

Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 19th September 2016 in the Memorial Hall

Residents' Issues

Nigel Millington and Stella Thomas-Hackett attended to discuss proposals for traffic in Quarry Road. They formed Quarry Road Action Group a few years ago and have been asking for three things:

1. No entry into Quarry Road from Hinderton Road. This was trialled with the Cable project and took around 1500 cars off the road.
2. A speed limit reduction. Currently it is 60mph and they are asking for it to 40mph.
3. Signage to stop lorries going through.

A consultation on changes was held recently but it was withdrawn and a new design with a better plan will shortly be issued for consultation by CWAC. This design proposed that the road will still be two-way but with no entry from Hinderton Road. In response to questions, Myles explained that the 40mph zone would be extended to other roads in the neighbourhood including Hanns Hall Road, Damhead Lane and part of Hooton Road. It was recognised that other roads in the area will have more traffic, particularly Hanns Hall but this is a classified road and has a footpath, which Quarry Road does not. Myles also commented that there will be a safety audit across parallel roads.

There is going to be a meeting at Neston Town Council on 4th October, which people are able to attend and the consultation will be soon after this. Myles confirmed that he will be supporting the revised proposal, as long as the wider 40mph limit is implemented and he believes that the Neston Councillor is also in favour, although there is some dissent in Neston.

Nigel and the group were invited to have a table at the AGM to explain the proposals more fully and it was agreed to put the consultation on our website and Facebook so that people are aware of them and have an opportunity to respond.

Committee Meeting

Present: (Officers): Vicky Spraggon (Vice Chair), Sarah Shannon (Secretary), Hilary Booth (Treasurer), Sue Unsworth (Publicity), Jane Townsend (Footpaths)

(Committee Members): Rob King, Keith Penny, Annette Troake, Sheila Smith, Margaret Smyth, Fiona Ennys, Hilary Morris, Myles Hogg, Leanne Kershaw, Helen Mayles, Keith Butcher and Stephen Bazely

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris Hampshire, Barry Vowles, Ceri Jones, Lyn Jackson-Eves, Madeline Hughes, Paul Janvier and Debs Jerrett.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th July 2016

There was one amendment – item 8 should have said that there **will** be a consultation on lowering the speed limit, not that it has taken place. With this amendment, the minutes were proposed by Sheila, seconded by Leanne and accepted by the Committee as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the previous Minutes (18th July 2016)

There was discussion on the following items, other items being completed:

4.1 Spar Lorry (item 4.1)

Myles reported that he had discussed having a loading/unloading bay with the Council but to put this in would use up three parking spaces. The committee agreed that this is not feasible.

4.2 Sign at Hadlow Road Station (item 4.6)

Sarah still has to get costings for a finger sign.

Action: Sarah

4.3 Flashing Speed Signs (item 8)

Myles reported that it would be possible to have additional flashing speed signs but they cost £3,000 each.

4.4 Flowerbeds in front of the Red Lion (item 10.10)

Myles reported that the flowerbeds had deliberately not been planted as flowers don't grow due to the proximity of the cars. He asked the committee to consider where else they should be planted. It was also noted that tree roots are raising the pavement.

Action: Discuss at next meeting

4.5 Elm Green path (item 10.10)

Myles reported that the nettles had been cut back. Jane commented that this is a temporary solution and suggested it would be better to get a group together to dig them up and re-plant the area. Sarah commented that we still have some garden centre vouchers that could be used for this.

Action: Discuss at next meeting

4.6 Parking at the Legion (item 14.7)

Keith Penny reported that he had raised this at a meeting. Members are welcome to park at any time but there would be insurance problems if others parked there.

5. Play Area Working Group

Sarah reported that CWAC has agreed to fund the cost of the Landscape Architect, which is £1,875. This brings our total raised to just under £10,000 so we now need to start doing formal grant applications. Sarah also noted that it is the time of year to plant more daffodils in the play area.

Action:

Sarah/Annette

6. WR&CS Matters

6.1 AGM and Committee Members

Sarah explained that the officers due for re-election at the AGM are Jane Townsend (Footpaths), Sue Unsworth (Publicity) and Keith Butcher (Memorial Hall). All three said they were willing to stand for re-election. In addition, we will propose an additional Officer post of Social Media Co-ordinator, which Ceri Jones is willing to stand for.

The resident representatives due for re-election are Emma Sharpe, Helen Mayles and Fiona Ennys. Helen and Fiona are willing to stand for re-election. In addition, Hilary Gould and Rob King are currently co-opted and are willing to stand for election.

The committee reviewed the organisation representatives. It was agreed to ask Carol if a guiding representative could be found and Martin if he would prefer someone else to represent sporting organisations.

Action: Sarah/Chris

The tables at the AGM will be a combined Willaston Churches table, Horticultural Society, Memorial Hall, Friends of Hadlow Road Station, Quarry Road Action Group and two for ourselves.

6.2 Businesses on Facebook and Website

Sarah explained that we had recently been approached by a local business to advertise an event in Willaston and asked for clarification. It was agreed that if it was an event in Willaston, led by a Willaston-based business, then it should be included. Events outside Willaston or not run by Willaston-based businesses should not be included.

Rob mentioned that the Memorial Hall charges for business advertising on their website. Sarah agreed to look into this further and come to the next meeting with proposals.

Action: Sarah

7. Wirral Barn Owl Trust

Vicky explained that the Trust is a small local conservation charity which aims to encourage a viable population of wild barn owls on the Wirral peninsula. The work they do includes collection and collating sighting reports, locating and monitoring breeding pairs, ringing owls, visiting farmers and land managers to

publicise the problem and promoting better habitation, installing nest boxes where there is suitable habitat and liaising with planning departments to protect birds.

If you see an owl or know of a breeding site, contact the trust via the website: www.wirralbarnowltrust.org or ring 07840 623453. You can become a member for just £10. Vicky monitors a number of boxes in the Willaston area.

8. Financial Report

Hilary Booth circulated the financial report. We have received £4200 from the New Homes Bonus Fund for newsletters and the play area. On 27th August, the current account had a balance of £1437.84, of which £61.05 remains for footpath signs and £1200 is for newsletters. The lottery account had a balance of £288.47. £75 for the lottery licence renewal will be incurred from this account. The play area account has a balance of £4990.05.

9. Organisations' Reports

9.1 Memorial Hall

Keith reported on the renovations of the Memorial Hall. The trustees employed a Chartered Architect to manage the renovations who worked with a consultant in conservation work. An external evaluation was undertaken and put to tender. Three firms were approached, all of whom put forward a price and one was selected. The work will take approximately eight weeks but this depends on unseen areas that could only be inspected once the scaffolding is up.

The pointing was necessary because the existing pointing was corroding the sandstone blocks. This has had to be raked out and replaced. The architect has overseen the quality of the work and the colour will mellow. Other work has included the flat roof on the kitchen and the chimney pots. The most urgent was the flat roof which was decaying rapidly.

The following reports were submitted in advance of the meeting:

9.2 Christ Church (Submitted by Stephen Basely)

We have exciting news as we are launching two new services on October 2nd with a special weekly Breakfast gathering. For more information, visit our website christchurchwillaston.com or speak to one of the Church Council. We will be inviting everyone from the community to join us on Harvest Sunday the 2nd October at either our new 9am Formal Communion Service or for breakfast at 10:10am and our new informal service at 10:45am. We also have some roof repair work hopefully beginning in October, so it is all go at Christ Church!

9.3 Friends of Hadlow Road Station (Submitted by Hilary Booth)

The kitchen at the station is progressing well. New flooring has been laid and the sash window now opens freely. The fridge, combination microwave, and freezer are ordered and awaiting fitting in the next few days. The main Hadlow Station sign on the platform is almost fully repaired and painted, and work is being undertaken on the luggage trolley on the platform.

We are well "on track", (no pun intended) for the 150th celebrations on 1st October. There will be lots of entertainment for adults including Chester brass band, Willaston choir, Morris dancers, and other musical pleasures. Entertainment for the children will include a bouncy castle, traction train rides, Coconut shie and many more, all taking place in the safe environment of the car park, which will be closed to traffic for the day. Come and join us for a lively afternoon of fun and games, including refreshments. Tickets cost £5.00 and can be obtained from either White Feather in the village or Hilary on 327 8325.

Progress continues on the garden areas with tidy up mornings still ongoing. The next ones being Sept 17th and Sept 25th. Volunteers are always welcome.

Watch out for Santa as he is on his way. Yes, Christmas is coming!

9.4 Friends of Willaston Meadow (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

September saw another visit from the Wirral Countryside Volunteers, who helped scythe and rake the area where perennial wild flowers have been planted. Later this month our Ranger, Paul Taylor, has organised

assistance from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust to remove the old boardwalk near Jackson's Pond and replace it with a new structure. Weather permitting, this will take place on 20 & 27 September. During the winter, further work will be undertaken to remove some willow and reed mace from the pond, as these both draw out the water. In anticipation of this work, some members attempted to sample the pond water to establish its quality and any pond life, but it was impossible to find any water at present. However, an assessment of the north east pond was carried out, and will be repeated annually to record changes.

On 24 September, the Friends will be holding an Apple Day on the Green in the morning, when there will be the opportunity to see and taste some of the old varieties of apples from the orchard, as well as some products made from them. If wet, the event will join the Horticultural Society Coffee Morning in the Hall.

9.5 Guiding Organisations

No report received

9.6 Hadlow Green Singers

Having enjoyed a well-earned rest over the August month we reconvened on 8th September ready to start practising numbers for the opening of Hadlow Station Ceremony which we are all looking forward to. Then onward to get in tune for our Christmas concert on December 9th, make a note in your diaries and start the festive season in traditional style! A busy few months but so enjoyable, if you fancy a sing song do come and join us.

9.7 Horticultural Society (Submitted by Pam Irving)

Tuesday 18th October we are having a presentation by Christine Longworth on 'Archaeology and History of Hilbre'. I have recently been on the boat around the island and there is plenty of interesting history to be learnt.

On 15th November we are having our Annual Social Evening. Tickets will be available at the October meeting for those interested.

The Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Memorial Hall, at 7.30pm; details are shown on the Village Notice board, and if you are interested in joining us, come along or contact the Membership Secretary, Ms Jill Thompson, telephone number 336 5927. Membership is only £6.00 per year and you can get 10% discount at Burleydam Garden Centre on all gardening products on production of your Membership card.

9.8 Johnston Recreation Ground

No report received

9.9 Scouting Organisations

No report received

9.10 Sporting Organisations

No report received

9.11 Willastonhey W.I. (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

The WI has been making plans for outings in the coming weeks, including a visit to the Aldi distribution centre in Neston, and a theatre trip to see "The Rivals" at the Liverpool Playhouse. A party of members will be visiting Reutlingen again in November.

Willastonhey will continue to plant and look after the flower beds outside the Hall, and will take part in the Christmas Tree Festival. Members have continued to express concern about parking problems on the Green.

9.12 Willaston Methodist Church (Submitted by Sheila Smith)

Nothing to report.

9.13 Willaston CE School PTA

No report received

9.14 Willaston Royal British Legion/Willaston Royal British Legion Services Club

No report received.

9.15 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club (Submitted by Debs Jerrett)

No activities until December, when the Christmas programme will start.

9.16 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group

No report received

9.17 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

9.18 Willaston Village Festival Society (Submitted by Sarah Shannon)

We are having another Christmas Tree Festival over the weekend of 25-27th November, working with Christ Church. Letters have gone out to local businesses and organisations and there is strong initial interest. The Festival will include a Christmas Market on Saturday 26th November and we are interested in local people who would like a stall. If you would like to be involved, either decorating a tree or having a stall for the market, please ring 0151 327 5318.

10. Footpaths and Bridleways

10.1 Footpaths

Jane reported that, there seems to have been very little strimming over the Summer and she has been chasing this with the Council. She thanked Helen Mayles' husband who strimmed part of FP28 (between the mill and Street Hey Lane). Jane and other volunteers are also cutting down the biggest weeds with secateurs.

We are still waiting for the improvements to FP32 (behind Pollards) with a metal platform promised.

10.2 Bridleways

The Council has agreed to fund and fill in the hollows on BR66 (end of Street Hey Lane).

Jane spoke to Wirral Council who confirmed that strimming had been done on the bridleway opposite the mill leading to the Birkenhead Road in July and will be repeated again soon. They asked that if overhead branches affect horse riders, they should contact him directly at robintutchings@wirral.gov.uk.

It was also noted that Smithy Lane has been re-surfaced.

10.3 Willaston Walks Footpath Signs

The signs are now all installed.

10.4 Walks book

Jane noted that a book on walks around Wirral, written by Max Kirby includes routes along Quarry Road.

Please email willastonfootpaths@outlook.com if you see any other problems with our Willaston footpaths or bridleways.

11. Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals

11.1 Saddlewood Farm

Barry has submitted a very detailed objection on our behalf.

11.2 Roften Development

Myles confirmed that there is still remedial work to be done and they have had difficulty getting a house builder for the site.

12. Local Councillor's Report

12.1 Recycling

Myles noted that CWAC had won the best recycling award for the third year in a row.

12.2 Work Zones

People who need support to get work can go to Work Zones which provide a holistic programme of support and skill development. The nearest one is in Ellesmere Port. For more information, ring 0151 356 6667.

12.3 Dementia and Falls Strategy

Consultation events have taken place across CWAC to help develop a dementia and falls strategy.

12.4 Ready to Switch

Another round of the collective energy switching scheme is now taking registrations. To register, visit www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/readytoswitch or ring 01244 977262 before midnight on Monday 10th October.

12.5 Resident Parking Schemes

The Council are consulting on a Residents' Parking Scheme Policy. This runs until 18th November and you can complete a survey on www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/ResidentsParkingPolicy.

12.6 Local Plan (Part Two)

The Council are consulting on the second part of the local plan. The consultation period ends on Friday 23rd September.

12.7 Grass Cutting

The Council cut approximately 140 acres of grass a day and there are different standards and frequencies of grass cutting – rural areas are cut monthly and pitches or amenity areas fortnightly. If you spot an environmental problem in your area, use the Your Street website to report it – www.westcheshireyourstreet.co.uk.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Jenny Dent

Leanne reported that Jenny Dent has passed away. It was agreed to send a card to Rev Dent. **Action: Sarah**

13.2 Johnson's Recreation Ground

Sue reported that a meeting of the Advisory Committee had taken place. Willaston Wolves apologised for not taking down the goalposts over the Summer. Repairs to the pavilion are still being done; however, the container has now been removed. There have been problems with a footballer urinating in a hedge and also foul language is becoming an issue again. There was an issue over an empty allotment and discussion is taking place about putting in a water supply. They are looking into providing a skip for the allotment holders to use during the Autumn. Overhanging branches on the path have been cut back.

13.2 Christmas Lights

Myles reported that the Christmas Lights switch on will take place on Thursday 1st December at 6pm.

13.3 Overhanging Branches

It was agreed to write to the owners of 2 The Courtyard about overhanging branches. **Action: Sarah/Chris**

13.4 Poppy Appeal

Keith Penny reported that there will be a coffee morning on 15th October and social evening on 26th November to support the Poppy Appeal.

13.5 Lorries

Jane spoke about an incident she had with a lorry on the Nags Head corner. She suggested that there should be a sign saying the road is not suitable for articulated lorries, which Myles agreed to investigate. Myles

commented that we can't put a weight restriction on Hooton Road and suggested we could contact Satnav companies. He also said that the traffic survey in Autumn will count the number of HGVs and previous surveys had shown that there were not many coming through the village.

Action: Myles

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 21st November 2016

AGM: Friday 30th September 2016

2017:

Monday 16th January

Monday 20th March

Monday 15th May

Monday 17th July

Monday 18th Sept

Monday 20th Nov

AGM: Friday 29th September