

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Office, Ploughman Hall, West Fen Road, Willingham
Cambridge, CB24 5LP, Tel: 01954 261027

Email: clerk@willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.willinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Willingham Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7.30pm, in the Octagon, St Mary and All Saints Church, Church Street, Willingham

Present:

Councillors: Barratt, Clark, Harris, P King, Law (Chair), Mansfield, McKee, Ramsden, Todd, Watson
County Councillor: Gough
Parishioners: Five

Clerk: Mandy Powell
Deputy Clerk: Amy Rudderham

16/24 Apologies for absence, including:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors:

L King (unwell), Hutchcraft (personal commitment), Smith (personal commitment) and Moore (unwell). Apologies were also received from District Councillor Handley

17/24 Declarations of interest

Item 24/24 Councillor King declared a non-pecuniary interest as he knew one of the parishioners involved.

18/24 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.

Councillor Mansfield spoke on behalf of a resident regarding a grave space in the cemetery. She confirmed that she had met with the resident and the issues raised had now been resolved.

A resident raised concerns about the 20mph speed limit and the speed bumps on Rampton Road. They felt that speed bumps were not the answer, and a blanket speed limit was not needed on the wider/straighter roads in the village as the interactive signs worked well enough. They would have preferred to have funds diverted to a path between Willingham and Over and were concerned about children crossing the road at the Newington Junctions. Councillor Law and County Councillor Gough explained the schemes and the restrictions regarding funding allocations towards them.

The Chair of Willingham Wolves spoke regarding concerns over the condition of the Recreation Ground and the impact of the flooding from October last year. Whilst they were able to do some training and play some matches at Northstowe, this would not be sustainable long term if the issues with flooding on the Recreation Ground continued as they had been in the last couple of years.

It was pointed out that it is very difficult to address the issues with the Recreation Ground and was also noted that more recreation space was needed in the village. (see also item 24/24 L&A)

19/24 To receive and ratify minutes from the Council meeting held on the 10th January 2024.

Councillor Watson proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, and **ratified** with nine votes in favour and one abstention due to not being at the meeting.

20/24 To deal with any matters arising from the meeting on the 10th January, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

None raised.

21/24 To receive and consider any actions from the County Council reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda including:

Report previously circulated. Councillor Gough reported that he had spoken to Anglian Water regarding attending the Annual Parish Meeting in May and was waiting for a response. The issue of the condition of the B1050 was raised and the need for a bypass. It was pointed out that funding for this would need to come from Central Government and Councillor Gough agreed to raise this with the County Council at his forthcoming budget meeting.

Action: N Gough

It was also suggested that until the issues with the road were rectified that a temporary 7.5 tonne weight restriction be applied to the road. Councillor Gough confirmed that there are issues with this option as the traffic would need to go somewhere and diverting via other villages could result in objections and issues. Councillor Harris agreed to look into this.

Action: N Harris

22/24 To receive and consider any actions from the District Council reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda, including:

Councillor Handley's report had been previously circulated, and no questions were raised.

23/24 Chair's report including:

Councillor Law reported that he had been invited to the 50th Anniversary reception at South Cambs District Council and had accepted the invitation.

24/24 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 ratify the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th January 2024

Councillor Mansfield proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Councillor Watson, and **ratified** with five votes in favour and five abstentions due to not being at the meeting.

To consider and ratify recommendations made in the F&GP Meeting held on the 24th January including policies, risk assessments, fees, and asset register.

Councillor Law proposed that the Council accept the recommendations of the committee, seconded by Councillor King, and ratified unanimously.

Action: Clerk

To receive correspondence from a neighbouring landowner and consider adoption of land on Haden Way.

Correspondence had been received confirming that the landowner was happy for the Council to improve the driveway for a new cemetery. Councillor King proposed that the Council authorise a budget of £1,000 for the Clerk to seek legal advice regarding access and should that prove to be acceptable move forward with the two surveys previously agreed by Council at their meeting held in May 2023.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update on the current situation with Anglian Water and flooding in the village and to consider actions moving forward.

The Clerk had met with the two parishioners who had offered to help and confirmed that they were prepared to provide an unofficial report regarding flooding, and they would like to speak/meet with Anglian Water prior to doing so. Councillor Law proposed that the Council agree to allow them to function as representatives for the Council in this capacity, seconded by Councillor Harris and **ratified** with nine votes in favour and one abstention due to declaration of interest.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update and consider quotations for utilities contracts.

This was still ongoing.

Planning Committee – updates including:

To receive draft minutes from the meetings held on the 29th January 2024 and consider any actions.

Previously circulated and noted.

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, and consider any actions or proposals.

Councillor Clark had held a very informative informal meeting with the Public Hall User Committee on the 29th January and further meetings would be arranged with hall users etc moving forward.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update regarding Willingham Youth Trust current situation and consider the renewal of the user agreement due to expire February 2025, and consider any actions or proposals.

Councillor Clark reported that he and the Clerk had met with the Chair of the Youth Trust who confirmed that they had brought in more volunteers and committee members to help with the running of the Trust.

Councillor Clark proposed in order to bring the Youth Trust in line with the management of the Public Hall and Ploughman Hall that the user agreement due for renewal in February 2025 not be renewed and the administrative management of the building be brought back in house. This was seconded by Councillor King and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

Cemetery – updates including:

To receive and consider correspondence from a parishioner regarding items on a grave space.

This item was taken under the public forum (item 18/24)

Councillor Mansfield also reported that in line with the Council's finance regulations a quote to repair the gate had been accepted from Hibbits at a cost of £885 plus VAT.

A recent leak from the cemetery tap had also been repaired at a cost of £45.60.

Green & Boundaries – updates including:

To receive an update regarding the Ringers Rest Mural and consider any actions.

Councillor Moore was not present, but the Clerk reported that this was ongoing, and quotes were being sought.

Action: Clerk

To consider a proposal for future carols around the Christmas Tree.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the logistics of the Council organising another event for 2024.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update regarding the flooding of the Christmas lights power recess and consider any actions.

This was ongoing and an electrician had been appointed to conduct an inspection of the set up and conduct an EICR (condition report) to determine the condition and suitability of the installation.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update regarding dog bag dispensers and consider any actions.

Councillor Watson reported that he had approved the purchase of a replacement bin for the Orchard in line with the Council's finance regulations. He also reported that a bin was needed on Meadow Road and the Clerk was asked to write to SCDC to ascertain whether they were happy for us to have one and whether they would empty it.

Action: Clerk

Leisure & Amenities - updates including:

To receive a report and consider any proposals regarding actions to mitigate the current issues with the recreation ground.

Report previously circulated. Councillor Clark summarised the action plan proposed in the report to try and address the issues, these included:

- Ensure that the top rec is kept in the best possible condition.
- Improve access to the top rec via Pound Lane with a kissing gate or removing the padlock.
- Explore with the EA the levelling of the lower rec.
- Explore hiring of Northstowe pitches (Wolves meeting on Monday)
- Explore again renting/ leasing/buying land to the west of the rec.
- Explore renting/leasing buying land off Bourney's Manor and Fen End
- Enlist the help of District and County Councillors in our search for land.

It was agreed to move forward with the action plan and Councillor L King, Clark and the Clerk would liaise with the Wolves and start moving things forward.

Action: L King, Clark, Clerk

25/24 To ratify quarterly budget statement.

Previously circulated. Councillor Harris proposed the quarterly budget statement be accepted as listed, seconded by Councillor Watson, and **agreed** unanimously.

26/24 To receive and ratify monthly accounts for payment.

Paid Items

Salaries	January	Salaries	£4707.96
Salaries	January	Paye	£ 904.92
Salaries	January	Pension	£ 228.39
Andrew Deptford	Defib Pads	Est	£ 140.40
AJ King	Verti drainage	L & A	£ 618.00
Judy Merrill	Refund Hall	Halls	£ 45.00
Bradford	Deposit Ploughman	Halls	£ 100.00
Sony Babu	Deposit Ploughman	Halls	£ 100.00

Paid by Direct Debit

Drax	Street Lighting	G & B	£ 409.59
Co-op mobile	Mobile	Will Hub	£ 10.20
British Gas	Pavilion Electric	L & A	£ 100.58
British Gas	Pavilion Gas	L & A	£ 45.31
British Gas	Green	G & B	£ 15.20
British Gas	Public Hall	Halls	£ 37.12
British Gas	Ploughman Hall Electric	Halls	£1864.88
British Gas	Ploughman Hall Electric	Halls	Credit £ 576.52

Paid by Charge Card

Health & safety	Stationery	Est	£ 85.06
Co-op	Batteries	Est	£ 7.40
La Bara mobile	Mobile	G & B	£ 5.00

To be paid

Suds & Bubbles	Cleaning Pavilion	L & A	£ 281.00
Suds & Bubbles	Cleaning Halls	Halls	£ 520.00
Suds & Bubbles	Cleaning Office	Est	£ 40.00
ACA Heating	Boiler service	L & A	£ 90.00
Camb Acre	Membership	Est	£ 65.00

R S Glazing	Cables Velux windows	Halls	£ 372.00
Stefans Building	Ceiling repair	L & A	£1550.00
Briar Security	Access System	Halls	£3190.80
Briar Security	Alarm system	Halls	£2447.40
Hewitsons	Advice	Est	£1815.24
ACA Heating & Plumbing	Repairs in Pavilion	L & A	£ 87.48
ACA Heating & Plumbing	Cemetery Tap Repair	Cemetery	£ 45.60

Councillor Clark proposed the accounts be accepted as listed, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: RFO

27/24 Police update including:

Nothing to report.

28/24 To receive an update on HCVs and traffic issues and consider any actions including:

To receive an update regarding the 20mph scheme in the village and consider any actions.

Councillor Harris reported that the County Council notice had been delivered to all residents with the Willingham News Magazine. The Council were very grateful for their help at short notice and thanked them for their support.

To receive an update regarding the Minor Highways Improvement Bid application and consider any actions.

The application for the footpath to Highgate had been submitted.

29/24 Environment and Sustainability update including:

Councillor McKee reported that the office had applied for a 'pink' bin. This was to be used for recycling small electricals and was being passed around the villages in rotation by South Cambs District Council.

30/24 To receive an update on the Community Plan and consider any actions.

The Chair of the group reported that the plan was currently going through its final formatting and then they would be moving on to issuing the document.

Thanks were passed onto the team for all their hard work in bringing together the report.

31/24 Items for future meetings.

Ringers Rest

Public Hall

Willingham Youth Trust

Additional Christmas lighting on the Green

Utility Contracts

Flooding

32/24 Date of next meeting. 6th March 2024 (to be chaired by Councillor P King)

Meeting closed at 9.05pm