

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Willingham Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 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 (Chair), Mansfield, McKee, Moore, Ramsden, Smith, Watson

County Councillor: Gough

District Councillors: Lentell

Parishioners: seven

Clerk: Mandy Powell

Deputy Clerk: Amy Rudderham

01/24 Apologies for absence, including:

Apologies were received and agreed from Councillor Todd due to personal commitments. Apologies were also received from District Councillor Handley.

02/24 Declarations of interest

Item 9/24 – Flooding – Councillors L and P King declared a non-pecuniary interest as they both knew the resident involved.

03/24 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 requested an update regarding the mural on the property in Church Street that had once been the Ringers Rest. It was confirmed the property owner was not in a position to carry out any works and the clerk was asked to investigate the cost of restoring the mural. *(after the meeting Councillor Moore agreed to take on this task)*

Action: S Moore

The Chair of the Community Plan group confirmed that the final draft of the plan had been circulated and comments would be needed by the end of February. The team were planning on a limited number of hard copies with the powerpoint available as a hard copy summary distributed more widely. It was pointed out that at an earlier Council meeting it had been agreed that a written summary would be preferred instead of the powerpoint and that it should go to all households with the powerpoint and full report available online and from a small number of locations in hard copy. Councillor P King passed on thanks to the team for all their efforts and hard work on the project. The Clerk was asked to pass the report to all Councillors to look through ahead of the February meeting.

Action: Clerk

The Treasurer of the Public Hall User Committee (PHUC) spoke to publicly acknowledge the Council's decision to not renew the agreement in December 2024. She then explained the current situation with the Charity as well as detail why the PHUC felt it was important to renew the agreement moving forward. It was agreed that the Lead Councillor for Halls and the Clerk would meet with the Charity over the coming weeks to discuss the matter and report back to the Council.

Action: S Clark/Clerk

04/24 To receive and ratify minutes from the Council meeting held on the 6th December 2023.

Councillor Harris proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, seconded by Councillor L King, and **ratified** with seven votes in favour and six abstentions due to not being at the meeting.

05/24 To deal with any matters arising from the meeting on the 6th December, not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

None raised.

06/24 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 reiterated the need for residents to report any flooding to their properties to the County Council. Information and links had been put on the parish council website. The latest flooding at the traffic lights on the crossroads had been escalated to the drainage team at County Council and Councillor Gough agreed follow this up. Councillor P King stressed the importance of also reporting issues to the Environment Agency.

Action: N Gough

It was pointed out to Councillor Gough that Anglian Water should have been self-reporting which they clearly had not been, and Councillor Gough was asked to take this up with them.

Action: N Gough

Councillor Gough also offered to invite Anglian Water to the Annual Parish Meeting in May and would update the Council one he had made contact.

Action: N Gough

07/24 To receive and consider any actions from the District Council reports and communications not covered elsewhere on this agenda, including:

Councillor Handley's report previously circulated, and no questions were raised. Councillor Lentell gave a verbal report including an update on the recent LGA report, the four-day week trial and the ongoing issues at the Royal Bengal.

08/24 Chair's report including:

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

It was agreed not to attend. Clerk to advise Fen Edge

Action: Clerk

To receive and consider correspondence from resident regarding dog waste bins and bag stations.

A resident had requested that the bin at the orchard be replaced, and additional bag stations be located elsewhere in the village. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the cost of a replacement bin but also one with a recycling element. SCDC would also need to be approached to check whether they would empty a recycling bin at the same time as the general waste.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Watson was asked to look into the feasibility of installing additional bag stations and whether there was provision in the Green and Boundaries budget to accommodate any.

Action: J Watson

To receive thank you letter from Willingham Social Club for the donation of the defibrillator cabinet.

The Chair advised the Council that a thank you letter had been received from the Club and installation should take place in January.

09/24 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 adoption of land on Haden Way.

Report had been previously circulated and tabled. A discussion took place regarding the uptake of the land and Councillor Ramsden reported that an application had been submitted to make the driveway a bridleway. It was agreed that Councillor Ramsden would check on the status of the application and the implications should it be approved and report back to the February meeting.

Action: D Ramsden

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

Report had been previously circulated. Councillor P King reported that he had contacted two retired professional residents who had taken an initial look into the issues around the green. Whilst more investigation and evidence were needed the issue appeared to be because of the developments in the area adding increased pressure to the water volumes going into the system. Councillor Law proposed that the Clerk write to the two residents asking if they would be prepared to provide a written report on the flooding issues which the Council could take forward with the appropriate authorities. A budget of £500 would be allocated to be spent at the Clerk's discretion. Seconded by Councillor Hutchcraft and **ratified** with eleven votes in favour and two abstentions.

Action: Clerk

To consider quotations for utilities and consider any actions.

Information previously circulated. Due to new information received and as a result being unable to move forward with the SSE contract at the current time (agreed under item 203/23), Councillor Law proposed that the Council rescind the decision under item 203/23 and the Council look at the utilities at the February meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk would check with the energy provider for streetlights to see if they would allow a slightly extended contract to bring the future scheme end date in line with the other utility contracts. The Clerk would also contact Councillor Gough to request that County Council take back the responsibility of placing street lighting contracts for the County and then bill the Parishes.

This was second by Councillor Moore and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: Clerk

Planning Committee – updates including:

To receive draft minutes from the meetings held on the 12th December 2023 and 8th 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 to expire in December 2024, including correspondence from the User Committee and consider any actions.

Taken under public forum.

To review and consider Willingham Youth Trust user agreement due to expire February 2025.

The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Youth Trust and book a meeting with them and the Lead Councillor for halls.

Action: Clerk

Cemetery – updates including:

Councillor Mansfield reported that the office was still trying to find a contractor willing to carry out repairs on the tap. The main gates ball socket on the right-hand side had been knocked out of line and Hibbits had been contacted. Topple testing follow up was still ongoing and burial right owners were being contacted where known.

Green & Boundaries – updates including:

Councillor Watson passed on his thanks to Councillor Clark and Todd for taking down the Christmas lights and Councillor Clark reported that the recess for the cable and socket was under water. Although it is an armoured cable, the set up should be checked to ensure it is completely safe prior to future use.

Action: Clerk

Leisure & Amenities - updates including:

Councillor L King reported that the recreation ground was extremely flooded, and she would put forward some proposals to address the issues at the February meeting. She also reported that there were likely to be some significant costs coming up for play equipment repair/maintenance over the coming months.

Action: L King

10/24 To receive and ratify monthly accounts for payment.

Paid by Bank transfer

Salaries	December	Salaries	£5493.71
HMRC	PAYE Dec	Salaries	£1109.28
Nest Pension	Pension December	Salaries	£ 255.02
Buchans	Village Grass Cut	Est	£1728.30
Various	Deposit Plough	Halls	£ 600.00
SLCC	Membership	Est	£ 112.00

Paid by Direct Debit

Co-op Phone	Mobile phone	Will Hub	£ 10.20
British Gas	Pavilion gas	L & A	£ 57.93
British Gas	Public hall electric	Hall	£ 38.87
British Gas	Green Electric	G & B	£ 15.42
British Gas	Ploughman Elect	Halls	£ 576.52
SCDC	Piper Lifeline	Section 142	£ 679.25
Drax	Street Lighting	G & B	£ 415.01
BT	Phone	Est	£ 95.21

Paid by Credit Card

Amazon	Stationery	Est	£ 27.27
Post Office	Postage	Est	£ 20.00

To Pay

Suds & Bubbles	Dec Cleaning	Est	£ 40.00
Suds & Bubbles	Dec Cleaning	Halls	£ 560.00
Suds & Bubbles	Dec Cleaning	L & A	£ 241.00
Binder Ltd	Service	L & A	£ 96.60
Binder Ltd	Service	Halls	£ 190.20
Proludic	Hip hop seat	L & A	£ 583.26
Cromwell Fire	Intruder alarm	Halls	£ 114.00
Cromwell Fire	Intruder alarm	L & A	£ 114.00
Konica Minolta	Photocopier	Est	£ 191.10
Konica Minolta	Photocopier	Est	£ 122.83
5 Folds	Octagon Hire	Est	£ 75.00

Councillor Smith proposed the accounts be agreed as listed, seconded by Councillor Watson, and **ratified** unanimously.

Action: RFO

11/24 Police update including:

The Civil Parking Enforcement Scheme was ongoing. Notices would be issued to advise drivers of the rules and enforcement would come into effect in February.

12/24 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.

Ongoing. County Council would be undertaking their notification period whereby they would advertise the scheme in the press. Councillor Harris reported that the speedwatch team were prepared to leaflet drop information from County regarding the public notification. Councillor Harris would ask County Council if this would be helpful to them.

Action: N Harris

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

Councillor Harris also reported that he would be submitting the minor highways improvement bid for the footpath to Highgate by the end of the week.

Action: N Harris

13/24 Environment and Sustainability update including:

Nothing to report.

14/24 Items for future meetings.

Ringers Rest mural
Co-Option
Community Plan
Land at Haden Way
Utility contracts
Willingham Youth Trust
Public Hall User Agreement
Recreation Ground Flooding
Carols around the Green
Dog bins and bag stations

15/24 Date of next meeting. 7th February 2024

Meeting closed at 9:15pm