

## Willaston Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Attendance:

Councillors: Emma Angier, Craig Bailey (Chairman), Shirley Brazier, Anna Cutts (Vice Chairman), Bill Kirby, , Frank Morton, Wayne Salisbury, Keith Ward, Julie Webb

Sue Togay (Clerk), Cheshire East Ward Councillors Allen Gage, Margaret Simon.

### 106. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Nigel Lane.

### 107. Declarations of Interest.

Councillor Bailey in respect of item 16 Authorisation of Payments as a payee.  
Councillor Salisbury in respect of Item 16 Authorisation of Payments as a payee.

### 108. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by The Chairman with the following amendments:  
Ref 88: the month of 'August' be amended to 'September'.

Matters arising were:

- Scribe Accounts Package – the Clerk was now arranging a date to activate the account.
- Shrubbery at footpath, Victoria Mill Drive/John Gresty Drive – the Clerk had contacted Charlie Griffies of ANSA who had cascaded it to appropriate ANSA officers for further information. Final answer had not yet been received.
- Vacant Property, Colleys Lane the Clerk had reported the vacant property to Cheshire East Housing as there was a process to apply enforcement notices for owners to carry out repairs or secure the property under Acts of Parliament. It had also been reported to Cheshire East Highways and an officer had fed back that he had spoken to the owner of the property next door as this hedge also impeded vision on the bend. In addition, the Clerk had liaised with Councillor Margaret Simon as she had also reported this problem via her Member's complaints system who were trying to gain information on the owner to apply relevant enforcement.

Councillor Kirby felt that further action could be taken but it was stated that all appropriate actions had been taken by the Parish and that if he wished to highlight any further concerns regarding road safety, he should contact the local PCSO directly.

- VX Fibre – the Clerk had contacted VX fibre and was awaiting further information on the position regarding the snagging on the area behind the bus stop.

- Unpermitted access to the Playing Field – the Clerk had written to two tenants on Wybunbury Road requesting they cease using unpermitted gates on the boundary of the playing field for access. One of the letters had included a further reminder that the ‘for sale brochure’ at the estate agents relating to their property still stated that there was access to the field.

### **109. To Receive a Report Regarding Policing Matters in the Parish.**

Unfortunately, there were no Police officers available to attend. After discussion, the Council requested that the Clerk email the local Police officers with Council agendas, future meeting dates or if unable to attend, request a report.

### **110. Public Participation.**

No members of the public were in attendance.

### **111. Cheshire East Borough Councillors Report.**

Councillor Margaret Simon and Allen Gage were in attendance and reported as follows:

Councillor Margaret Simon:

- Winter Gritting, Colleys Lane – there had been a review on winter gritting for roads already in the programme and there was a suggestion that parishes may wish to self-fund this service.
- Vacant Property, Colley Lane – Cheshire East were trying to establish ownership of the property in order apply enforcement relating to the overgrown hedge. If necessary, the Borough would cut the hedge back and bill associated costs to the owner.
- Consultation on Junction Colleys Lane/Middlewich Road – there was a consultation three years ago with no outcome due to opinions being equal. Therefore, no further proposals were put forward.
- Councillor Simon requested that we note the following consultations at Cheshire East and urged Councillors to respond as individuals or as the Council as a whole:  
Parking Review, Flexi Bus Link,
- The Police & Crime Commissioner has also a live consultation on local policing.

Councillor Allen Gage:

- The Council were urged to respond to the Parking Review.
- Police had seized some e-scooters relating to asb and were now focussing on this area of concern.
- He had requested a road sweeper in the area near the War Memorial and the Coppice Road/ Crewe Road Junction.
- The sinkhole on Park Road had now been repaired but there was an uneven surface.
- A disabled resident had highlighted the need for accessibility on Footpath 10 in the Parish. Councillor Gage was in contact with the new Public Right of Way Officer with a proposal to remove the kissing gate and co-ordinate the maintenance of the land where the public footpaths were sited to provide appropriate accessibility.
- There had been fly posting by a taxi firm at the Cheerbrook roundabout which had been removed and a letter had been issued to the offender.
- There was a proposal to extend the 20mph limit to a larger area in the village.

- The planned traffic lights at the Wistaston Road/Crewe Road junction which had been part of the conditions of the planning permission relating to the Moorfield estate was in danger of being scrapped. Councillor Gage will pursue this and make sure that this or an equivalent scheme is put in place. Councillor Angier suggested that mini roundabout could be an alternative.

Willaston Parish Councillors brought the following to the attention of the Cheshire East Borough Councillors in attendance:

- Councillors requested an update on the asset transfer of Mike Heywood Green. Councillor Gage stated that due to the present financial pressures at the Borough at the moment he was trying to avoid any unnecessary costs and obtain a free transfer.
- Councillor Kirby mentioned the subject of LILA Connect at Colleys Lane as the job was still unfinished and abandoned. He also commented on the number of potholes in the area. This issue had been discussed before and it was reiterated that this was a private matter between individuals and the company. It was suggested that any concerns were addressed to the local MP as the Parish and Borough Councils had done what they could within their jurisdiction. Any potholes should be reported via 'Fix My Street'.
- Councillor Gage was asked for an update on the problems of parking near the Nags Head which was causing access problems for the 84-bus service. Councillor Gage and officers were working on a draft proposal, and he would supply a copy of this to the Clerk for distribution.
- There was a sunken area on Coppice Road running from the area outside St Luke's Church to Victoria Mill Drive. Councillor Webb had reported this to Fix My Street. Councillor Gage is carrying out a site visit to the area in relation to the footpath and will include this in the inspection visit with the Highways Officer.
- Councillor Ward requested an update on the road marking at the Victoria Mill Drive/John Gresty Drive junction. Councillor Gage is proposing to include this in his 'Members Allowance Budget'.
- Councillor Ward had noted that there was a survey at Cheshire East to establish ownership of small parcels of land which were being maintained when there was no borough responsibility to do so. He enquired whether this was the case in relation to the footpath at Victoria Mill Drive/John Gresty Drive. Councillor Gage felt that this was not the case.
- An update was requested on the Crossing at the Peacock Roundabout. The last update was January 2022 and Councillor Simon would chase this up further.
- The Chairman requested advice on the lane usage at the Peacock roundabout as its layout meant that it was unclear. Councillor Simon will request a review of the arrow markings and signage to avoid confusion and potential accidents.
- The triangle of grass opposite Mike Heywood Green had not been mowed this year and had always previously been cut by Cheshire East. This had been reported to 'Fix My Street' with no solution. Councillor Gage will chase this up. Councillors asked that consideration be given to including this area alongside Mike Heywood Green in the proposed asset transfer or at least extend the parish maintenance to include this area.
- The 30mph sign at Cheerbrook Road had been hit. Councillor Gage to chase up.

Councillor Cuts thanked both Borough Councillors for attending the meeting as it had been very useful but rather a long agenda item. Would it be possible for regular attendance to be resumed to avoid this.

## **112. Illegal Parking and Overgrown Hedges.**

Councillor Webb had requested that the Council consider both these issues that were occurring within the Parish. She mentioned several incidents of both occurring and requested Councillors consider appropriate action to address this. After discussion it was advised that all illegal parking and overgrown hedgerows should be referred to the appropriate section of Cheshire East for them to use their enforcement powers as these issues were complex in relation to ownership of the land it was occurring on.

## **113. Report from the Clerk to Willaston Parish Council**

The Clerk advised Councillors that she would be on leave from 30<sup>th</sup> September until 7<sup>th</sup> October but would put appropriate measures in place to deal with any emails received.

## **114. To consider matters relating to Planning Applications which include:**

23/2819N

Erection of Foul Pumping Station – amended plans.

Manor Bank Barn, 2 Old Newcastle Road, Willaston, CW5 7BQ

Submission Deadline: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

RESOLVED: That Willaston Parish Council have no objections but some concerns that were highlighted by Councillor Lane relating to HGV access to the site.

23/3474N

Proposed kitchen rear extension

8 Wybunbury Road, Willaston, CW5 7JF

Submission Deadline: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

RESOLVED: No objection

23/3436N

Replacing existing timber open porch with an oak framed open porch and new roof.

Replace existing brick boundary wall aligned to new porch. The new frame will reach approx. 1m from the wall. The design, materials and structure will be in keeping with the original age of the building. The frame will extend across the width of the house, as per the existing, and have a feature triangle frame above the door as shown on the illustration. The brick wall surrounding the porch area will be replaced due to poor condition of the bricks. The adjoining/nearby neighbours full support the refurbishment of the property it having been neglected by previous occupants for some considerable time.

The Bakery, Eastern Road, Willaston, CW5 7HS

Submission Deadline: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

RESOLVED: No objection

## **115. Willaston Events Committee**

There had been no meeting since the 8<sup>th</sup> August. It was proposed that a meeting is held on 10<sup>th</sup> October at 6.15pm with a Staffing Meeting following. The Clerk to make a room booking for St Lukes for these meetings.

## **116. Staffing Committee.**

As the proposed powers for the responsibility of overseeing the training and development of Members of the Council were already in place, this item was not necessary.

## 117. Playing Fields & Open Spaces

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

#### Lettie Spencer Playing Field

- The gates were now installed but it was decided it was wise to apply anti-vandal paint to the top with anti-vandal paint and display the appropriate notices . There was a final section of work to be carried out on the post of the adjoining property which had been delayed as there was now scaffolding erected for roof repair.
- It had been noted that the resident 's property adjoining the footpath had erected scaffolding to carry out roof repairs but without permission. The Clerk had now spoken to the roofing contractor and had been supplied with his public liability insurance.
- There had been no further action about replacement of the broken basketball equipment. It was decided that this issue needed to be brought back to the Council for discussion on the grade of board that was required.
- The Clerk was requested to ascertain any priority jobs required as a result of the Annual Playground Inspection.
- Quotes were to be obtained for the removal of the balance beam and bin as there had been no response from the contractor already approached. The re-siting of the noticeboard was also to be included as a separate item.
- Now that the gates had been installed, Councillor Salisbury kindly offered to obtain quotes for the marking in front of the gates.

#### Mike Heywood Green

The benches had now been fully installed and looked extremely good. The Clerk to thank Willis Brothers for their work.

#### The Spinney

The Spinney- the Clerk had checked with ANSA and they had not been responsible for the tree work at the Spinney.

#### **b) To consider the repair and reseeding of the football pitch at Lettie Spencer Playing Field.**

Councillor Salisbury had obtained a quote from JD Services for reseeding of the football pitch for consideration as it was now an appropriate time to carry out maintenance in the goal mouth areas.

RESOLVED: that the quote from JD Services for £330 be accepted and instruction given to commence the first week of October.

#### **c) To consider the installation of a CCTV system within the Lettie Spencer Playing Field to aid in crime prevention.**

Councillor Salisbury, as agreed, had obtained further quotes for the installation of CCTV and had spoken to St John's Church. He provided Councillors with copies of the quotes and very comprehensive briefing notes to indicate the comparison of quotes for Councillors to make an informed decision.

After discussion, the following resolutions were made:

1. RESOLVED: That Willaston Parish Council agree to accept a cost of up to £7920 for the purchase and installation of a CCTV system within the Lettie Spencer Playing Field to aid in crime prevention.
2. RESOLVED: That Willaston Parish Council agree to the housing of the data cabinet and power supply and one of the cameras at St John's Church for an initial cost of £300 for the first year. An agreement to be formulated for use by both parties.
3. RESOLVED: That the agreed costs associated with the CCTV system are sourced from the remaining CIL Budget and the Community Infrastructure Levy.

**118. Huntsbank Allotments**

- a. Request from Tenant: Plot 13 for the erection of a greenhouse not exceeding 8ft x 24 ft x 12 ft. RESOLVED: that permission be given to in principle to erect the above structure on Plot 13 but a request for details of the exact dimensions and position of the greenhouse be requested.

It was suggested that an application form is formulated for tenants wishing to site a structure on their plot.

- b. Quotes had been received for the erection of a part of the boundary fence. However, there was a suggestion that the original agreement many years ago with the farmer had included a clause that indicated the responsibility for maintenance fell with him. As the original agreement had not been recently reviewed the Council decided that it was not appropriate at this point to request the maintenance cost is covered by him. It was decided that the quotes received for this job be collated and presented at the next meeting for consideration and whether expenditure is allocated to next year’s budget.

**119. Communications Policy**

This item is deferred until the next meeting.

**120. Willaston in Bloom.**

A quote supplied by Crewe Road Nurseries had ben received for the winter bedding displays had been circulated.

RESOLVED: that Willaston Parish Council accept the quote for £792 from Crewe Road Nurseries.

**121. Approval of Payments**

RESOLVED: It was resolved that the accounts totalling £2893.20 as detailed in the attached schedule be approved for payment.

**122. To note the date of the next meeting**

24<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**It is recommended that Council considers items under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and representatives of the press from the meeting during the discussion of the next item (part 2 of the meeting) on the grounds that matters contain sensitive information and by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted.**

**RESOLVED: to exclude public and press from the meeting.**

**Chairman: ..... Date: .....**

<b>WILLASTON PARISH COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT</b>			
<b>26th September 2023</b>			
<b>Details of Payment</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Cheque No</b>
S Togay - Sept Salary		£715.15	103019
HMRC - Sept		£178.60	103020
U Storeall 13/9 - 12/10 inv32494470		£83.37	103021
WaterPlus - 15/8-14/9		£52.47	103022
Cllr CT Bailey- Parish Mobile		£9.99	103023
Cllr N Lane- paint for fingerpost		£40.37	103024
Mike Webster & Son - Inv 6248 31/8		£345.00	103025
Cllr CW Salisbury:			
stablepoint - web and email	£52.79		
Cable ties & pegs for goal nets	£8.46		
Lakeside Hire - heras fencing Inv 2133377	£33.00		
Lakeside Hire - heras fencing Inv 2134295	£33.00		
Lakeside Hire - heras fencing Inv 2134574	£33.00		
Lakeside Hire - heras fencing Inv 2134871	£33.00	£193.25	102026
Astbury Fabrication - Playing Field Gates 2nd payment		£1,275.00	102027
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,893.20</b>	

**Chairman .....** **Date .....**