

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Willingham Parish Council held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 7.30pm, in the Octagon, St Mary and All Saints Church, Church Street, Willingham

Present:

Councillors: Barratt, Clark, Harris, Hutchcraft, L King, P King, Law, Mansfield, McKee, Moore, Smith, Todd, Watson

Parishioners: Four

Clerk: Mandy Powell

Minute taker Deputy Clerk: Amy Rudderham

51/24 Apologies for absence, including:

Apologies were received and ratified from County Councillor Gough and District Councillor Handley.

52/24 Declarations of interest

59/24 - Councillor Smith declared a Non-Pecuniary interest as Secretary of Willingham Wolves.

59/24 – Councillor L King declared a Non-Pecuniary interest as a member of Willingham Library.

53/24 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.

A resident spoke regarding Bio-Diversity within the village. As a resident of the village for over 18 years, they had noted a loss in wildlife opportunities due to continuing housing development within the village. As a member of the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants the resident was keen to try and secure an award for the village under the Cambridgeshire Churchyard Conservation Ward Scheme. In order to achieve an award, the resident was looking for an area of grass to be cut now, and at the end of Summer, but during the interim left to grow naturally. The resident suggested an area of land within the Cemetery for this purpose. Councillor Law thanked the resident for bringing this to the attention of the Council. The only issue that could be foreseen, is whether the contractor for the cutting of the Cemetery would be happy with this and whether it would cause a hinderance to them. This was discussed further under item 59/24.

Another resident approached the Council following the report in the Willingham News from County Councillor Gough regarding Peat Soil Roads. The resident confirmed they had been liaising with Councillor Gough on the matter. One of the suggestions the resident had put forward to Councillor Gough, was a ban of HGV's using the road. Councillor Law thanked the resident for coming to the Council meeting with their concerns. Councillor Law explained this had been a matter which had been ongoing for a number of years. The issue of HGV's had been raised before but was refused due to the limited number of river crossings available.

A third resident spoke to the Council on behalf of the village Community Speed Watch. They had recorded some very high speeds at various locations, on the SIDs that were in place. The Community Speed Watch were keen for new volunteers to join them to help with the work they are doing. Councillor Law thanked the resident and the Speed watch group for all of their efforts. Other speed reduction methods had been looked at in the past, including gateways and restrictions, however the issue they faced was that the flow of traffic in the village is tidal. Councillor Hutchcraft, Police Liaison

representative, confirmed he would pass on his email address to the resident and would help wherever he could.

A fourth resident addressed the Council, also as a member of the Community Speed Watch. The group would like to ask the Council to fund the purchase of two lithium batteries for the SIDs on Earith Road. The current batteries were very heavy and have to be changed regularly. The lithium batteries were much lighter and would make the changing of the batteries a much easier task. Councillor Harris confirmed that whilst the SIDs were under their warranty period, they were using the recommended batteries. However, the warranty period had now expired. Councillor Law confirmed this was something he was sure the Council would be very welcome to support. However, as this was not on the Agenda, it could not be voted upon. Councillor Law confirmed this would be added to next months Agenda for the Council to consider.

54/24 To receive and ratify minutes from the Council meeting held on the 6th March 2024.

Councillor L King proposed that the draft minutes be approved. This was seconded by Councillor Watson and ratified with nine votes in favour and three abstentions due to not being present at the meeting.

55/24 To deal with any matters arising from the meeting on the 6th March, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

With regards to item 41/24 Councillor L King confirmed she has liaised with the resident and sign wording had been agreed. Councillor L King was liaising with the Office to obtain quotations for the signage.

Action: Clerk/Councillor L King

56/24 To receive and consider any actions from the County Council reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda including:

Councillor Gough's report had been received and previously circulated, and tabled. No questions were raised for Councillor Gough.

57/24 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 received and previously circulated. No questions were raised for Councillor Handley.

Councillor Lentell's report had been received and previously circulated. No questions were raised for Councillor Lentell.

58/24 Chair's report including:

To receive and consider correspondence from a resident regarding dangerous parking around the school.

Councillor Law confirmed Parking Enforcement had visited the village. It had been requested that their next visit be focused on the school at peak times.

To receive and consider correspondence from a resident regarding public use of a private roadway on Earith Road.

Councillor Law confirmed that this was a private roadway and as such, if the owner wanted to erect some signage, this was up to them. The Council would raise this in their article for the Willingham News, to remind residents that roadway was private and should not be used by the general public.

Action: Councillor Harris

To consider request from parishioner for Council help in tackling dog waste on the drove way off Haden Way.

Councillor Law explained a parishioner had been in to the office regarding dog waste on the drove way off Haden Way. The land was privately owned land and the Parish Council were therefore limited on any actions they could consider. Again, Councillor Law confirmed the Council would raise this in their Willingham News article, and ask people to use the Dog Waste bins provided around the village.

Action: Councillor Harris

Duke of Wellington - consideration of Asset of Community Value

The Chair advised that the Council had received correspondence regarding the Duke of Wellington being considered as an Asset of Community Value. As the request had not been received prior to the Agenda being issued, it would be added to next month's Agenda.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Moore entered the Meeting at 20.03 pm.

59/24 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 consider CAPALC affiliation renewal

A quotation had been received for the renewal of membership at a cost of £941.44. Councillor Harris proposed the Council accepted the renewal. This was seconded by Councillor Smith and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

To consider grant application from Willingham library.

The Council had received a grant application of £500 which had been previously circulated. Councillor Watson proposed the Council support the grant application. This was seconded by Councillor McKee and **ratified** with twelve votes in favour and one abstention due to a declaration of interest.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update on flooding in the village and consider any actions.

A meeting was being arranged with Anglian Water and Councillors Law and P King agreed one of them would attend, when the meeting details had been finalised.

Action: Chair/Vice Chair

To consider correspondence from South Cambs District Council regarding the stopping of the Community Lifeline and consider any actions.

South Cambs District Council had confirmed that they would be stopping the scheme on the 30th June 2024. Councillor Smith proposed the Council continue with the Lifeline scheme and instruct the Clerk to look into alternatives. This was Seconded by Councillor Hutchcraft and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

Planning Committee – updates including:

To receive draft minutes from the meetings held on the 20th March 2024 and consider any actions.

The Minutes were previously circulated and noted.

HALLS – Updates including:

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

The Clerk had received some correspondence from the Public Hall User Committee which they'd received from the Charity Commission. This was ongoing.

To receive an update regarding Willingham Youth Trust user agreement due to expire February 2025 and consider questions raised by the Youth Trust and any other actions.

Councillor P King and The Clerk had met with the Youth Trust and a set of questions had been previously circulated to the Council for consideration.

Q: Are the council able to offer reassurance that there is no immediate desire to stop the grant for the delivery of a Youth Club. As we are required to give notice to Connections were this to be the case.

A: *Yes, the Council have no immediate intention to stop the Grant.*

Q: Will there be a charge for the use of the Centre to the Youth Trust in our continuing use of the facility to deliver said Youth Services to the village?

A: *No, the Council has no plans to charge the Youth Trust for their use of the Centre.*

Q: Given that the income from renting the youth centre has been used by the Youth Trust to subsidise the shortfall in the grant for delivering the Youth Club is there any scope for a decision around this for future years funding? Or, will any use of the facility for fundraising activities for the Youth Trust be included in our general allowance to use to us?

A: *No, any income made from the renting of the rooms will not be given to the Youth Trust. The Council will be taking over the full management of the ploughman hall including the area currently run by the youth trust, and therefore any income received from hires would be retained by the Council.*

The answers above in red were proposed by Councillor Law. These were seconded by Councillor Clark and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update regarding the recent fire survey of the public hall and ploughman hall and consider any actions.

The recent fire survey had been received by the Council and noted. The office were working on ensuring necessary actions are completed and obtaining quotations where appropriate.

Action: Clerk

To consider storage in the Ploughman Hall and the removal of the stage.

Councillor Clark proposed the stage remain in the storage room at the Ploughman Hall and the Council instruct the Clerk to make initial enquiries to get an expert in to offer advice on storage options available. This was seconded by Councillor Hutchcraft and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

To consider insurance for dance group.

A request had been received from the lead of the Ballroom Dance group, if they could be covered by the Council's Public Liability Insurance. They are a non-profit group and not part of a national scheme. Councillor Clark proposed the Council support this proposal. This was seconded by Councillor Mansfield and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

Cemetery – updates including:

To consider biodiversity proposal for the cemetery.

See also Public Forum.

Councillor Mansfield thanked the resident for speaking at the beginning of the meeting. Councillor Mansfield identified a strip of grass along the wall within the Cemetery which may work. Councillor Mansfield proposed the Office liaise with Buchans in the first instance and then revert to the resident. This was seconded by Councillor Watson and **ratified** unanimously.

Green & Boundaries – updates including:

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

Councillor Moore had received quotations regarding the Mural, which had been circulated to Council. The Council agreed for Councillor Moore to liaise with the resident to gain written permission, before the quotations are considered.

Action: Councillor Moore

Leisure & Amenities - updates including:

To consider proposals for storage at the Recreation Ground and Pavilion

Councillor L King proposed the Council allow the Willingham Wolves to site a Storage Container at the old cricket nets, next to the Pavilion. This was Seconded by Councillor Watson and **ratified** by six votes in favour, five votes against and two abstentions.

Action: Clerk/Councillor L King

To consider Wolves application to the FA for pitch improvement and any other improvements to the recreation ground.

An application was received from Willingham Wolves to the FA. Councillor Law questioned that one of the eligibility criteria points for the grant, was not met as the Willingham Wolves did not own the Freehold or the Leasehold of the recreation ground. Councillor Smith confirmed he would revert back to the FA on this point and update the Council further.

Action: Councillor Smith/Clerk

To receive an update regarding the recent fire survey of the pavilion and consider any actions.

The recent fire survey had been received by the Council and noted. The office are working on ensuring necessary actions are completed and obtaining quotations where appropriate.

Action: Clerk

60/24 To receive and ratify monthly accounts for payment.

Items paid by bank transfer:

Salaries	March	Salaries	£4016.04
HMRC	March	PAYE	£ 604.39
Nest Pension	March	Pension	£ 158.41
Will Garden Club	Plants for tubs	Est	£ 32.48
L Thomas	Ploughman Deposit	Halls	£ 100.00
Mrs Gratwick	Ploughman	Halls	£ 45.38
F R Aspel	Ploughman Deposit	Halls	£ 100.00
SLCC	Membership	Est	£ 144.00
CAPALC	Training	Est	£ 75.00
CamSAR	Donation	Donation	£ 250.00

Items paid by direct debit/standing order:

South Cambs DC	Rates Ploughman	Halls	£4322.59
South Cambs DC	Rates Cemetery	Cemetery	£ 806.88
South Cambs DC	Rates Pavilion	L & A	£2020.95
South Cambs DC	Waste Coll	Halls	£1141.40
South Cambs DC	Waste Coll	Cemetery	£ 538.20
Drax	Street Lights	G & B	£ 380.78
Co-op phone	Mobile	Will Hub	£ 10.20
British Gas	Pavilion Electric	L & A	£ 259.02
British Gas	Public Hall Electric	Halls	£ 35.36
British Gas	Green Electric	G & B	£ 14.49
British Gas	Pavilion Gas	L & A	£ 25.26
British Gas	Ploughman Electric	Halls	£ 788.65
BT	Phone/broadband	Est	£ 95.00

Items paid by charge card:

Amazon	Stationery	Est	£ 36.98
Amazon	Clip frames	Cemetery	£ 25.50
Amazon	Cleaner head/doorbell	Halls	£ 81.89
<u>Items to be paid by bank transfer:</u>			
Suds & Bubbles	Cleaning Ploughman	Halls	£ 520.00
Suds & Bubbles	Pavilion	L & A	£ 281.00
Suds & Bubbles	Office	Est	£ 40.00
Parish Online	Digital Mapping	Est	£ 120.00
Edge IT Syst	Epitaph Classic	Cemetery	£ 296.40
Cromwell Fire	Anti tamper tag	Halls	£ 2.20

Councillor Todd proposed that the accounts are accepted and paid as shown. This was seconded by Councillor Smith and ratified unanimously.

Action: RFO

61/24 Police update including:

Councillor Hutchcraft reminded the Council that the Crime Commissioner election would be take place on Thursday 2nd May 2024.

62/24 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.

Nothing new to report at present.

Councillor P King left the meeting at 21.20 pm.

To receive an update regarding the speed bumps on Rampton Road including the latest survey and consider any actions.

The first survey carried out by the Parish Council, to residents of Rampton Road voted in favour of the proposal. The results of the County survey to the Rampton Road residents voted against the proposal. Therefore, the Parish Council carried out a third survey to the residents of Rampton Road, which resulted in twenty-six households against the proposal and twenty-five households in favour. Councillor Harris therefore proposed the Council did not continue with the speed bump scheme. This was seconded by Councillor Todd and **ratified** with ten votes in favour and two abstentions. The Council requested the Office do a further letter drop to the residents of Rampton Road to notify them of the results.

Action: Clerk

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

Nothing new to report.

Needingworth Hanson Quarry Meeting

Councillor Harris attended this and his report was tabled.

63/24 Environment and Sustainability update including:

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the Pink Bin had been delivered that afternoon and would be in situ for all of April.

64/24 To consider renewal of the Clerk's and Compliance Administrators SLCC membership.

Councillor Law proposed the Council support both renewals. This was seconded by Councillor Moore and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk/Compliance Administrator

65/24 Items for future meetings.

Flooding
Ploughman Hall Storage
Pavilion Storage
Duke of Wellington
20 MPH Scheme SID Batteries
Ringers Rest Mural
Bio Diversity – Cemetery
Wolves Grant Application to FA

66/24 Date of next meeting.

1st May – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

15th May – Annual Parish Meeting