

Willaston Parish Council

Email: clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Website: www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk

Telephone: 07579 791981



Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 25th July 2023

Attendance:

Councillors: Emma Angier, Shirley Brazier, Anna Cutts (Chairman), Nigel Lane, Frank Morton, Wayne Salisbury, Keith Ward.

Sue Togay (Clerk), Cheshire East Ward Councillor Margaret Simon.

42. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailey (Chairman of The Council), Kirby and Webb.

43. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cutts in respect of item 18 Authorisation of Payments as a payee.

Councillor Salisbury in respect of Item 18 Authorisation of Payments as a payee.

44. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th June 2023

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council held on Tuesday 27th June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by The Chairman. There were no matters arising.

45. To receive a report regarding policing matters in the Parish

Unfortunately, there were no Police officers available to attend. The Clerk had reported the problems reported by residents relating to Wistaston Road to the PCSO who would conduct a speedwatch operation in the area and ascertain the problems relating to traffic.

46. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

47. To receive a report from Cheshire East Borough Councillors covering Willaston Parish

Cheshire East Ward Councillor Margaret Simon was in attendance and reported on the following:

- The residents' petition to reinstate the gritting route by Cheshire East at Colleys Lane had now been submitted to Democratic Services. Councillor Simon would inform residents of the petition status once informed by the relevant Cheshire East officers.
- There was a query in relation to a longstanding proposed change in highway traffic orders to the junction of the A530 and Colleys Lane which had not progressed due to inconclusive results at the time of consultation. Councillor Simon would report back on any further information.
- There was a Cheshire East consultation on Bus Services in the Borough which Councillor advised Councillors to comment on as individuals and as a Parish.
- The present free garden waste scheme was being considered as a charged scheme from 2024 and the proposal was progressing through the committee system for approval. Councillors felt that this was a retrograde step which did not consider the reversion of

- placing waste food products in the general waste bin. The Clerk to write on behalf of the Council to the Chair of The Environment and Community Committee objecting to the proposal.
- The cutting back of high hedging at Maurice's Maze and the unkempt grass on the triangle of grass at the Moorfields/Wistaston Road was brought to the attention of Councillor Simon. This had been reported to Fix My Steet, but she would bring to the attention of Councillor Gage and follow up.

48. To receive a report from the Clerk to Willaston Parish Council

The Clerk included the following items:

- The procedure for co-option of individuals to fill the two vacancies on the Council needed to be commenced but it had been suggested a co-option policy be put in place before this happened. Councillor Salisbury had identified a suitable policy and would provide to the Council for consideration.
- The Clerk had reminded the contractors in relation to the installation of the two benches at Mike Heywood Green and would report back when further information was received.

49. To consider matters relating to Planning Applications which include:

23/2444N

Variation of condition 1 on approval 18/1193N. reserved Matters application for 146no dwellings including associated roads, car parking and landscaping works.

Land North of Moorfields, Willaston

Submission Deadline: 24th July 2023

RESOLVED: That the Council submit a comment of no objection but include in the comment their disappointment that the Building Contractor had not brought this issue to the attention of the Planning Department and consultees sooner. The Clerk also to respond to a resident who had concerns about this application and inform CEBC Councillor Gage.

23/246N

Revised proposal for two storey side and rear extensions to provide additional bedroom/study and family space.

62 Coppice Road, Willaston, CW5 6QD

Submission Deadline: 25th July 2023

RESOLVED: Objection to be submitted based on the objection on previous refused application 23/3510N.

50. Willaston Events Committee

Councillor Anna Cutts (Chairman of the Events Committee) gave a report on the Garden Party Event:

- A Litter Pick was held on Tuesday 11th July to tidy up prior to the Garden party.
- The Garden Party was held on Saturday 15th July from 12 noon until 8pm on Lettie Spencer Playing Field. Despite the weather, it was a successful community event. Some set-up took place the night before, but due to strong winds and rain, most took place from 7am when the stage arrived. The bad weather also meant there were last minute changes as the planned Bouncy Castles and Fairground rides cancelled, additional gazebos were obtained and the late delivery of the portaloos led to some anxiety!

- All the stage entertainment went ahead as planned as did the gymnastics display, morris dancing, walking football demonstration match, dog show, food, market and charity stalls and the sports events were enjoyed by the younger residents even though rather muddy.
- Clear down after the event took until after 10.30pm, so it was a long day for many volunteers.
- The Committee is still finalising some income and payment details so final details will be given at a later meeting. At this point it can be confirmed that the event is under budget. The most significant saving being insurance as no additional premium was charged for the event.
- A post-event review will take place with volunteers within the next few weeks to discuss what went well and what we could change in future.

The Committee Chairman thanked:

- Cllrs Salisbury & Angier in particular for the huge amount of effort they put into the event organisation as well as Cllr Webb and previous Cllr Greenwood for their help and support.
- The Parish Council for being the main sponsor and Cheerbrook for additional sponsorship.
- All the volunteers who gave up so much of their time to help ensure the event ran smoothly.
- Ableworld for again lending a van, without which there would have been no transport for the gazebos - and to James Bentley and Freddie Crowhurst for driving & loading.
- Mr Sykes from Willaston Academy for organising the sports events.
- PawPrints to Freedom for organising the fun dog show.
- The Masonic Hall and Cllr Ward for use of their car park
- All residents who braved the weather and attended!

All those who had been asked had enjoyed the event and there had been no complaints. Councillor Ward expressed his thanks to the Events Committee on behalf of all residents for a very successful event.

51. Playing Fields & Open Spaces

a) To discuss matters relating to Lettie Spencer Playing Field, The Spinney and Mike Heywood Green.

There had been some recent serious incidents of anti-social behaviour on the Playing Field involving underage drinking and abusive confrontational behaviour when challenged as the area was being closed. Reports of continual nonacceptable behaviour had been received by a neighbouring property. All incidents had been reported to the Police with the inclusion of names mentioned who were investigating further.

Discussions took place as to how this continual behaviour could be stopped and those closing the gates be protected.

RESOLVED:

1. Due to health and safety issues that a bodycam is procured up to a value of £200 plus VAT.
2. That if there were incidents of asb that a 'closure poster' be used to limit the use of the playing field much to the detriment of other respectful users.
3. The Council look into the cost of a CCTV system for installation to deter this behaviour.

Councillor Angier mentioned the Green Flag Award system and would investigate this and present further information to the Council.

The ongoing boundary access issues were continuing, and letters had been written to all those properties which shared a boundary with the playing field. A further letter had been sent to a

resident who had included misinformation on details to the estate agent selling her property. This had been corrected on the agency site details but had not been amended on the 'for sale' brochure. The Clerk to further write to her requesting that the brochure is also amended, or further action will be taken. An additional letter also to be written to a separate resident who continued to misuse a gate installed on their property, reminding them again of the access rights.

The Council will consider the installation of a full boundary fence at the playing field at a future meeting.

b) To consider the replacement of the supporting fencepost adjacent to the neighbouring property at the entrance to Lettie Spencer Playing Field.

When contractors had removed the playing field gates for refurbishments, it had been discovered that the right-hand supporting tower was an integral part of the fence to the neighbouring property and would need replacing to make good before installation of the new gate support posts and gates.

RESOLVED: Due to health and safety and security reasons at the property an additional amount of £250 be allocated to the gate refurbishment project to make the fence support safe and make good.

52. Complaints Policy Review.

This item was deferred until the August meeting.

53. To consider an appropriate Memorial to the late Vice-Chairman, Councillor Colin F Todd.

Various alternatives were discussed including benches, renaming of the allotment site, renaming of the Spinney etc.

RESOLVED: That an appropriate trophy relating to allotment activity be named in Councillor Todd's honour. Details to be discussed further at a future meeting. Further suggestions also to be considered.

54. To consider the proposed installation of benches Wybunbury Road/Green Lane.

Councillor Lane had given an update at the June Council meeting on the proposed installation of the benches outlining the permissions and licencing process with Cheshire East Borough Council. Additional legal costs had been questioned on the Council's behalf by Councillor Simon with no result.

Further discussions took place on the associated costs and the potential for additional costs on any further proposed benches in the parish in the future. It was felt that the Council were being penalised for trying to provide much needed equipment for its residents which Cheshire East no longer did.

RESOLVED: that Councillors Angier and Salisbury attend a full Cheshire East meeting and bring the facts to the attention of Cheshire East Councillors to bring up the Council's concerns about the high costs.

55. To consider Projects relating to the specific funds that the Council holds to include the Community Facility Improvement Fund and Community Infrastructure Levy.

This item was further deferred until the August meeting.

56. To discuss issues relating to illegal parking and overgrown hedges in the Parish.

This item was deferred until the August meeting.

57. To consider the procurement of an appropriate software package to manage the Parish Council's Processes.

Cllr Cutts has defined some high-level requirements for software to replace the spreadsheets currently used to manage the council. These have been shared with councillors.

She has had a preliminary discussion with Scribe who provide this software to 100s of councils. Two modules, Finance and Allotments covers most of our requirements except

- Salary management
- Annual Playground inspections
- Planning

The cost would be £1065 for the first year (includes £249 one-off support/set-up cost) then £406 per module i.e., £816 per annum.

This includes unlimited on-line & virtual training, on-line help & support by CilCA and Accountancy trained staff.

Further investigation of other options will be progressed from:

- Rialtas
- EdgeIT

58. Huntsbank Allotments**a. To arrange the annual inspection date.**

Councillors to meet at the allotment site Monday 14th August at 6.00pm.

b. Request from Tenant: Plot 11 for the erection of a shed 6ft X 8ft shed at the back of plot next to the metal fence and adjacent to shed on neighbouring site.

RESOLVED: that permission be given to erect the above structure on Plot 11.

c. To consider the maintenance of the boundary fence and hedges.

Discussion took place in relation to boundary hedges and fences which included the following:

- The overgrown hedges of the properties on the boundary of the allotment
RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the residents of the properties with hedges on the boundary of the allotment to request cut back of the hedges.
- The hole in the hedge near the allotment fence:
RESOLVED: to procure 2 wooden posts and agricultural mesh to install and secure in the hole near the fence gate.
- The boundary fence near plots 1 and 2 which had collapsed. These were to be inspected on 14th August to ascertain their condition.

d. To consider the clearance of overgrown uncultivated sites.

The Clerk had spoken to the grass cutting contractor and he had quoted a cost of £50 per allotment site to spray to make the very uncultivated sites suitable for relet.

RESOLVED; to instruct Mike Webster and Son to spray the relevant sites to bring to a standard to relet.

e. To consider the report on the Electricity Pylon.

A new tenant has had personal concerns about the effect of the power source on the area near the electricity pylon. The Clerk had spoken to the local engineer for Scottish Power Energy Networks who owned the Pylon. He had stated that hundreds of pylons had been inspected by them and that he was satisfied it was not necessary to inspect the one at the Huntsbank site. Information was provided to pass on to the tenant in order for them to review the information regarding risks from the system. This information also provided contact details for them to speak directly.

59. To consider approval of payments

RESOLVED: It was resolved that the accounts totalling £4,258.98 as detailed in the attached schedule be approved for payment.

60. To note the date of the next meeting

22nd August 2023

Chairman: **Date:**

WILLASTON PARISH COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT			
25th July 2023			
Details of Payment	£	£	Cheque No
Astbury Fabrication Pre-paid 50% for materials. ALREADY ISSUED		£1,275.00	102995
S Togay Clerk - Salary July		£715.15	102996
HMRC – Tax July		£178.60	102997
S Togay - Stamps/laptop repair		£175.00	102998
Water Plus Ltd		£50.34	102999
U Storeall – rent/insurance 13.7.23 to 12.8.23		£83.37	103000
Cllr CT Bailey - Clerk's Mobile Phone		£9.99	103001
Mike Webster & Son - inv: 5455 22/6/23		£345.00	103002
St Johns Methodist Church Council - Room Hire GP	£100.00		
Room Hire - Civic Service	<u>£50.00</u>	£150.00	103003
ANSA Environmental Services GP	-	£224.48	103004
Cllr Anna Cutts:			
B & M -GP Wooden Stakes	£16.90		
House Of tents - Gazebos	<u>£580.01</u>	£596.91	103005
Cllr Wayne Salisbury:			
Vinyl Banners Printing	£27.53		
Eco Print feather flags	£140.99		
Ebay - toilet sign	£7.99		
Ebay - toilet banner	£22.99		
B & M sand & wooden posts	£18.12		
Costwise Ltd - tarpaulin waste bins	£15.98		
G & B Product Services Ltd - tent pegs	£13.99		
Germany RETEVIS Tech - radios	£25.40		
Bodhiltree Group Ltd - plastic pocket for flyers	£15.95		
B & Q- bucket & cord	£8.93		
Aldi - water	£7.16		
Wilko - Tape/gloves/tags	£21.75		
B & Q - cable ties	£7.51		
Lakeside Hire- heras fence hire -inv 2131245	£87.85		
Lakeside Hire- heras fence hire -inv 2131552	<u>£33.00</u>	£455.14	103005
Total	Total	£4,258.98	