

Willaston Residents' and Countryside Society (WR&CS)

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 18th March 2019
in the Memorial Hall Committee Room

Present - Officers: Chris Hampshire (Chair), Vicky Spraggon (Acting Vice-Chair), Sarah Shannon (Secretary), Hilary Booth (Treasurer), Ceri Jones (Social Media), Sue Unsworth (Publicity), Barry Vowles (Planning) and Jane Townsend (Footpaths and Bridleways)

Present - Committee Members: Lyn Jackson-Eves, Sandra Kettiros, Myles Hogg, Sheila Smith, John Fisher, Roy Spraggon, Helen Jakubczak, Madeline Hughes, John Woodrow, Debs Jerrett, Annette Troake and Hilary Morris.

Ruth Hampshire attended as an observer until item 5(b)(ii).

Residents' Issues

1. PCSO Linda Conway

Chris welcomed Linda who attended the meeting to update the Committee on policing matters affecting the village as PCSO Sarah Duffy was unable to attend. Linda explained that her main area is Little Ness and Burton. Linda gave an overview of crime figures in the Willaston area from January. She reported that the five males who were involved in the ram raid at McColls are due to be sentenced in April.

Linda said that the police have been active in all local primary schools, doing talks on online safety and personal safety. Their next talks will be on roles of police and hate crime. A visit has also been arranged to the pre-school in the Memorial Hall. Linda said that there had been an incident of a suspicious male in the play area in Willaston. He had been identified and relevant action taken. There have been no further issues.

There has been a request for yellow zig zag lines to be repainted outside the school and this will be done when the weather conditions are improved. Chris asked that the disabled parking space on the Green is also repainted. Myles agreed to contact Highways about this. **Action: Myles**

The police have regularly visited Hadlow Road Station car park as vehicles here have been broken into. No offenders have been identified for the latest incident, but the property was found and returned to the owner. Linda mentioned that there is no CCTV in the vicinity. Chris commented that Friends of Hadlow Road Station has approached the Council about this and there are potential funds they could tap into. However, they would need more details of what is required, the cost etc. Linda agreed to help with this information. **Action: Linda**

Linda said that PCSOs have access to ward Facebook and Twitter pages to promote what they are doing in the local community. Ceri commented that we do share some of the posts on Facebook and encourage people to follow the pages. PCSOs also have a drop-in surgery every three weeks at Willaston Country Market from 9.30am to 10.30am. The next one is 29th March 2019. John W commented that there is an email alert system that you can sign up for which is free.

There is a Public Contact Survey being undertaken by Cheshire Police at the moment, which can be filled in on-line or by paper. Paper copies need to be completed by 27th March 2019.

Linda said that PCSOs are continuing to carry out Speedwatch within the village 20mph areas. There are five volunteers who help and more would be appreciated. The type of monitoring used depends on the speeds that are recorded. Chris commented that several checks had been done in the past few months and thanked Linda for this. He said that an update about the range of speed that people are doing would be useful.

Linda encouraged members to ring 101 if they should have door-to-door salespeople and encouraged people not to buy from them. If they are aggressive or abusive then ring 999. Jane commented that she used 101 and was charged. Linda confirmed that calls cost 15p regardless of how long the call lasts or time of day.

Chris thanked Linda for her input and it was agreed to ask for updates every six months. **Action: Sarah**

2. Ian Dibbert, PlusBus

Chris welcomed Ian to the meeting and Ian introduced himself as the General Manager of the local branch of ECT (Ealing Community Transport). He explained that they run PlusBus, which is a door-to-door service for people who can't use public transport. All the vehicles they use are fully accessible for all types of disability and include the use of a lift. All drivers have recognised national training.

The service operates from 9am to 11pm, Monday to Saturday and 9am to 6pm on Sundays, subject to availability and covers Cheshire, Neston and Ellesmere Port. Ian confirmed that the bus cannot take people to Arrow Park Hospital but said that there is a community car service available and Ellesmere Port and Neston Community Transport will also provide a service. The service can be booked from one week in advance but sometimes people get a ride with only a few hours' notice.

The cost of the service is £5 for a return journey, regardless of the length of the journey. Carers travel for free. If a companion, who is not a carer, wishes to go with someone, that is allowed but they have to pay. There is a membership form that needs to be completed but no membership fee.

CWaC set the eligibility criteria. People can use the service if they are over 80 years of age or unable to use public transport or have difficulty walking or memory problems. At the beginning of the day, most vehicles are involved in providing transport to day care centres, but one vehicle is available for public users.

ECT is a not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity. They support the community by running day trips in the summer for anyone who has used the service in the past two years.

Chris thanked Ian for attending and members took leaflets to distribute in their organisations. Ian agreed to forward a PDF version of the leaflet for the WR&CS website and Facebook page. **Action: Ian**

At this stage Ian and Linda Conway left the meeting.

3. Sue Hunter

Chris welcomed Sue Hunter who explained that she wanted to speak about the grassed area at the end of Smithy Lane, which she is interested in buying. She asked the committee why there have been objections made to this proposed purchase and commented that no-one had been in contact to discuss any concerns. She explained that their intention is to make it into a garden and they have always tried to keep the area as tidy as possible, particularly as CWaC do not maintain it on a regular basis.

Barry commented that our objection has been that this is a public piece of land and CWaC are proposing a private purchase of that land. He also commented that the Society rarely discussed applications with the applicant but base any comments on documents made available on the planning portal by CWaC Planning during the application process.

Sue Hunter explained that the reason that they had applied to own the land was because they had maintained it at their own cost and they want to improve this area. Cars parked on the grass have spoilt it, despite it being reseeded last year. Soil has been lost and tree roots exposed.

Helen commented that parking from the Hunter's business has caused problems in Hadlow Road and the WR&CS committee has previously written about this issue. Sue Hunter commented that many of the vehicles parked in Hadlow Road are not related to their business and they do try to make anyone associated with the business park in the car park next to Pollards, not Hadlow Road. Helen also asked if Sue Hunter had contacted CWaC about parking concerns on the site and she stated that she had not.

A concern was raised that the garden would be expanded and the wall around the house removed. Sue commented that the 8ft wall around their current garden was their greatest security and they do not wish to have it removed. She also said that there are strict limitations from the Planning appeal as to what they can do with this piece of land and their intention is to engage a landscape gardener if they are successful with the purchase.

Sarah commented that the land will not always be owned by the same people and a concern is that in the long term the good intentions of the prospective purchasers may not be honoured by new owners.

Sue Hunter also commented that notices had been put up containing a blown-up version of the planning notice for the land and the words 'Objections still being taken in' written on them, despite the fact that it was beyond the statutory 14 days. Helen stated that she had put one on the noticeboard and that she had spoken to the Council that day to confirm that objections were still being taken. She confirmed that this was in an individual capacity and was not done on behalf of the Society. Sue Hunter stated that she had subsequently removed them. Vicky commented that this is a neighbourhood dispute, and therefore has nothing to do with the Society.

Sue Hunter also disputed that the land had been used by people as a footpath. Jane commented that if the land is purchased, they will have the right to stop people walking and parking on land that is currently a public amenity.

Myles commented that CWaC has now started a review of all sales of Council land and all sales have stopped now until the middle of the Summer when an agreed policy will be decided.

Chris thanked Sue Hunter for attending and she left the meeting.

Committee Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Helen Mayles, Paul Janvier, Hilary Gould and Fiona Ennys.

2. Declarations of Interest

Helen J declared an interest in the land purchase at the end of Smithy Lane as she lives opposite the house concerned. Annette also declared an interest as Sue Hunter attends the toddler group (which Annette represents).

Chris declared an interest in item 5(b)(ii) as he is married to Ruth Hampshire.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting – 21st January 2019

The minutes were proposed as correct by Vicky Spraggon, seconded by Hilary Morris and accepted by all members present as a true record of the meeting, with one abstention.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of 21st January 2019

There was discussion on the following matters, as the other matters were complete, or included elsewhere on the agenda:

4.1 Memorial Committee (Residents' issues)

There was no representative from Christ Church present, so it is not known if they have nominated someone for this committee.

4.2 Pavements (item 5.4)

Myles is still pursuing the list of pavements that was given to him at the AGM.

4.3 Map of our area (item 5.5)

Paul is trying to track down the original map used in the District Community Plan.

Action: Paul

4.4 A41/Hooton Road Junction Widening (item 5.6)

Barry explained that this is part of the requirements of Stewart Milne who are building next to Hooton Station. Some plans have been given to Highways England but so far, they have not been accepted. Myles commented that the developers also have committed to improving the station shop, expanding the school at Childer Thornton and replacing the Hooton Village Hall.

Debs asked about the flooding at the junction. Myles explained that the problem is water coming from the Motorway and a new drainage system is needed.

4.5 Speed Limits (item 8)

Myles reported that Hadlow Road is on the next list for consideration of a 20mph limit, which should be looked at this year.

4.6 Archiving of Minutes (item 14.2)

Hilary Morris has ascertained that Cheshire Archives have two deposits of our minutes before 2001. Sarah agreed to copy minutes since then and give them to Hilary for depositing. **Action: Sarah/Hilary M**

5. WR&CS Matters

5.1 Correspondence/Email/Facebook

A list of correspondence had been circulated in advance to committee members. It was noted that there is a new Willaston Facebook site called 'Willaston Village Chat' which seems to be mainly related to small businesses. Ceri commented that a recent post about the loss of the white line marking machine from the Pavilion had been seen by 2,300 people, which included circulation by About My Area.

5.2 Dedication Book

A paper had been circulated in advance about the Dedication Book from the Christmas Lights appeal. This contained some questions from the Methodist Chapel about storage, viewing and the long-term intentions for the book. Vicky proposed and Debs seconded that a sub-group is set up to consider the issues and agree some guidance. This was agreed by all present. John W agreed to lead the sub-group with Sheila and Hilary B as other sub-committee members. All committee members were asked to feed in any comments to John W by 28th March 2019. Vicky further proposed and Hilary B seconded that if the group can do this before Easter, then it should be agreed by Officers so that the book can be displayed during Easter services/activities. This was agreed by all present. **Action: John W, Sheila, Hilary B/All**

The paper also reported an email had been sent by Ruth Hampshire outlining some concerns about the accuracy of some of the information in the book. As Ruth was at the meeting as an observer, Hilary B proposed, and Myles seconded that she should be able to speak of her concerns which was agreed by all present. Ruth explained that she had received feedback from members of the former Hadlow Green WI that they were disappointed that there is no mention of Carols on the Green and the wording used in the history is different to that used in the newsletter.

Ruth also said that some people were disappointed that initially the guidance was that 30 characters could be used but in the book as many as 30 words were used. Ceri explained that £5 bought 30 characters. Some people chose to pay more and therefore had more characters available to them. Ceri also advised that when she spoke to everyone who made a dedication to confirm their wording, she made it clear that they could extend their entry if they wished and no-one had complained about the introduction before. Ceri expressed concern as to why this was being raised in March, rather than in an earlier meeting.

Ruth asked that amendments are made to the introduction/history in the book before it goes on-line. Sarah explained that this has been discussed by Officers and unfortunately people were not made aware about the potential of it going on-line when dedications were agreed (because the idea of an on-line version was not originally discussed). One person has expressed concern as the book mentions her name and her mother's maiden name, which is a potential data security issue. Vicky proposed and Hilary M seconded that the book should not go on-line and this was agreed by all present.

There was then a discussion about whether an errata page should be produced but committee members felt that this was not necessary. Barry proposed and Debs seconded that the statement 'We are aware that there may be some anomalies and apologise for any errors' should be put in the summary of the meeting. This was agreed by all present. **Action: Sarah**

Ceri commented that the work done by the agency for the Christmas Lights campaign would have cost around £20,000 if commercial rates were applied.

5.3 Defibrillator

Sarah reported that WR&CS has received a request from the Memorial Hall to help pay for the installation of the defibrillator. Myles had funded the purchase from his Councillors' fund and it has now been agreed that it should be installed outside the pharmacy. Installation will cost £650. The Darby and Joan Club have agreed to fund £150, Willastonhey WI to fund £100, the Memorial Hall to fund £150 and the New Homes Bonus Fund,

£100. This leaves £150 which the Memorial Hall are requesting from WR&CS. Debs proposed and John F seconded that we should provide this £150 funding and this was agreed by all present.

5.4 Suggestion for information pack for new residents at the Stewart Milne development

Sarah reported that a suggestion was made that WR&CS creates an information pack for new residents. She suggested that as the development is in Hooton, this should be done in conjunction with Hooton Residents' Society and offered to get in touch with them. Myles agreed to pass on the Hooton Residents' Society contact details. **Action: Myles/Sarah**

There was a discussion about the capacity of the Willaston GP surgery to take new patients from this development. At the time, the surgery said that they would not be able to make places available but John W has confirmed that the surgery now feels able to accept new patients.

5.5 Insurance conditions relating to money

Chris reported that our current insurance covers us for £250 cash. There is also a limit of 70 years of age for people holding WR&CS monies. It was noted that our Treasurer is over this age and the associated risk was accepted by the committee. It was also noted that there is potential to raise the limit to £500 but this would cost more. Vicky proposed and Roy seconded that if there is an activity which involves a lot of money, the sub-committee involved should undertake a risk assessment which considers if there is a need to increase the limit. This was agreed by all concerned.

5.6 Revised AGM date

Sarah reported that because she is on holiday for the previous date, the AGM will now take place on Friday 11th October 2019.

5.7 Christmas Card Fair

Hilary B reported that the Memorial Hall has been booked for Saturday 9th November for the Christmas Card Fair.

6. Working Groups

6.1 Logo

John F reported that the group had met and looked at the logo. They have decided to keep with the countryside/residents' theme and identified key features of our village. Helen J's sister is now working on potential images which will be considered at the next sub-committee meeting.

6.2 Guidance Notes

Vicky reported that the sub-committee met to go through the comments that had been received from committee members following the last meeting. Detailed replies were sent to those that commented explaining our reasons for adopting or not adopting the suggestions made. The revised notes were proposed for adoption by Sheila, seconded by Hilary B and agreed by all present. These will now be put onto the website. **Action: Sarah**

6.3 Play Area

Sarah reported that the sub-committee had met and developed plans for fund-raising. A risk assessment has been completed and agreed by the sub-committee, approved by Sarah and Vicky as Officers and Sarah and Vicky have met Hilary B to agree how any income is managed.

However, we are unable to launch the consultation and appeal until we have had the go-ahead from CWaC. They will be appointing a Landscape Architect to do the work and the cost of this is £1237.50 (potentially plus VAT). Sarah is checking whether this would be paid upfront or retrospectively – in the past it has been the latter so that it can be included in funding bids. We are hoping that this will be agreed shortly and two/three options for the large climbing unit will be identified so that we can start resident consultation and fundraising.

7. Footpath on the Recreation Ground

Helen J informed the committee that the footpath, which runs from Elm Road, past Jackson's Pond and along the Recreation Ground past the tennis courts, is very flooded. The PTA has said that this is the preferred way for children to walk to school as the alternative is the narrow footpaths along the road. Sue commented that this comes up at every meeting of the Johnston Recreation Ground Advisory Group (JRGAG) but alterations will cost a lot of money. Hilary M suggested that the JRGAG speak to Pete Benbow who has done work on

Jackson's Pond and had put in a drainage route for the water, but it is not working well. Myles confirmed that there is a meeting of JRGAG and this is on the agenda.

8. Financial Report

Hilary Booth had circulated a Financial Report of all WR&CS accounts in advance. This report showed that at 28th February 2019, the WR&CS current account had a balance of £1024.27; the Play Area account had a balance of £1080.65; the Christmas Lights account had a balance of £12,323.44 and the Lottery account had a balance of £1368.50. Hilary noted that £331 of the current account is ring-fenced for newsletters.

Chris thanked Hilary for all the work she had done on the finances.

9. Organisations' Reports

The reports below had been submitted in advance or were given at the meeting. Chris reminded organisation representatives to let us have posters and information so that we can put events on the WR&CS website and Facebook.

9.1 Christ Church (submitted by Stephen Bazely)

We have recently had some very enjoyable events, a Fish and Chip supper with Simon Le Barber and a Soup lunch both at the Memorial Hall. We are working on a lease agreement with the Scouts to ensure the work there will continue for the foreseeable future and they can secure funding to improve the facilities. Following our Annual Meeting on 28 April at 7:30pm (to which you are all welcome) we will also be establishing a Vision for the church, which will give us a strong rationale for the re-ordering and church improvements which we hope to commence in 2019-2020.

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

Relaying the rail track has now been completed. This has come in at a total cost of around £9,500. This cost covers all the new sleepers, plus the new pieces of rail track and rail fittings that extends alongside the signal box, the ballast, and also the direct expenses incurred by Real Skills Training for getting their apprentices to/from Hadlow Road Station, etc, whilst the apprentices labour was provided free of charge. This has been a huge undertaking and much bigger than we realised when we started but we feel that the end product is well worth the effort put in by our superb maintenance team led by Tim and will last for another 40+ years all being well.

You will notice that more memorabilia signs have been installed around the station, (renovated and fitted by Andy). There is one inside the far shelter and also two "Way out" signs on the main platform. See if you can spot them.

Three more Rowan trees have been planted on the green space embankment behind the signal box to go alongside the two trees kindly donated and planted by Willastonhey W.I.

Existing flagstones on this section of the platform have been cleared (which is now much easier to walk along). A cost of £3,420 will be incurred to put edging stones down that match the far platform so budget prioritisation will need to be undertaken including agreement on how to spend the very kind £600 donation from South Wirral Rambling Club.

Garden maintenance has started up again now that the weather is improving and there are a lot of spring flowers showing. These will be supplemented with the £45 National Garden Gift Card donation received from Chester & North Wales Cyclists' Touring Club (Weds Group).

The Pop-up-cafe continues to be a great success thanks to your support, and the very hard work of all the catering team in planning and organising the food purchasing supported by other volunteers on serving duties when the pop-up café is open on Sundays. The next pop-up cafe openings will be March 17th, March 31st, April 14th and April 28th from 10.30am to 1.30pm. We look forward to your continuing support and seeing you all once again.

9.3 Friends of Willaston Meadow (Submitted by Hilary Morris)

The autumn dredging of Jackson's Pond is paying off, as there is now a good expanse of water which has cleared as the silt settled. The water in the NE pond is also clearer, and undergrowth has been removed from the far side, allowing in more light. Some pruning of the apples in the orchard took place during the winter, just

enough for the trees not to become entangled with each other and to allow the mower to pass between. As well as School Wood, a number of individual trees have been planted over the years, and both hornbeams are now showing their distinctive catkins. Another of these attractive native trees is soon to be planted.

The AGM of the group will be held in the Methodist Hall at 2 p.m. on Tuesday 7 May, when after a short business meeting Alan Irving of the Wirral Wildlife Group will talk about the management of Cleaver Heath SSSI in Heswall. All are welcome to this meeting. Later in the summer a guided walk round Cleaver Heath will be arranged.

9.4 Hadlow Green Singers (submitted by Helen Mayles)

On Friday, 12th April at 8:00pm in Christ Church Willaston, Hadlow Green Singers present their Spring Concert featuring the whole of the beautiful Vivaldi Gloria, with guest soloists Alexandra Worthington (soprano) and Anna Saunders (alto). The programme will also include anthems by John Rutter along with other lovely choral pieces. Tickets are £7.00 including refreshments and will be available from McColl's newsagents in Willaston, choir members and a limited number at the door. For more information or to contact us, find us on Facebook.

9.5 Horticultural Society

No report received

9.6 Johnston Recreation Ground (submitted by Sue Unsworth)

Nothing to report.

9.7 Memorial Hall (submitted by Rob King)

It is unfortunate that just after I got out of Walton the Memorial Hall trustees held their Annual General Meeting followed by a standard bi-monthly meeting and I was not fit to attend. I understand that one member of the public attended the AGM. (Chris Hampshire). The AGM was fully advertised in accordance with trust deed requirements. We can only assume from that very poor public turn out that villagers are more than satisfied with the management of this community resource when we consider how many people actively went into print at the time of the refurbishment.

The Treasurer's report along with copy of annual audited accounts are available for perusal by any member interested. Considering the amount of expenditure on external and then internal refurbishment over the last three years we are delighted to be able to report such a healthy credit balance.

We continue to have difficulty in recruiting a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Bookings Secretary. A leaflet is being produced and will be delivered to all households in the village relating to these important vacancies that must be filled. Whilst Liz Young and Pam Irving are dealing with bookings for the time being this very much a stop gap measure which will come to an end irrespective of whether or not appointments have been made. It should be noted that our current Treasurer is active as Chairman being appointed meeting be meeting in accordance with the terms in the trust deed. He has no connection with the village.

It is important that residents appreciate the seriousness of this situation. Unless a Bookings Secretary comes forward it will be necessary to stop taking casual bookings as these take a lot of time to administer.

We are pleased to advise that the very long-established village firm, D Dundas and Sons has been appointed to act as consultants in relation to primarily the outside of the building.

9.8 Scouting

No report received.

9.9 Football Clubs

John F reported that there is likely to be an adult team in Willaston, which will be celebrating its 115th year. The club also has more committee members who will help broaden it into a community club with appropriate funding. They are seeking to improve the condition of the pitch and the pavilion.

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

The annual dinner at Inglewood was much enjoyed by members, and the bridge drive and tea was successful. Our team in the County Quiz performed creditably, though they failed to reach the final this year. A series of Walking Netball sessions is taking place weekly in Gladstone Hall, Burton, while the walking group have enjoyed rambles to Loggerheads, Ness and Parkgate.

The Knit & Natter group meet fortnightly, and the Bridge Group weekly. The monthly meetings have had talks on Snowdrops and Claire House, while in March we are invited to "Brush up your Shakespeare". Also in March there will be a trip to the art galleries in Bury and Accrington, in April a party is going to Theatre Clwyd, and in May we shall visit a garden in Bunbury before enjoying a pub lunch.

Willastonhey is making a contribution to the cost of the installation of a defibrillator in the village.

9.11 Willaston Methodist Chapel (Submitted by Sheila Smith)

Thank you to all who supported the Soup Lunch which the Chapel hosted in February.

Forthcoming services which we especially invite you to join us:

- 19th April - 4pm - Good Friday Service at Chapel
- 21st April - 10-45am - Easter Sunday Service at Chapel, preceded by Easter breakfast from 9am in the Schoolroom.
- 12th May - 10-45am - Chapel Anniversary, celebrating 200 years of Methodism on the Wirral. Over 180 years of Methodism in Willaston.

Please reserve 30th June on your calendars for the popular Garden Trail, when numerous volunteers in the village will, once again, open their gardens for viewing by the general public, organised by the Methodist Church and Christ Church. Further details nearer the time.

9.12 Willaston Royal British Legion

No report received.

9.13 Willaston and South Wirral Rotary Club

Debs reported that they will be holding a pop-up book sale on 20th April, on the Green in conjunction with Willaston Country Market. There will also be a 70's night in the Memorial Hall which will be their fifth birthday celebration.

9.14 Willaston Surgery Patient Participation Group

No report received

9.15 Willaston Toddler Group

No report received.

9.16 Willaston Village Festival (submitted by Paul Janvier)

Nothing to report

10. Councillor's Report

10.1 Volunteer Toolkit

Cheshire West Voluntary Action has put together a toolkit to help community groups thank volunteers.

10.2 Your Streets

Myles encouraged members to use the Your Streets website to report any issues with trees in public open spaces. CWaC will investigate enquiries where a tree is causing an obstruction, is dead, dying or dangerous, damaging property or surface or obscuring road, street signs or lighting columns. CWaC will not prune or fell trees for reasons such as shade, leaf litter, TV reception, bird fouling or insect activity. The site can be found at <http://westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk/>

CWaC has created two teams to support the Love Your Streets campaign. The SMART team will provide a fast maintenance service. ASIST officers will promote the Love Your Streets message and encourage involvement and volunteering. There is a new toolbank to support residents wanting to volunteer. To contact the ASIST team, email yourstreets@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

10.3 Merseyrail upgrade

A programme of upgrades to platforms on the Wirral Line is currently being undertaken, which will enable level access for all. Until 22nd March there are replacement buses between Hooton and Hamilton Square. From 25th March to 2nd April, there will be replacement buses between Hooton and Chester.

10.4 Hanns Hall Road

There will be a temporary road closure for resurfacing on Hanns Hall Road from the junction with the A540 to Quarry Road for five days from 15th April 2019.

10.5 Elections

Local council elections take place on 2nd May 2019 and Myles encouraged people to be registered to vote. You can check if you are registered by emailing elreg@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk or ringing 0300 123 7045.

11. Footpaths and Bridleways

Jane reported that the footpaths and bridleways are muddy and, in some places, flooded due to the recent rain.

The dead looking tree overhanging BR66 has been removed by CWaC. The work on the ramp leading onto the Wirral Way from Wallcroft has also been completed, together with resurfacing of a small section of the path.

The promised improvements of filling in the hollows of BR66 (end of Street Hey Lane) and FP33 (Change Lane) and remedial work to FP30 (Hooton Road to Mill Lane) and the erosion of FP30 (Hooton Road to Mill Lane) have not yet taken place.

The CWaC Rights of Way Officer has contacted the owner of the adjacent field to BR64 (Feryness Lane) about the potential danger of dead elms but so far, no action has occurred and one has now fallen. Part of this bridleway is flooded and Jane has previously reported a blocked culvert to CWaC.

Jane reported that she has been gathering evidence from people who have used the land at the end of Smithy Lane in support of an application that it becomes a Public Right of Way (PRoW). Jane also read from WR&CS minutes in 1974 a paragraph showing that WR&CS had been involved with sowing grass and planting trees on this land. Jane confirmed that to date she has eighteen completed forms of which two are probably not useable. Eight of these have already been submitted. There was a discussion about whether this PRoW application by WR&CS should continue, given that there are now conditions on the land purchase which ensure that it cannot be fenced off. Barry noted that one of our objectives is to improve and protect the environmental amenities of the village. Myles commented that there may be interest from other potential buyers and agreed to ask if CWaC intend to put a covenant on the sale of the land. **Action: Myles**

A proposal was made by John W and seconded by Helen that applications that have been received should be submitted but no further forms sought. A counter-proposal was made by Barry and seconded by Annette that this work should cease immediately. There were 12 votes in favour of this counter-proposal with 4 abstentions and 3 objections. Chris clarified that forms that had not been submitted should be returned to the individuals so that they can send them to the Council themselves.

The committee thanked Jane for all she does on footpaths and bridleways.

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

12. Confidential item relating to stolen money

Myles proposed and Vicky seconded that this item should be discussed in a separate meeting of Officers only. This was agreed by all present with one abstention.

13.Planning Applications, Decisions and Appeals

13.1 Stewart Milne development

The Stewart Milne development at Hooton Station is growing. Myles reported that there are discussions between the company and CWaC about affordability of the homes. There are also some outstanding environmental and drainage issues. It was noted that the entrance to the estate will not be where the existing entrance is.

13.2 Station Master's House

Revised plans have been submitted for the Station Master's House at Hadlow Road Station, which involves putting a roof over the courtyard. Barry expressed the view that this alters the visibility and view of the station which may be inconsistent with the Grade 11 listed status. He noted that no planning officer has been appointed for this application yet.

13.3 McCarthy and Stone

McCarthy and Stone has submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate for their application on the former British Legion site. It was noted that the appeal will take a few months to be registered and notified back to the Council and previous objectors. A site visit should be made but there is no obligation for a formal meeting. John W said he had spoken to RBL in London and McCarthy and Stone have an option on the site until December 2019 and a further option until May 2020.

13.4 Travellers in Heath Lane

Myles reported that the temporary permission for the travellers to stay on the site in Heath Lane runs out on 25th April 2019.

14. Any Other Business

Chris commented that the new room layout was because we had arranged seating in this way to make it easier for all committee members and to ensure that WR&CS conform with the Memorial Hall's fire restrictions. He noted that we are required to restrict the meeting to 25 people in the committee room and therefore WR&CS will need to manage the expectations of observers at future meetings.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.25pm.

Dates for future Committee Meetings:

Monday 20th May 2019

Monday 15th July 2019

Monday 16th September 2019

Monday 18th November 2019

AGM on Friday 11th October 2019