

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Willingham Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 7.30pm, in the Octagon, St Mary and All Saints Church, Church Street, Willingham

Present:

Councillors: Barratt, Clark, Harris, L King, Law (Chair), Mansfield, McKee, Moore, Ramsden, Smith, Wilkinson

District Councillors: Handley

Parishioners: One

Clerk: Mandy Powell

Deputy Clerk: Amy Rudderham

153/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and ratified from Councillors Watson and Todd both due to prior commitments and Councillors P King and Hutchcraft due to being unwell. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Gough.

154/24 Declarations of interest

Councillor Ramsden declared a personal interest under item 155/24, as a member of the British Horse Society. Councillor Smith declared an interest under item 162/24, as the Secretary of the Willingham Wolves and did not vote on this item.

155/24 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. (Please see important note above)

A resident addressed the Council regarding a couple of highways issues. The resident confirmed that they had heard there were plans to stop cars parking on Church Street, by installing double yellow lines. The resident confirmed, due to medical reasons, they walk with an aid. When trying to cross Church Street, the parked cars form a barrier to vehicles which drive at excessive speeds on Church Street and offer some protection.

Councillor Law confirmed the Council were not aware of any plans to install double yellow lines to Church Street. With regards to parking issues, the Parish Council have very limited powers. If the Parish Council wish to make any changes re highways, they would have to submit an LHI bid.

The resident also raised concerns regarding the state of the B1050 expressing that something needed to be done to sort it. Councillor Law confirmed that the Parish Council shared the concerns raised by the resident and they had raised it many times previously with the County Council and would continue to do so. Unfortunately, Councillor Gough was not present, but the Council would pass on the resident's concerns to Councillor Gough.

Action: Clerk

156/24 To receive and ratify minutes from the Council meeting held on the 4th September 2024.

Councillor Moore proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, and ratified with seven votes in favour and four abstentions due to not being at the meeting.

157/24 To deal with any matters arising from the meeting on the 4th September 2024 not elsewhere on the agenda. None raised.

158/24 To receive and consider County Council report and any other reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda including:

Report received, circulated, and tabled.

Councillor McKee raised a query regarding the lorries from the quarry travelling through the village and it being the responsibility on the public to report them. Councillor Harris confirmed that he had attended a recent meeting with the quarry. Drivers had been instructed not to come through Willingham. Brice lorries were very identifiable, as they are bright green, and they should be reported to the company if seen in the village.

Councillor Harris requested that the office, in view of the change of ownership, contact Mick George to obtain written confirmation that the previous agreement to stick to 20 mph when travelling through the village would continue.

Action: Clerk

159/24 To receive and consider District Council reports and any other reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda, including:

Councillor Handley's report received, circulated, and tabled.

Councillor Handley wanted to draw the Council's attention to the Cost of Living points raised in his report. Councillor Handley expressed concern for pensioners ahead of the winter months and encouraged people, if they are struggling, to come forward and talk, as there may be funding available to help them. Councillor Law agreed to include this in the Willingham News article.

Action: Councillor Law

Councillor Harris confirmed he would be attending the upcoming Bus Franchising Consultation Stakeholder Event at Duxford and Councillor Handley confirmed he would attend too, if possible.

Action: N Harris/B Handley

160/24 Chair's report including:

To receive an update/proposal regarding the potential sale of the Salvation Army Hall and consider any actions.

This item was taken under 161/24, Halls report.

The owner of the hall had advised the Council of their intention to sell the hall and Councillors Law, P King, Clark, and the Clerk had visited to look at its suitability for the Council.

The Council agreed Councillor Clark should liaise with the Scouts and arrange a visit to the hall.

Action: Councillor Clark

To receive correspondence regarding barricades on restricted byways and consider any actions.

Correspondence had been received regarding the County Council's intention not to put the barricades back during the winter months. This had raised concerns about a potential increase in fly tipping and abandoned cars on the byways. The council requested the office to write to Councillor Gough regarding this, copying in Councillor Handley.

Action: Clerk

To receive correspondence from a resident regarding the cycle way on Station Road and consider any actions.

Correspondence had been received from a resident regarding the cycle way on Station Road and a request to have it widened in order to make it safe for users.

After some discussion, the Council requested the office write to Councillor Gough, expressing the narrowness of the cycle way, especially as it is often used by both Primary and Secondary school children.

Action: Clerk

To receive correspondence regarding parking around the primary school and consider any actions.

Correspondence had been received from a resident raising concerns about vehicles being parked on their property causing damage etc. The resident had requested cones and signage be purchased. The Clerk had responded to confirm that these incidents should be reported to the police and had sign posted the resident/school to sources of funding and support. The Council requested the Clerk also notify our local police officer regarding the matter.

Action: Clerk

Correspondence from South Cambs District Council (SCDC) regarding antisocial behaviour on Hereford Way

Correspondence had been received from SCDC regarding a resident having issues with antisocial behaviour requesting that the Council help with placement of signage and the removal of goal posts. The area is the responsibility of the developer/management company, and it was agreed the Clerk would write to them to request they assist with resolving the issues. The Clerk would also report the problems to the local police officer.

Action: Clerk

161/24 To receive from the following Committees: reports from lead councillors, note any delegated decisions taken, and make any recommendations.

F&GP Committee – updates and actions to be taken, including:

To receive an update regarding the Council's charge card and consider any actions.

The Chair reported that the card had been compromised and some unauthorised activity had been picked up. This had been reported to the bank, monies returned, and a new card issued.

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

Councillor Law confirmed that he had attended a Multi Agency Group Meeting, along with one of the resident experts. The resident expert was currently looking into the pumping stations and liaising with South Cambridgeshire District Council regarding access to the archives.

Councillor Law expressed his thanks to our resident experts who were still working extremely hard.

The Council raised whether the village could have more of the 'flip' road closed signs, for Earith bridge. The Council requested the Clerk contact County Councillor Gough in this regard.

Action: Clerk

Planning Committee – updates and actions to be taken, including:

To receive draft minutes from the meeting held on the 25th September 2024 and consider any actions.

Previously circulated and noted.

HALLS – Updates and actions to be taken, including:

To receive and consider a proposal regarding the public hall future and works potentially needed.

A proposal from Councillor Clark had been previously circulated and tabled.

It was agreed this item would be held until the next meeting, whilst the actions regarding the Salvation Army were carried out.

Action: Clerk

To receive an update regarding the 2014 PHUC agreement due to expire in December 2024 and consider any actions.

The Clerk had issued final booking forms and T&Cs to the PHUC and had made enquiries regarding cleaning costs etc.

To receive any other updates regarding the Public Hall and consider any actions.

A new fire door had been installed towards the rear of the building.

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

The Clerk was compiling booking forms and T&Cs. She had also made enquiries regarding cleaning costs.

Action: Clerk

To receive any other updates regarding the Ploughman Hall

Works to the kitchen had been scheduled for November and all regular users had been advised.

Cemetery – updates and actions to be taken, including:

To receive an update regarding large memorials that need to be laid down and consider any quotations/actions.

This was ongoing and the Deputy Clerk was continuing to source a contractor to look at the memorials.

Green & Boundaries – updates and actions to be taken, including:

To consider quotations received for works to the entrance of Barton Field and for the provision of a gate and consider any actions.

A quotation had been received for works to the entrance and the provision of a gate.

The Clerk reminded all Councillors that any quotation requests need to go through the office. A specification needs to be drawn up to ensure that all quotations are comparable.

Councillor Moore proposed both quotations be accepted. This was seconded by Councillor Smith and **ratified** with ten votes in favour and one against.

Action: Clerk

To receive and consider quotation for Street lighting contract.

The Deputy Clerk had managed to obtain a fixed rate quotation for the unmetered supply and the quotation had been previously circulated. Councillor Law proposed the Council accept the quotation for the three-year contract. This was seconded by Councillor Smith and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

Leisure & Amenities – updates and actions to be taken, including:

To receive an update on new land opportunities and consider any actions.

Councillor Law confirmed that he would speak with the Chair of Willingham Combined Charity and arrange a date for Councillor L King and Councillor Smith to view the land.

Action: Councillor Law

To receive an update on the MUGA including:

Consider draft tender documents.

Councillor L King's report was previously circulated. However, since the report was written, the area of the recreation ground allocated for the MUGA had become submerged due to heavy rain. Councillor L King expressed her concern in continuing with the project due to the water levels on the land. If the Council were to cease the project, the legal process to re-allocate the Section 106 monies would need to be undertaken.

The Council requested the Clerk arrange a meeting with South Cambridgeshire District Council to discuss the works, going forward.

Councillor Law thanked Councillor L King for all of her hard work, efforts, and dedication with regards to the MUGA application.

Action: Clerk

Consider a proposal for a Padel court and consider any actions.

In line with the previous discussion, it was agreed for this item to be put on hold.

To receive correspondence from the Bowls Club regarding fencing and consider any actions.

The Bowls Club had reported issues with their fencing and had written to ask if the Council could support them. Councillor L King agreed to discuss their needs with them further.

Action: Councillor L King

162/24 To receive and ratify monthly accounts for payment.

Paid by Bank transfer

Salaries	Salaries September	Salaries	£4141.36
HMRC PAYE	PAYE	Salaries	£592.23
Nest Pension	Pension September	Salaries	£175.71
C A Rogers	Deposit return	Halls	£100.00
R A Said	Deposit return	Halls	£100.00
Willingham Wolves	Donation	Est	£3328.00
Clear Councils	Insurance	Insurance	£4039.84
Willingham Youth Tr	Donation	Donations	£6912.00
MC Garden Main	Grass Cutting	Est	£2046.00
CBE Ltd	EICR Remedial work	Halls	£716.40
Andrew Deptford	New Pads Defib	Est	£86.34

Paid by Credit card

Amazon	Paper towels	Halls	£21.50
Amazon	Stationery	Est	£45.77

Items to be Paid

Suds and Bubbles	Cleaning Pavilion	L & A	£241.00
Suds and Bubbles	Cleaning Ploughman	Halls	£560.00
Suds and Bubbles	Cleaning Office	Est	£40.00
ACA Heating	Boiler fault	L & A	£45.00
Atlas Tree Surgery	Remove hawthorns	Cemetery	£240.00
Atlas Tree Surgery	Tree work Barton Field	G & B	£420.00
Arboricultural Cons	Site Inspection MUGA	S106 Rockmill/Hayden	£318.00

Councillor Ramsden proposed the accounts be agreed as listed. This was seconded by Councillor Barratt and **ratified** with ten votes in favour and one abstention due to a previously declared interest.

Action: RFO

163/24 Police update including:

The Clerk confirmed the office had received a few reports of suspected abandoned vehicles, which had been reported to the Police.

164/24 To receive an update on HCVs and traffic issues and consider any actions including:

To receive an update on the proposal for a 20mph zone in the village and consider any actions.

Councillor Harris confirmed that the proposal was due to be discussed by the delegation committee in the next two weeks.

To receive an update on the minor highways bid application and consider any actions.

Councillor Harris confirmed that he had received verbal confirmation that the application had been successful, but he was awaiting written confirmation. He would also be submitting proposals for the next round of applications at the November meeting.

Action: Councillor Harris

165/24 Environment and Sustainability update including:

Councillor L King confirmed that the Grant application made for Meadow Road had been unsuccessful, however, South Cambridgeshire District Council were looking at whether the application would be applicable to other grants available.

166/24 To consider Clerk's request to attend the annual practitioners conference.

The Clerk had requested approval to attend the Practitioners Conference in January 2025 at a cost of £565. The request was proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Ramsden, and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

167/24 Items for future meetings.

2025 Meeting dates

Quarterly budget

20 MPH Zone

MUGA

Bowls club

Flooding

Public Hall

Salvation Army Hall

Carols on the Green

Clock minder (Councillor L King confirmed she would be happy to step in and change the clock at the end of the month)

Minor Highways Bid proposals

New recreational land

168/24 Date of next meeting

6th November 2024

Meeting closed at 21.16.