

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Willingham held on 15th May 2024 at 7.30pm in the Octagon at St Mary and All Saints Church, Willingham

Present: Parish Councillors: Cllrs Law (Chair), McKee, Ramsden, Todd, Barratt, L King, Watson, Mansfield and Harris

County Councillor: Gough

District Councillor: Handley

Group Representatives: Ten

Other Parishioners: Nine

Clerk: Mandy Powell

Deputy Clerk (minute taker): 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 and ratified from Councillor Hutchcraft and Councillor P King due to personal commitments.

3. To deal with matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th May 2023

None.

4. To receive a presentation from Anglian Water and take any questions.

The meeting was attended by five representatives of Anglian Water.

They were:-

- Emily Linsdell, Regional Engagement Executive
- Linda Elliott, Regional Engagement Programme Lead
- Gavin Elliott, Water Recycling Network Manager
- Colin Rogers, Senior Network Technician
- Josh Lucas, Maintenance Technician

They had prepared a presentation, which they talked through.

It was expressed the last 12 months had been the wettest on record, with 9 months of consecutive rainfall. Gavin confirmed that it was the responsibility of Anglian Water for sewers and any flooding which occurred from manholes, and it was the Environment Agency who were responsible for main river flooding. Gavin further confirmed that County Councils had responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from watercourses which were not classed as a main river, and flooding from their highways. Gavin went on to confirm that they do engage in the planning process of new developments of which there are ten or more houses proposed. They confirmed that if a risk of foul sewer flooding was identified by them, they request a condition is applied to allow them to work with the applicant on a strategy.

With regards to Willingham, it was stated the very high surface water flows, misconnection and the overwhelmed sewer network, were the causes of the issues Willingham had faced. Specifically mentioned was the disruption that had faced the Primary School as well as Bourneys Manor Close and Covent Garden residents.

Going forward, they reiterated that Anglian Water were, and would continue to, continually check their pipes and pumps to make sure the system was working to the best of its ability. A Multi-Agency meeting had been scheduled for 24th May. Willingham and other South Cambridgeshire Villages had been invited to attend. Councillor Law confirmed he would attend this meeting.

Anglian Water encouraged residents to report any issues that they find or experience to the relevant Agency.

Councillor Neil Gough raised a question.

Q: The last incident saw the closure of the Primary School, which you had mentioned. I understand this had come after an extreme period of Rainfall. How extensive does the rainfall need to be for a closure at the school to occur again?

A: With speaking to the School, Anglian Water were not aware of an issue affecting the School prior to this year. From looking at the table of rainfall's long term average, in February it was 77ml higher in October, than previous years.

Councillor Bill Handley raised a query.

Q: Councillor Handley confirmed he would be grateful to speak with the representatives following this meeting, because of a serious issue being faced in Over.

A: Anglian Water confirmed they would be happy to speak with Councillor Handley following the meeting with regards to the issues being faced in Over.

Action: Anglian Water

Resident raised questions to the team.

Q: With regards to the Over Sewage Treatment Works, are there any plans to upgrade this any time soon?

A: Gavin confirmed that this was something that wasn't covered by anyone present, but they would find out, and report back to the Parish Council.

Action: Anglian Water

Q: Thames Water provide live data and storm overflow updates. Is this something that Anglian Water would be able to do?

A: Anglian Water confirmed they do publish data already and there are live maps available. The maps would show live updates.

Resident also raised questions.

Q: He could remember the works being installed in 1964. He could not remember an issue as seen in the last year for the discharge. Have the Sewers been upgraded since the installation? Have pipes been upgraded to a larger size by developers to help with the load?

A: Gavin confirmed that he would need to speak to his colleagues regarding the issues, as he was not sure on the latest and he did not want to give out the wrong information.

Action: Anglian Water

They confirmed they need to find out how surface water was getting into the network and stop it. This was only an issue when there was heavy rainfall, as these issues are not seen in the summer/drier months.

Councillor Law thanked the Anglian Water representatives for attending the meeting. They confirmed they would send their presentation to the Parish Council, to be shared with the village.

Action: Anglian Water

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

(i) Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Goughs report had been put on the website and tabled.

Councillor Gough briefly talked through his report to the room. Councillor Gough expressed his thanks to the Parish Council and the staff for their work and support over the last year. Councillor Gough was willing to answer any questions – no questions were raised.

(ii) South Cambridgeshire District Council

Councillor Handley's report had been put on the website and tabled.

Councillor Handley briefly talked through his report and was willing to answer any questions – no questions were raised.

Councillor Lentell's report had been put on the website and tabled, no questions were raised.

(iii) Willingham Parish Council

The report had been tabled and added to the website. Councillor Law thanked the Lead Councillors for their entries in the report and thanked the Clerk for her efforts putting the report together.

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

(i) CamSAR

Barry Carter attended the event on behalf of CamSAR. Barry confirmed that the charity relied on fundraising and the support of the Parish Council was very much appreciated. Barry Confirmed that they had recently been able to purchase re-chargeable torches for the team, with the donation from Willingham Parish Council.

Councillor Law thanked Barry for all of the work the charity had done.

(ii) Willingham Youth Trust

Willingham Youth Trust's report had been put on the website and tabled.

(iii) Community Warden

Community Warden Scheme report had been put on the website and tabled.

Kelly Mason confirmed the scheme in Willingham and Over had been reduced to a 15 hour per week scheme and there was a waiting list. Kelly explained the difficult financial situation the scheme had found itself in over the past year. Kelly confirmed a lot of the help they were offering is online and digital service help. Kelly explained that the National Age UK Charity was a separate charity from them. They only received 1% of their funding from Age UK.

Councillor Law thanked Kelly for all of the work the charity had done.

(iv) Community Plan

The Community Plan report had been put on the website and tabled.

Chris Cheshire gave a brief explanation of what the Community Plan was and where they were currently at with it. Chris confirmed that the group was hoping to have distribution to all households in Willingham, during June.

A resident asked what the purpose of the Community Plan was. Chris confirmed that it was to capture the aspirations of the village and distribute the results to the whole village and organisations within the village, including the Parish Council.

The same resident questioned who created the questionnaire that was carried out. Chris confirmed that a public meeting was held and the questions were then created and distributed to all households in the village.

Councillor Law thanked Chris and the team for all of the work they had done for the Community Plan.

(v) Willingham Library

Willingham Library report had been put on the website and tabled.

Terri Lewis attended the meeting on behalf of the Library. Terri thanked the Parish Council for all of their support over the last year.

Terri confirmed that the team wanted to encourage use of the library and if anyone knew of any groups or organisations who were interested in a 'pop-up' local group at the library, please get in touch.

Councillor Law thanked Terri and all the volunteers at the library for their hard work.

(vi) Public Hall Users Committee

Public Hall Users Committee report had been put on the website and tabled.

(vii) British Schools Trust

British Schools Trust report had been put on the website and tabled.

Ray Manning, the Chair of the British Schools Trust, confirmed the Charity had a very healthy balance available to them at around £200,000.00. The issue the Charity had, was they struggled to receive applications from anyone. The Charity gave funding for supplies, books and equipment linked to apprenticeships and further education up to the age of 25. The criteria for the Trust is that applicants must have attended Willingham Primary School.

Councillor Law thanked Ray Manning for his dedication to the charity and to all the members involved.

(viii) Bowls Club

Bowls Club report had been put on the website and tabled.

(ix) Scouts

Scouts report had been put on the website and tabled.

(x) Cricket Club

Cricket Club report had been put on the website and tabled.

(xi) Willingham Wolves

Willingham Wolves report had been put on the website and tabled.

(xii) Willingham Action Group

Willingham Action Group report had been put on the website and tabled.

Richard Foster (Treasurer) addressed the meeting providing an update on the work that WAG had undertaken on behalf of the village.

Richard also gave a special mention to Graham Mumby, who had been the chair of the WAG Committee for 15 years. Graham had retired from chair of the Group this year and Richard expressed huge thanks to Graham for all of this hard work, dedication and commitment to the village.

Councillor Law expressed great thanks to Richard and the WAG volunteers for their continued work and also to Graham, for all of his efforts and working closely with the Parish Council over the years.

(xiii) Over Day Centre

Over Day Centre report had been put on the website and tabled.

David Barker attended the meeting on behalf of the Centre. David thanked the Parish Council for all of their support over the year. David explained what the Day Centre provided its users. David explained that staffing costs are very high, as are ratio's needed and therefore volunteers are essential to the running of the centre.

Councillor Law thanked David and all at the Centre for all of their hard work.

(xiv) Willingham News

Willingham News report had been put on the website and tabled.

Trevor Weston attended the meeting on behalf of Willingham News. He confirmed that recently they had seen two key resignations within the roles of the group, but was pleased to report these had been filled. Trevor expressed great thanks to all of the team for their collective efforts in the production and distribution of the Willingham News. Trevor also gave thanks to the Parish Council for their support.

Councillor Law thanked Trevor and all of the Volunteers for all of their hard work.

(xv) Willingham Combined Charity

Willingham Combined Charity's report had been put on the website and tabled.

(xvi) Community Hub

Community Hub report had been put on the website and tabled.

7. Any other business

Councillor Law expressed his thanks to everyone who had attended the meeting and to all those working with and alongside the organisations mentioned.

Councillor Ramsden asked for an update on the Duke of Wellington, and the application for the Asset of Community Value.

The Clerk confirmed that the application had been submitted along with the 118 testimonials, which were appropriately redacted of any personal information, received from members of the village. The Clerk expressed her thanks to all those who had taken the time to respond.

Councillor Law confirmed, for clarity, if approved the Duke of Wellington will be listed on South Cambridgeshire District Council's website as an Asset of Community Value, and this would put a temporary pause on the sale of the building, to allow the community time to look at its options. Councillor Law confirmed that there had been an individual express interest in the purchase of the site, to sell as a dwelling and build further on the land at the back. The individual had approached the Planning Committee for their views on the development of the site. Councillor Law confirmed the Planning Committee confirmed they are not usually minded to support back land development but could not formally comment until an application is formally received.

Meeting closed at 20:51