

MINUTES OF WILLINGTON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT WILLINGTON HALL HOTEL, AT 7.00 PM, ON TUESDAY 23rd May 2023

PRESENT: Andrew Nicholas – Meeting Chairman and Chairman of the Parish Council
Rob Winterbourne - Clerk to the Parish Council
Parish Councillors – James Abbott, John Lindsay, Stuart Ingram,
Rob Merrick
Borough Councillor – Tom Cooper
Thirteen members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Local Residents: Sue Masterman, David Walker, Audrey Wraith, Jim Wraith, Pat Symms

1. WELCOME

Councillor Nicholas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Parish Council described the work carried out by the Parish Council during the year to 31st March 2023 details of which are covered in the written report available on the Parish Council website and in the Parish Council newsletter for May 2023.

3. FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk had prepared the Annual Accounts of the Council covering the year to 31st March 2023 with background notes. Copies of the report were available at the meeting, and can also be found on the Parish Council website and in the Parish Council newsletter for May 2023.

4. FAST FIBRE FOR WILLINGTON

Councillor Stuart Ingram delivered a short talk on the options for the provision of fast fibre broadband to Willington Parish.

Willington are currently included in the Building Digital U.K. planned procurement programme as part of the UK Government initiative "Project Gigabit". The status of Willington is unclear at this time, however, BDUK will provide a further update in August. Until BDUK release an update, the Parish will not have access to the government 'Gigabit' voucher scheme for rural communities.

The voucher scheme is worth up to £4500 per voucher per house. A future fibre partnership agreement taps into these vouchers – an example of this is Kloud9 who are currently installing in Kelsall. The voucher scheme usually covers the full cost of the fibre installation, with customers then subscribing to the Ultrafast Broadband provider once installed. A further update will be provided once feedback is received from BDUK in August.

5. PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2023-24

Councillor Nicholas described the proposed Action Plan for 2023-24. It is available on the Parish Council website or from the Clerk.

6. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were various comments, suggestions, and questions. The main topics covered were:

- a. Improved warning road signs and visibility at Willington Corner.
- b. Flooding of Willington Lane between Willington Corner and Willington Hall.
- c. Cutting back hedges alongside the footpath between Willington and Kelsall.
- d. Poor mobile phone signal in the area.
- e. Reinstating the Parish Council Facebook page as a means of communication with residents.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.



Rob Winterbourne
Clerk to Willington Parish Council