

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT WILLINGTON HALL ON TUESDAY 28th March 2023

PRESENT:

Councillor John Grimshaw
Councillor John Lindsay
Councillor Jane Lowthion
Councillor Andrew Nicholas (Chairman)
Councillor Rob Merrick

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Harry Tonge, two members of the public.

22/131 APOLOGIES – Borough Councillor John Leather, Rob Winterbourne (Clerk).

22/132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

22/132.1 New Written Requests for Dispensations

There were no new requests.

22/132.2 Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interest in any item of business on the agenda and if necessary, leave the meeting prior to discussion of that item. Councillor Lindsay declared an interest in agenda item 6b ii.

22/133 OPEN FORUM

RESOLVED: that the Council meeting be adjourned for the Open Forum.

22/134 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: that the Council meeting be reconvened.

22/135 REPORT ON OPEN FORUM

Councillor Harry Tonge advised that all Borough Council business has been suspended until after the May elections except for planning and licensing matters.

22/136 MINUTES OF MEETINGS - minutes of the meeting of the full Council held on 31st January 2023.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

22/137 REPORT ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING ON 31st JANUARY 2023

22/137.1 Ownership of the Green – CWaC have indicated that although the Green is not registered to anyone, they have a strong case for ownership. The PC however felt that as the Green is common land, and the PC has undertaken maintenance for many years, it has a case for ownership.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman write to CWaC (Pam Bradley) explaining the PC's position.

22/137.2 Replacement of the Willington Corner phone box – a resident has agreed to fund the project up to £3,500. It was noted that works/funds would be needed to install the defibrillator, and reinstate the electricity supply. An initial meeting of the working party was held on Weds 15th March.

RESOLVED: that the PC would provide funds of up to £250 to cover additional costs.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman would contact Willington Hall regarding the disused telephone box in their grounds.

22/137.3 Artificial Xmas tree for the Green – no progress to date.

22/137.4 Verges on Chapel Lane and Willington Road.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the owners of the relevant properties asking them to move the stones away from the highway.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the owners of Hillside Farm advising them that CWaC Highways have said that the planting of hedging on the verge outside the property is not allowed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the owners of Wood Villa advising them that the verge outside the property is owned by CWaC and therefore the PC cannot give permission for installation of posts. The owners may be liable if there are accidents or damage as a result of the posts.

22/138 PLANNING MATTERS

22/138.1 New Planning Applications – none

22/138.2 Previous Applications - the status of outstanding applications and of recently approved/refused applications was noted. It was noted that a 'No Comment' response had been provided on behalf of the PC by the Clerk regarding application 23/00415/FUL - Boothsdale House, Boothsdale, Cheshire CW6 0NH.

22/138.3 Notes

Residents' concerns regarding potential breaches of planning conditions and environmental regulations at the site between Cat Lane End and Highcroft on Willington Road.

It was noted that following the Planning Enforcement site visit and the owners' response to the subsequent Planning Contravention Notice (PCN), CWaC Planning Enforcement had advised the site owners of their assessment of the situation and next steps they need to take (to be completed by 31st March 2023).

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact Samantha Green at CWaC Planning Enforcement requesting an update.

22/139 AUDIT 2022-23

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council approve an application for exemption from external audit for the year 2022-23 and that the Chairman sign the certificate of exemption as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: that the Council appoint JDH Business Services to undertake an internal audit for 2022-23.

22/140 INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED: that having reviewed the policy documentation that the insurance arrangements meet the current requirements of the Council.

22/141 STATEMENT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

RESOLVED: that the statement of internal control for 2022-2023 be approved.

22/142 COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

Future editorship of the PC newsletter was discussed.

RESOLVED: that a request for a volunteer to take on the role of editor be included in the next newsletter.

RESOLVED: that funds are made available to purchase suitable publishing/editing software.

RESOLVED: that if no editor is found, that the newsletter may only be published twice a year.

22/143 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Future events were discussed. It was noted that the celebration of the coronation of Charles III on Sunday 7th May will be held as the annual village picnic on the Green with residents providing their own refreshments, games, seating etc.

RESOLVED: that the PC provide £25 from 2022-23 budget (Chairman's Allowance) and £25 from the 2023-24 budget (Events) to support signage for the Open Gardens day to be held on Sunday 11th June 2023.

22/144 ROAD SAFETY

22/144.1 Reduction of the speed limit on Willington Road to 30 mph – CWaC Highways have advised that they will schedule the works with the new contractors (who assume their responsibilities on 1st April 20223).

22/144.2 Assessment of the speed limit on Chapel Lane – CWaC Highways are currently undertaking a speed limit assessment.

22/144.3 Installation of a traffic mirror on Willington Road at bottom of Boothsdale – CWaC Highways have stated that the site is not appropriate for a mirror. The Clerk has estimated the cost for the PC to install a mirror not on the adopted highway will be circa £800. The owner of the land opposite the Boothsdale junction has no objection to a mirror being sited on the land.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk further investigates if our insurance will cover any liabilities resulting from the PC installing a mirror.

22/144.5 Speeding on the section of road between Willington Corner and Willington Hall – it was noted that a site meeting had been held with CWaC Highways on 3rd March. CWaC agreed to repaint the centre lines and install an additional 'SLOW' sign on the existing 'HORSES' warning sign heading towards Willington Hall.

22/145 WILLINGTON ENVIRONMENT AND TASK FORCE

22/145.1 Schedule of Work for Trees on the Green – was discussed.

RESOLVED: that given the current uncertainty regarding ownership of the Green that PC funding of the tree maintenance work be deferred. But that the Chairman contact CWaC (Pam Bradley) regarding the necessary tree maintenance.

22/145.2 Maintenance of hedges – was discussed.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact Willington Estate regarding tidying up the hedges on John St as there is public funding currently available for such work.

22/146 WILLINGTON INTERPRETATION BOARD – progress was discussed. A completion date is yet to be confirmed.

RESOLVED: that £50 is paid to the resident who has provided line drawings for the board. Councillor Grimshaw will investigate the provision of a new bench for the Green.

22/147 FAST FIBRE – was discussed.

RESOLVED: that Kloud9 should provide a short presentation regarding fast-fibre broadband at the Annual Village Meeting in May.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Merrick contact Edward Timpson MP regarding the withdrawal of the rural communities broadband voucher scheme.

22/148 MAY 2023 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – were discussed. It was noted that all known nominees have been provided with nomination packs and all are aware of the cut-off dates and process.

RESOLVED: that PC does not respond to a resident's e-mail regarding their prospective candidacy.

22/149 ACTION PLANS 2022-23

RESOLVED: that the Action Plan for 2023-24 will be discussed at the PC meeting in May 2023.

22/150 SCHEDULE OF COUNCIL DOCUMENTS AND REGULATIONS -No documents required review.

22/151 STAFFING COMMITTEE was discussed. The Clerk has advised that no amendments to Standing Orders are required to establish a Staffing Committee.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact ChALC to ask if there are sample terms of reference for a Staffing Committee.

22/152 CLERK'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

E-Mail Correspondence. The following have been forwarded to Councillors via e-mail and are not shown elsewhere on the agenda; listing these items provides Council with the opportunity to comment; none were made.

- a. Cheshire Association of Local Councils/National Association of Local Councils e-bulletins
- b. Cheshire Police Alerts
- c. Vision ICT web analytics for www.willington.org.uk website
- d. CWaC and other Consultations
- e. Neighbourhood Watch National Newsletter
- f. Police and Crime Commissioner bulletins.

22/153 BUDGET FOR FINANCE YEAR 2023-24

It was noted that CWaC had acknowledged the PC's request for a precept of £6335 for 2023-24 an increase of £100 over the 22/23 precept.

22/154 FINANCIAL MATTERS.

22154.1 Payments between meetings.

RESOLVED: that the following payments made since the last Council Meeting be confirmed:

Payee	Detail	£ Amount Paid
Andrew Nicholas	Expenses AED Cabinet	498.00
ChALC	CoC Training x 3	75.00
R Winterbourne	Clerk Expenses (laptop & mouse)	584.43
VISION ICT	Web-hosting 2023-24	161.26
R Winterbourne	Clerk Salary Feb 2023	201.18
R Winterbourne	Clerk Salary Mar 2023	247.93
John Grimshaw	Expenses – materials for sign-post	87.96

22/154.2 Cheque Payments – the following payments were approved.

Payee	Detail	£ Amount to be Paid
R Winterbourne	Expenses to end March 2023	53.48

22/154.3 Direct Debits

It was noted that the following payments have been made by direct debit:

- Sage One Payroll – February 2023. Paid 16th February 2023 - £8.40
- Sage One Payroll – March 2023. Paid 16th March 2023 - £8.40.

22/154.4 Management Accounts

RESOLVED: that the management accounts for the period to end February 2023 be approved.

22/154.5 Review of Cashbook and Bank Statements

Councillor Lindsay has reviewed the cash book and bank statements for January and February 2023. No issues were found.

22/155 ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR NEXT AGENDA – none were suggested.

22/156 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 23rd May 2023 at 19:30 at Willington Hall

The Annual Village meeting will also be held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 prior to the meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk publicise the Annual Village Meeting.

END OF DOCUMENT

Chairman's Signature Dated.....

Chairman's Initial