

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 Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Willingham held on 14th May 2025 at 7.30pm
in the Octagon at St Mary and All Saints Church, Willingham

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllrs Law (Chair), Mansfield, McKee and Moore

District Councillor: Councillor Lentell

Group Representatives: 11

Other Parishioners: 7

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 from Councillors L King and Harris due to personal commitments.

Apologies were also received from ex County Councillor Gough, County Councillor Deter and District Councillor Handley.

3. To deal with matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15th May 2024

None.

4. To receive a presentation from South Cambridgeshire District Council regarding flytipping, what is being done to tackle it and to take any questions.

Ben Wilkin, from South Cambridgeshire District Council, attended from the District Council.

Ben is the Environmental Crimes Enforcement Team Manager for the District Council. The team deal with abandoned vehicles, fly tipping and environmental concerns as well as; Chemical waste, dead animals, hazardous waste, house hold waste and industrial waste. Ben and his team work closely with the Street Care and Cleaning Team. Both teams will collect as much evidence as possible, for any fly tipping situations, in order to try and get a prosecution.

If it happens on private land, the Council cannot clear it. However, they still can investigate and aim to get a prosecution. The Council are able to be hired to be cleared but this is at cost to the private owner.

A resident questioned what level of prosecutions have been secured, over the last 12 months, in Cambridgeshire. Ben confirmed that over the last 12 months there have been 3 or 4 prosecutions. Ben confirmed, with regards to fly-tipping, there are some very prominent places which they are looking at getting other agencies involved to be able to secure a higher number of convictions. are used frequently. Cameras are being installed and used to deter and provide evidence.

Another resident followed up stating with a vehicle registration, the team can pursue the incident but how likely is it to get a conviction? Ben replied stating the teams try to gather as much information as possible such as photographs, videos, any physical evidence and these are then followed up in order to provide as much information as possible to the Courts.

Another member explained they were aware there was a cap on the number of visits that some vehicles could use at recycling centres. If this were to be removed, would this help reduce the fly tipping issues faced? Ben explained this may have a positive impact, but it was very important anyone seeking contractors for removal of waste, check to ensure the contractor has a waste carrier licence and the appropriate paperwork in place. Ben explained this was communicated by frequent press releases from the team. A leaflet was in the pipeline to be produced and when this was available, Ben would send it to the Office for circulation. It was suggested by a resident that this should also be published in the Willingham News.

Council to share. It was suggested that these can be circulated in Willingham News.

A further attendee entered the meeting at 19.34.

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

(i) Cambridgeshire County Council

Ex Councillor Gough's report had been put on the website and tabled. Ex Councillor Gough was unable to attend the meeting but asked Annika Osbourne to read aloud his report.

County Councillor Deter had only just been elected and had therefore not had the opportunity to prepare a report for the meeting.

(ii) South Cambridgeshire District Council

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

Councillor Lentell's report had not been received in time for the meeting. He addressed the meeting and provided a summary of the report.

(iii) Willingham Parish Council

The report had been put on the website and tabled.

Councillor Law expressed thanks to the Lead Councillors for their work and to the Clerk for all her work on the publication. The Clerk confirmed that hard copies of the report were available from the Library and the Medical Centre.

A resident raised a query as to if there was a ballpark idea of when the MUGA might be available. Councillor Law confirmed that the works into the flooding issues faced were still ongoing and the draft report had only just been received. The Clerk confirmed that once the report had been reviewed a new planning application would be submitted. The resident expressed their thanks to the Council for pursuing this. Councillor Law expressed further thanks to Councillor L King who had been running with the project for the past five years.

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

(ii) Willingham Youth Trust

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

A representative of the Youth Trust confirmed the Connections Bus would be continuing, although the Youth Trust Charity would be dissolved. Councillor Law expressed thanks, on behalf of the Council, to the volunteers of the Youth Trust for all their hard work.

A resident raised concerns regarding the dissolving of the Youth Trust Charity. The resident was concerned the impact that this would have on the community. The resident confirmed they were disheartened to read the report from the Chair of the Youth Trust Charity.

The representative of the Youth Trust explained that the club would be run in the same way it always had, by the Connections bus. They confirmed that the hall was no longer providing income and the maintenance of the hall had become a burden. As the Parish Council had taken over the maintenance and the responsibility of the hall, the Charity was no longer needed and therefore it was agreed to be dissolved.

The representative invited the concerned resident to attend the scheduled meeting between themselves and the Parish Council later in the month.

The Chair thanked the resident for their input.

A further resident questioned why the Accounts were dated to July 2025. The Youth Trust representative confirmed this was because the accounts had been frozen.

(iii) Community Warden

The report and accounts had been placed on the website and tabled.

Sarah Lees addressed the meeting on behalf of the Community Warden scheme. Sarah thanked the Parish Council for their donation to the scheme. An overview of the scheme and the work that the warden does, was provided to the meeting. A resident expressed praise of the scheme.

(iv) Community Plan

The report and accounts had been placed on the website and tabled.

A representative from the Community Plan provided an update on the plan. It was confirmed that the summary report had been produced and circulated to the whole village.

It was confirmed the main report is now available on Willingham Life. Hard copies would be available from the Library in due course.

Some discussion took place with regards to how often the Plan would need to be reviewed.

Councillor Law expressed his thanks to all the volunteers involved in the process for their hard work.

(v) Willingham Library

The report had been posted on the website and tabled.

Councillor Law expressed the Council's gratitude to the Library and the groups that ran from it.

(vi) Public Hall Users Committee

The report had been posted on the website and tabled.

A representative of the Committee confirmed that the bookings have now been handed over to the Parish Council. Councillor Lentell expressed thanks to everyone who has contributed as a member of the Public Hall User Committee throughout the years, for all their hard work.

A resident raised an idea of using the Public Hall as a Community business to make money for the village. Following some discussion, Councillor Law thanked the resident for their ideas.

(vii) British Schools Trust

The report had been posted on the website and tabled.

A representative of the British School Trust addressed the Meeting and provided some background information on the Trust and the Trustees involved, both past and present. The representative confirmed that the Trust are lacking in applicants.

A resident raised a question with regards to children with special needs, such as Autism. The representative confirmed they do not commit themselves to any ongoing commitments but do issue grants for one-off.

(viii) Bowls Club

The report and accounts had been posted on the website and tabled.

A representative provided an update to the meeting and confirmed that the club is open to anyone who wishes to join, including children who are supervised by adults.

(ix) Scouts

The report and accounts had been posted to the website and tabled.

An update was provided to the meeting with regards to the activities that are provided.

It was confirmed that 1st Willingham Scouts are not purchasing the Salvation Army Hall, this is being purchased by Scouting Cambridgeshire. Councillor Law confirmed that any information issued by the Parish Council is information that had been provided to the Council by Scouting Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Law thanked the Scouts for all their continued hard work.

(x) Cricket Club

The accounts had been posted on the website and tabled.

(xi) Willingham Wolves

No report or accounts had been received, and no representative was present.

(xii) Willingham Action Group

The report and accounts had been posted on the website and tabled.

The representative present provided an overview of the report and expressed the group are always welcoming of new volunteers.

(xiii) Over Day Centre

The report and accounts had been posted on the website and tabled.

The representative of Over Day Centre expressed thanks to the Parish Council for their financial support.

An update was addressed to the meeting by the representative of Over Day Centre. Councillor Law thanked the representative for all the work of those involved.

(xiv) Willingham News

The report and accounts had been posted on the website and tabled.

A representative of Willingham News confirmed they had received a great response to their campaign for financial assistance with the magazine. The representative thanked everyone involved in the magazine and all those who support it. Councillor expressed thanks, on behalf of the Council, for all those involved in the Willingham News.

(xv) Willingham Combined Charity

The report had been posted on the website and tabled.

A representative of the Combined Charities provided an update and confirmed they were currently looking for another Trustee to join them.

(xvi) Community Hub

The report had been posted on the website and tabled.

The Clerk confirmed the group was formed during COVID and it has carried on due to its popularity.

(xvii) Police

No report had been received.

(xviii) Willingham carers group

No report had been received.

7. Any other business

A resident thanked Councillor Law for his handling of the meeting and the Clerk for her hard work in forming the report.

Meeting closed at 21.14.