

Willaston Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25th January 2022

Attendance:-

Councillors Emma Angier, Craig Bailey (Charman), Shirley Brazier, Anna Cutts, Nigel Lane, Nigel Keegan, Frank Morton, Wayne Salisbury, Colin Todd (Vice Chairman), Keith Ward.

In Attendance: -

Sue Togay (Temporary Clerk), 2 members of the public.

To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Rubina Greenwood and Julie Webb.
 Apologies were received from Cheshire East Ward Councillors Allen Gage, Margaret Simon. PC Clarke and PCSO Bowman.

151 Request to vary Order of Business of Agenda Item 18

The Chairman requested that the Order of Business be varied in order to consider Item 18 of the Agenda before any other business so that a temporary Clerk can be appointed in order to carry out the function of the Clerk/RFO and conduct the meeting in a proper manner.
 RESOLVED: Councillors fully approved the new order of business.

152 It is recommended that Council considers a resolution 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 on the grounds that matters contain sensitive information and by reason of the confidential nature of the business being transacted

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and members of the public

153 To receive declarations of Members' Interests

Councillor Craig Bailey in relation to Item 8 To consider the approval of payments.
 Councillor Frank Morton in relation to Item 14 regarding his association with St Mary's Church.

Consideration was given in relation to Item 15 as some Councillors were allotment holders. Councillors approved that these Councillors could formally take part in discussions.

154 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th November 2021

Councillor Anna Cutts requested that an amendment be added as the minutes did not reflect the full conversation at the time:

WPC/7/15 To consider matters related to setting the Parish Council's budget for the financial year 2022/2023

The 2021/22 budget and spending proposed 2022/23 budget figures prepared by the Clerk were discussed.

It was agreed that allotment rent should rise to £27 per annum with pro-rata increases for sub-divided plots to cover increased allotment expenditure.

A budget of £5,000 was agreed for the Willaston Platinum Jubilee celebrations as requested by The Jubilee Committee.

It was agreed that £5,000 from the play equipment reserve, £9,000 from general reserve and £1,000 from the consultancy reserve be used to cover part of the expenditure.

A newsletter will be produced in January 2022 to give residents more details of the budget and precept.

It was **resolved** to set the 2022/23 budget at £59,364 and the Parish Precept at £39,461.00

RESOLVED: That the amendments suggested were approved.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th November 2021 including the above amendment be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

155 Public Participation

Two residents in attendance had submitted questions to Council in relation to proposed increases to the allotment rents. The Chairman answered the questions posed, point by point. Discussions took place regarding exact details of any increases, additional benefits to plot holders, overgrown plots and their management, waiting lists and increased communication between the allotment holders and the Parish Council.

As Item 15 on the agenda was to re-debate the approved allotment section of the resolved 2022/2023 budget then these matters would all be included in the discussion in order to further clarify details and communicate them to allotment holders.

156 To receive a report regarding policing matters

Unfortunately, there was no Police presence and no report had been provided. The Police Cluster Meeting for the area had been cancelled. Councillors enquired whether there was any up-to-date information with regard to the incident of stones being thrown from the footbridge over the bypass.

157 To receive a report from Cheshire East Councillors covering Willaston Parish

Both Councillors Gage and Simon had sent their apologies but items for consideration had been provided as below:

Councillor Simon wished to highlight to Councillors the current consultation on Cheshire East's Speed Management Strategy which ends on 31st January 2022 which can be accessed via CEBC website.

Councillor Gage also wished to highlight the following:

- Speed Management Strategy Consultation
- Update on the proposed crossing point at the Peacock roundabout which had been accepted as part of a package of measures to improve waking etc across the Borough. This package of works will commence Summer 2022 and end 2024. An officer would soon be appointed when Councillor Gage would give an update on timeframe for work to be carried out.
- Councillor Gage had written to Cheshire Constabulary to request increase in speed cameras in the Ward.
- Update on meeting with ANSA to find solutions when bin collections were missed.

The Chairman will request an update on previous Parish issues brought to their attention:

- Councillor Gage - Nov 2020 -A speed control sign on the A51 by the Cheerbrook roundabout is obscured
- Councillor Simon -Feb 2021 -There were damaged verges by Richmond Village caused by contractor to be referred to Planning Officers
- Planning Application 19/489N - approved by Southern Planning Committee in November 2021 had S106 obligations for £80,000 to be spent on outdoor sports facilities. Several potential sites for this had been considered in Crewe, Haslington and Middlewich. Had the Redsands Playing Field been considered and assessed by officers as an alternative?

158 To receive a report from the Chairman of Willaston Parish Council

The Chairman gave a report as follows:

Carols on the Green, 16th December 2021 - this had been a very successful event with 250 in attendance. Refreshments were well received, and feedback was excellent. Thank you to Mrs West and Mr Sykes of Willaston Primary Academy for leading the singing and Councillor Salisbury for producing the song sheets and making other necessary arrangements.

Members recently heard the sad news that Julie Lewis had passed away aged 56. Julie was an active member of the Council's Fete Committee and Willaston in Bloom Committee for several years and made valuable contributions to both activities. A message of condolence has been sent to the family.

159 To consider the approval of payments

RESOLVED: That the accounts totalling £574.50 as detailed in the attached schedule be approved for payment.

160 To Consider the income and expenditure figures for the Council between 1st April 2021 to 31st December 2021.

Councillor Colin Todd had provided a Budget Review for consideration with accompanying notes.

RESOLVED: That the above Budget Review be approved.

161 To verify the bank reconciliation as of 31st December 2021

Councillor Colin Todd had provided a Bank Reconciliation as of 31st December 2021 which he verified.

162 To Consider matters relating to Willaston in Bloom and quotations received for summer displays

The Chairman gave a report on related issues including winter planting, volunteers and the quote received from Crewe Road Nurseries. A copy had been provided plus a breakdown of costs and suggestions on savings.

Discussions took place with regard to a review of the present offer of Willaston in Bloom as the quote was considered too high and savings needed to be made. Consideration was given to retiring or removal of planters and displays, priority areas, residents adopting a planter, and involvement of the school and allotment holders. North West in Bloom now look for sustainability and the Council could consider investment in herbaceous perennials for the future which could reduce annual bedding costs.

RESOLVED: That the Council do not accept the quote provided by Crewe Road Nurseries. The Chairman will review how we proceed and where further savings can be made as well as explore if further volunteers can assist. Once requirements were refined, the Chairman would liaise with Crewe Road Nurseries on a new quote for approval.

163 To receive an update from the Platinum Jubilee Committee

Councillor Anna Cutts gave a report on the Committee's progress to date. This included the creation of a Facebook page and email address. It was proposed there should be 4 events:

- Thursday - Firework or some form of beacon at 9.45 as part of the National Beacon Initiative
- Friday - Thanksgiving Service
- Saturday - Garden Party
- Sunday - Self Organised Street Parties.

At the meeting of the Council on Tuesday 30th November 2021 an amount of £5,000 had been allocated and approved within the budget for expenditure.

164 To receive an update regarding arrangements for the Civic Service

The Chairman had met with Revd Sarah Butcher to discuss arrangements for the service which will follow the format of previous years. The service to be held at 10:30am on Saturday 12th March. Invitations will be issued to relevant organisations and the WI, Academy, Scouts and History Group will be approached to discuss participation.

165 To consider Matters related to a request from St Mary's Church regarding a donation to churchyard upkeep.

The Chairman read out the request and had noted that in previous years the Parish had donated £250.

RESOLVED: That an amount of £250 be donated to St Mary's Church towards the upkeep of the graveyard.

166 To re-debate the approved allotment section of the resolved 2022/23 budget (WPC/7/15) for the Council to consider a new resolution to be made on this section of the budget. (A special resolution notice received from Councillors Bailey, Cutts and Todd)

It had been noted that there was insufficient information relating to figures on the 2022/2023 budget presented at the meeting of the Council on 30th November 2021 with regard to the Allotment Section of the budget. With this in mind a revised draft budget had been provided for consideration including notes. Further discussion took place with regard to plot rents, market value, comparative local allotment charges and increased benefits offered to allotment holders.

RESOLVED: The Council accept the revised budget for the allotments and allocated a budget of £1,770, reduced from £3,394. In addition, an item on allotments to be included on the agenda at the next meeting in order to review allotment rents, joining fees, tenancy agreements and improved communication with the Council.

**167 To re-debate the approved 2022/23 precept request resolved (WPC/7/15) for the Council to consider potential downward change to the precept request on the basis of either:
I) Where a new resolution has been made for the allotment section of the budget resulting in a beneficial monetary position for the Council
II) That surplus unallocated monies are available and can fund in part the resolved 2022/23 budget. (A special resolution notice received from Councillors Bailey, Cutts and Todd).**

To follow on from discussions on WPC/8/18 consideration was given as to whether the criteria had been met as above and in so doing review the amount of precept requested from Cheshire East Borough Council. As there was a beneficial monetary position due to the resolution in WPC/8/18 discussions took place further with regard to the original and revised allotment budgets, advised percentage holding of reserves and re-evaluation of precept figure requested.

RESOLVED: The Council have reviewed the precept requirement and will amend the amount requested from £39,461 to £32,683 with any shortfall to be met by reserves.

168 To consider meeting dates for the Council Year 2022/2023

Proposed dates were as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Tuesday 22 nd February 2022 | Tuesday 23 rd August |
| Tuesday 29 th March 2022 | Tuesday 17 th September 2022 |
| Tuesday 26 th April 2022 | Tuesday 25 th October 2022 |
| Tuesday 24 th May 2022 | Tuesday 29 th November 2022 |
| Tuesday 28 th June 2022 | |
| Tuesday 26 th July 2022 | |

Dates to be confirmed with the venue.

169 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 22nd February 2021

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

**WILLASTON PARISH COUNCIL
SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS
25 JANUARY 2022**

Details of Payment	£	£	Cheque No
H Marr – January net salary	342.33		102805
- Tax/NI on salary	<u>91.60</u>	433.93	102804
JD Services – removal of planter		45.00	102801
St John’s Church – room hire		40.00	102802
C T Bailey – clerk’s iphone contract	8.00		
- clerk’s iphone contract	8.00		
- engraving of allotment cup	13.00		
- frames for allotment awards	<u>11.00</u>	40.00	102806
N Keegan – sundry cleaning materials		15.57	102800
Total		574.50	

Chairman..... Date.....