

WILLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Willingham held on 22 April 2026 at 7.30pm in the Octagon at St Mary and All Saints Church, Willingham

Present:

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

District Councillors: Councillor Lentell (arrived at 19.34), Councillor Handley

County Councillor: Councillor Deter

Group Representatives: Eight

Other Parishioners: Three

Deputy Clerk (minute taker): Amy Rudderham

Compliance Administrator: Annika Osborne

1. Reading of notice convening the meeting

The Chair read aloud the Notice and convened the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the British Schools Trust, MAPGAS, Police, Councillor Harris and Councillor King.

3. To deal with matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2025.

None raised

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

i. Cambridgeshire County Council

Councillor Deter's report had been put on the website and tabled. Councillor Deter confirmed due to being in the current election period, she would not engage in any political discussion. Councillor Deter thanked the Parish Council for its support and encouraged residents to contact her with any concerns. Councillor Law thanked Councillor Deter on behalf of the Parish Council for her work over the past year.

ii. South Cambridgeshire District Council

Councillor Handley's report had been put on the website and tabled. Due to the election period, Councillor Handley confirmed he would not engage in any political discussion. Councillor Handley discussed how lucky the residents of Willingham were to have groups such as WAG and The Hub, which were very valuable. Councillor Handley extended great thanks to the Chair, the Parish Council and the Staff for all their assistance during his time as the District Councillor for Willingham.

The Chair responded to thank Councillor Handley for his eight years of service to the village and for all his help and support to the Parish Council.

iii. Willingham Parish Council

The Chair drew the attention of the attendees to three main points of the Parish Council's Annual report.

The first item was the upcoming retirement of the current Clerk. The Chair confirmed the Clerk, who was extremely knowledgeable, would be sadly missed by all the Parish Council and extended thanks to her for all her work over the years. This was echoed by attendees.

The second item was the footpath to Highgate, which was due to be completed this year. The Parish Council were very grateful to the owner of Highgate for his continued assistance and support with this project.

Thirdly, the Parish Council had just received confirmation, so this was not mentioned in the report, that the Planning Application for the MUGA had now been granted and the works for this project could now move forward.

A resident raised a query regarding the accounts and questioned where the money was shown in the Annual Accounts. The RFO confirmed these were a separate part of the Halls accounts.

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

- MAGPAS

No representative was present, but the Chair summarised their report and confirmed it had been placed on the website. No questions were raised.

- Connections

The report had been placed on the website and tabled. No representative from Connections was present, however a WAG volunteer for the Youth group was and so both Connections and the Willingham Youth Club were discussed at the same time by the volunteer.

- Willingham Youth Club

Taken with the item above. The report had been placed on the website and tabled.

A volunteer of the Youth Trust confirmed that the Youth Trust had been dissolved, and Connections were responsible for running the group. The group were now able to use the main hall as well as the side hall which allowed them to have all age groups attend together each week and they were seeing numbers of up to 27 attendees.

There were currently nine volunteers for the group, but more were needed to enable the volunteers to work on a rota basis. There were also various items of equipment needed and thanks was passed to Councillor Clark for mending the table-tennis table.

The Chair thanked the volunteers for all their time and efforts to keep the group running.

- Community Warden

A representative from Age UK attended. She confirmed that Joanne, the Community Warden had some capacity. Thanks were passed to the Parish Council for its donation. It was confirmed that the funding received from South Cambridgeshire District Council was decreasing. They were looking to end the financial year on a deficit.

It was confirmed that there was only one resident from Over still using the service and they were not continuing to advertise within Over. Councillor Handley confirmed that this was due to Over Parish Council not providing any funding for the service and therefore it was felt to encourage more residents of Over to use the service would not be fair to the residents of

Willingham. The representative confirmed they would not stop the Over resident from using the service, but they would not actively advertise the service for Over residents.

The Chair thanked the representative for all of Age UK's hard work and expressed thanks to the Community Warden for all her hard work too.

- Willingham Library

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council usually provide financial support for the reading challenge each year and expressed thanks to the volunteers of the library.

- Bowls Club

Financial report was printed and put on the website. The Chair apologised that the report had been missed but the office would ensure this was put on the website.

A representative of the club summarised the information from the report. It was confirmed the club was low on numbers and looking for new members. New members did not have to participate in matches if they did not wish.

The representative confirmed the volunteers who look after the green were doing a fantastic job. Some maintenance had been carried out to the building over the last year too.

Thanks were passed to Parish Council for all its support and also to the Co-Op who provide the Bowls Club with refreshments.

- Scouts

A report had been put on the website and tabled. A representative for the Scouts was present at the meeting who confirmed that Scouting in Willingham had been running for 50 years and was available to children aged 6 – 11. The Scouts representative thanked the Parish Council for its Grant.

The Chair thanked all the Scouts volunteers and helpers for their time and efforts for the running of the group.

- Cricket Club

No report had been received and no representative was present. A copy of the accounts had been added to the website and tabled.

- Willingham Wolves

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

- Willingham Action Group

A report had been added to the website and tabled. A representative confirmed there were currently 25 members. A lot of events had been held over the previous year, and thanks were passed to Councillor Clark for his assistance especially with the Carols on the Green.

The group had continued to carry out works to aid the Parish Council at the Community Orchard, Barton Field and the Wildlife Meadow on Meadow Road.

The Deputy Clerk and the Chair thanked the representative for all the work the WAG volunteers do around the village.

- Over Day Centre

A report had been added to the website and tabled. A representative added to the report to confirm that the Day Centre had received great support from SCDC over the years, and

thanked Councillor Handley for his help. Thanks were also passed to the Parish Council for its continued financial support.

The Chair thanked the representative for the hard work that all the team at the Day Centre do.

- Willingham News

A report had been added to the website and tabled. A representative added to the report and confirmed they had had a difficult start to 2025 and had therefore begun the 2026 advertising process earlier than usual and this had helped them be able to offer some inside colour pages. The team were facing some changes amongst the editors and the Treasurer. The representative confirmed a request would be put to the Parish Council for £757.00 this year, which was lower than the previous year, due to funds they had kindly received. The representative encouraged those present at the meeting to provide any news or information they had, to the editors.

The Chair thanked the Willingham News for all the efforts put in by the whole team and it was a key part of the village.

- Willingham Combined Charity

A report had been added to the website and tabled at the meeting. No representative was present.

- Community Hub

A report had been added to the website and tabled. A representative confirmed the hub was used by mainly Willingham residents but also some residents from neighbouring villages.

Great thanks were passed to the Parish Council for its financial support to enable the meals and refreshments they provided.

The Community Hub were also grateful to South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Grant it provided. This enabled the kitchen to be re-done at the Octagon which was gratefully received by the Hub and all users of the Octagon.

The Chair thanked the volunteers of the Community Hub for their dedication and hard work.

6. Any other business

- WAG confirmed that they were aware plans were in place through a resident to try and create a village Larder, which would be available from the Church.
- It was requested that all information was circulated to the group representatives ahead of the meeting next year.

The Chair thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 20.16.