pension	November	Pension	213.59
Buchans	Village Cuts	Est	2135.54
Will News	Donation	Donations	1867.00
Hall deposit return	Various	Halls	300.00
Lawncare Co	Treatment	L & A	144.00
SLCC	Conference	Est	551.00
SLCC	Training	Est	450.00

Ecology Link	Bat Survey	L & A	600.00
CAPALC	Internal Audit	Est	193.50
Willingham Hub	Donation	Donations	400.00
<u>Items paid by direct debit</u>			
British gas	Pavilion Electric	L & A	82.34
British gas	Pavilion Electric	L & A	59.63
British gas	Pavilion Gas	L & A	35.77
British gas	Public Hall Electric	Halls	35.48
British gas	Ploughman Electric	Halls	430.77
British gas	Village green	G & B	19.94
DRAX	Street Lighting	G & B	428.24
Co-op Phone	Mobile Phone	Will Hub	10.20
BT	Phones	Est	95.00
BT	Phones etc	Est	144.54
<u>Items paid by credit card</u>			
Lebara Mobile	Phone	G & B	8.75
AmazonWarwick	Toilet rolls	Halls/L & A	34.24
Amazon	Stationery	Est	37.38
Co-op	Batteries	Est	4.95
Amazon	Cable ties	G & B	25.96
Christmas Direct	Lights	G & B	662.39
Post Office	Stamps	Est	10.00
Sure Green	lights wire	G & B	39.50
<u>To be Paid by bank transfer</u>			
Suds & Bubbles	Cleaning Ploughman	Halls	520.00
Suds & Bubbles	Pavilion Cleaning	L & A	281.00
Suds & Bubbles	Office Cleaning	L & A	40.00
ACA Heating	6 months water check	Halls/L & A	273.60
ACA Heating	Replace taps	L & A	515.68
Willingham PCC	Meetings	Est	75.00
Newnham Trees	Xmas tree	G & B	650.00

Councillor Harris proposed the accounts be accepted as listed, seconded by Councillor L King, and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: RFO

205/23 Police update including:

To receive correspondence regarding upcoming civil parking briefing session and consider any actions.

Councillor Hutchcraft had attended a recent meeting and his report had been previously circulated and noted.

206/23 To receive an update on HCVs and traffic issues and consider any actions including:

To consider proposed scheme from CCC for the 20mph scheme in the village.

Councillor Harris proposed that the Council go back to County Council with an amendment to exclude part of Rampton Road.

The proposal was not seconded so was not carried.

Councillor Law proposed the Council accept the scheme as presented by County Council, seconded by Councillor Watson, and

ratified with six votes in favour and one abstention.

Action: Clerk

207/23 Environment and Sustainability update including:

Councillor L King reported that the video including Meadow Road and Barton Field had been completed and the Clerk was asked to add the link to the website.

Action: Clerk

208/23 Items for future meetings.

Flooding (including planning consent)

Haden Way Land

20mph scheme

209/23 Date of next meeting.

10th January 2024

Meeting closed at 21:19