



Issue 28

January 2022

# Willaston Newsletter



**Willaston Parish Council**

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This gives details of Willaston news, Parish Council minutes and other information affecting Willaston.

## Happy New Year!

The Parish Council would like to wish all residents a happy and healthy 2022.

## Remembrance Sunday

The village came together on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for the Willaston Act of Remembrance.

We were pleased to once again be able to hold a full service after our scaled back ceremony in 2020. The service was led by Revd Paul North & Revd Sarah Butcher.

Residents were joined by Cllr Sarah Pochin, Mayor of Cheshire East (and former Willaston Borough Councillor), other dignitaries and community organisations. We were honoured that this was the only other Remembrance Service in the Borough attended by The Mayor in addition to her own ward.

Willaston Scouts were in attendance and laid crosses for every person named on the War Memorial.

Thank you to all residents that joined us for this special and important event.

For anyone that couldn't attend, a video is available on the Council website.



## Carols on the Green



In December our popular "Carols on the Green" event took place on Mike Heywood Green.

It was great to see such a fantastic turnout of around 250 residents who joined us for this festive evening of carols and mulled wine! It was a fitting start to the village Christmas festivities.

Many thanks to Elaine West & Mark Sykes for their help in leading the singing!

## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Willaston Parish Council has formed a committee to plan celebrations in Willaston over this year's long bank holiday 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. In alignment with official celebrations, Willaston's current proposals include:

- Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> – Celebration Launch event
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> - Thanksgiving Service
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup> - Garden Party on afternoon/evening
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup> - self-organised Street Parties

We also plan to produce a Souvenir Programme to distribute to all residents with an opportunity for local businesses to provide sponsorship.

We are now setting up a Working Group to turn ideas into reality.

If you have ideas or would like to help out in any way or provide any sponsorship, please email [willastonjubileecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:willastonjubileecommittee@gmail.com) or see our facebook page [Willastonjubilee](https://www.facebook.com/Willastonjubilee) (please note Willaston on Wirral has a page with a similar name!)



## Willaston Book Box

The Book Box on Wistaston Road is a facility for the community which is maintained and upkept by the Parish Council.

All residents are welcome to take books and we are fortunate that the book box is always well stocked due to the donations made.

Please note that when the 'No Donations' sign is in place on the Book Box door no additional books should be left.

Although we always appreciate donations, we do now have surplus stock of several hundred books. When donations are welcome, please ensure that your donated books fit onto available space on the book box shelves.

## Planning

The Council is a consultee for planning applications submitted within the village.

The Neighbourhood Plan was introduced by referendum in December 2017 and is used by planning officers and inspectors to inform on planning decisions.

The Willaston Neighbourhood Plan is available on the Parish Council website.

## Willaston in Bloom

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help our Willaston in Bloom efforts around the village.

We are especially keen to hear from any resident who would be able to assist in watering planters.

For further information and to get involved, please see [www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk) or email/phone the Clerk.

# Willaston Parish Council Budget 2022/23

## What is Willaston Parish Council?

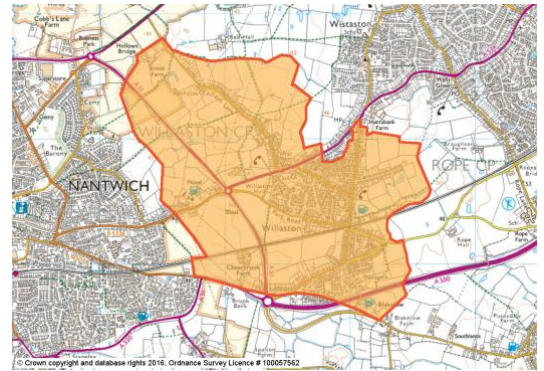
Willaston Parish Council is your local council which covers the village of Willaston and surrounding area as indicated on this map.

Willaston Parish Council is your first tier of local government and unlike the name suggests does not have any affiliation with any Church. Parish means 'area' and the powers and responsibilities of a Parish Council are the same to those of a Town Council.

Willaston Parish Council obtains its funding via a precept which is collected as part of Council Tax.

Willaston Parish Council is managed by 12 Parish Councillors. All Willaston Parish Councillors are Willaston residents who are un-paid volunteers elected every 4 years.

The Parish Council is advised by the Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer who ensures the legal requirements of the Council are met. The Clerk is a part-time post and is the only paid employee of the Parish Council.



## What does Willaston Parish Council provide?

### Amenities

The Parish Council owns the Lettie Spencer Playing Field, the Willaston Allotments and the War Memorial and is responsible for the upkeep of these. We are also responsible for looking after The Spinney area and the Book Box.

The War Memorial is the site of the Willaston Remembrance Service. Having cleaned and renovated the War Memorial in 2020, we plan to renovate the paving around the Memorial in 2022/23.

The Lettie Spencer Playing Field has received some upgrades in 2021 with new play equipment installed and the resurfacing of the drive, pathway and play area. In 2022 we plan to install new basketball boards and rings.

Although Mike Heywood Green is a key central location and site of our Christmas Lights and Carol Singing, it is currently owned by Cheshire East with a management agreement in place for Willaston Parish Council to maintain this space at the Parish Council's cost. In 2022/23 we would like to investigate the transfer of ownership to Willaston Parish Council so we can ensure it continues to remain a village asset in the future.

The Parish Council refurbishes the existing public benches and provides additional benches in the village. In 2022/23 we plan to provide one additional bench as well as replace the bench at the War Memorial.

The Parish Council received a Covid grant which we plan to spend in 2022/23 to provide new or to refurbish existing facilities. We are asking for suggestions from residents as to how this should be spent.



### Willaston in Bloom



The Parish Council provides the award winning floral displays throughout the Village. Many of the displays are maintained by our contractor and other work is carried out by volunteers. Due to the pandemic we have not utilised public volunteers but are eager to bring new volunteers on board this year.

In 2022/23 the council is committed to ensuring that landmark locations are planted and bring some colour and interest to the village, but unfortunately due to rising costs for planting, maintenance and watering, we will have to reduce some displays but hopefully we can assign them as community planters, looked after by those that live closeby.

### Events

The Parish Council arranges community events throughout the year including the regular Act of Remembrance, Carol Singing and Civic Service. In 2021, we also held a ceremony to dedicate Maurice's Maze, in memory of our late past-Chairman, Maurice Jones.

In 2022/23 we are planning a series of events to commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.



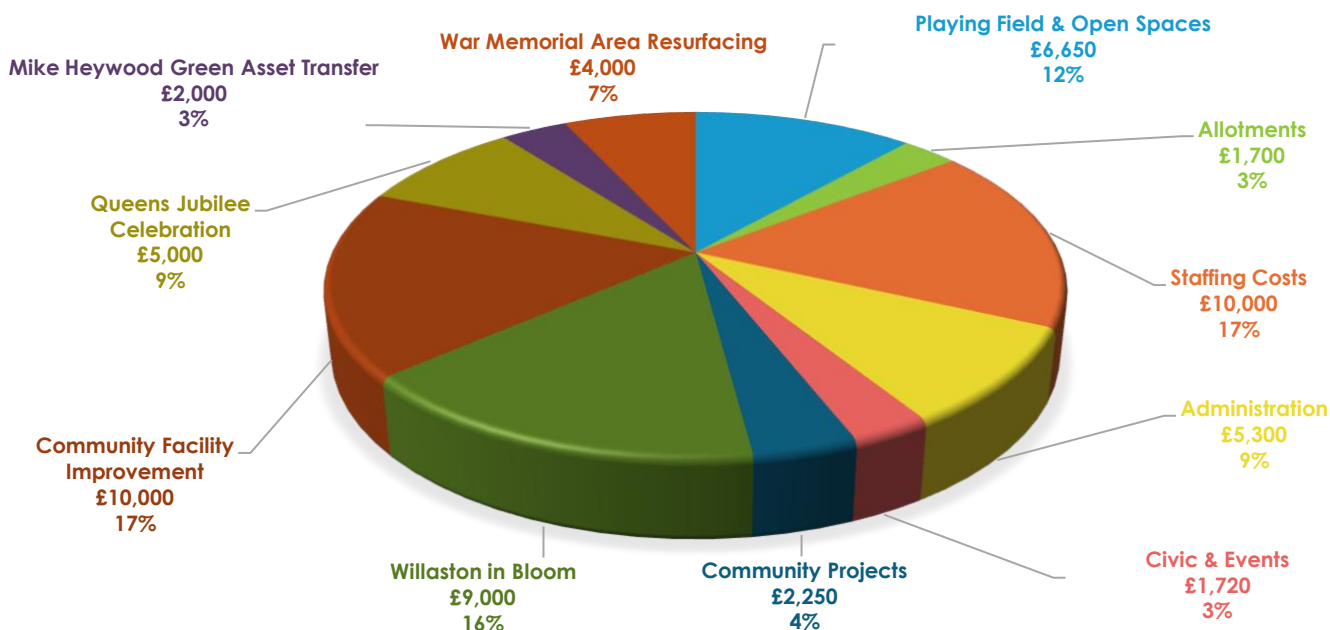
### Dog Fouling Campaign

Dog Fouling has always been of concern to residents. The Parish Council's Campaign in 2021 installed dog waste bag dispensers and posters, providing poo bags for "emergency" use so as to reduce any fouling. We have seen a reduction in this issue and we will continue this campaign in 2022/23.

# Investing in Willaston in 2022/23

In November 2021, with an amendment in January 2022, the Parish Council set and approved the budget for the Council year of 2022/23. This budget saw some increases which will allow the Council to carry out some necessary works, bring some further investment to the village, as well as deliver plans to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The total budget stands at £57,620. This budget will be covered by Precept (57%) Reserves (38%) Allotment income (3%) and Willaston in Bloom Sponsorship (2%)



Although the Precept has remained relatively unchanged for several years, in order to achieve the amenity enhancements and additional one-off activities, such as the Jubilee Celebrations planned in 2022/23, it is necessary to increase the total annual Precept from £25,208 to £32,703.

For a Band D property, this equates to a **yearly increase of £3.94** to a total Precept amount of **£20.97 annually**.

Despite this increase, the Council is pleased it is still a relatively low precept compared to neighbouring councils as shown in the table.

We are also fortunate that Councillors will be continuing with their voluntary contributions ranging from daily management of the playing field, repairs, and maintenance around the village to extensive planning application research. This contribution brings a direct saving to the Council and all residents.

Parish Council Precept (yearly per household)	Band D
<b>Willaston Parish Council 2022/23</b>	<b>£20.97</b>
<b>Neighbouring Parishes*</b>	
Nantwich Town Council	£174.79
Crewe Town Council	£82.55
Shavington Parish Council	£63.82
Wybunbury Parish Council	£42.57
Stapeley Parish Council	£19.16
Wistaston Parish Council	£19.62
Rope Parish Council	£7.51
<b>*2021/22 Precept Charges</b>	

## Community Facility Improvement

The Council received a Covid grant of £10,000 which we intend to spend improving a new or existing community facility.

We invite residents to share their thoughts on where they would like to see this investment made.

A survey is available to complete at [www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Parish Clerk Vacancy

Following the resignation of Hannah Marr, the Council has appointed Sue Togay as temporary proper officer, who will be carrying out the functions of the clerk. We will soon be looking to recruit a new Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. Details will be available on the Council website.

Sue Togay can be contacted via Tel: 07579 791981 or email: [clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Willaston Pre-school Registered Charity 1035488



Willaston Pre-school, a local charity on Wybunbury Road, offers an inspiring play-based curriculum to our children, who are welcome to join us from their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, developing independence, social and academic skills ready for whichever "big school" you eventually choose.

Just before Christmas, the children were amazing in our Nativity which brought tears to the eyes of the adults. This month, we are spending most of our time outside in our lovely grounds, developing self-confidence, learning to share, and covering all elements of the EYFS, whilst having lots of fun. Our provision is constantly evolving to meet the developing needs of our children and their families, and we have some exciting plans for the future which we will share shortly on our website at [www.willastonpreschool.org.uk](http://www.willastonpreschool.org.uk).



If you are interested in a place for your child, please contact us in good time on 07944 208909 or [willastonpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:willastonpreschool@gmail.com) to arrange a visit.

## 26th South West Cheshire Scout Group

The Willaston Scout Group has continued to deliver Scouting activities to its Beavers, Cubs and Scouts throughout the pandemic and despite the many challenges it has kept those young people active. Meetings have been held virtually over Zoom, outdoors at the Scout Hut and with Covid measure in place indoors.

The Group runs a programme of exciting and challenging activities and takes part in events put on by South West Cheshire District Scouts. During last year some of our Cubs and Scouts joined others from around the District to complete their Navigator badge, hiking around the area, and before Christmas both the Beavers and Cubs took part in the District Christmas events. For the Beavers this was an activity day at the District camp site while for the Cubs it was a party at the Lifestyle Centre in Crewe.

We have a wonderful team of adult volunteers and are keen to recruit new Leaders, particularly in our Cub section, so we can continue to deliver the Skills for Life that are so important to our young people.

If you would like more information about the group and would like to either put your child's name down on the waiting list or become an adult volunteer please visit the group website: [www.willastonscouts.org.uk/join](http://www.willastonscouts.org.uk/join).

## Reporting Issues to Cheshire East

Cheshire East now have a new website for reporting issues within the village, for example new potholes, faulty street lighting etc. This has made it much simpler as you can now go directly to the page to report issues.

The website address is: [fixmystreet.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.cheshireeast.gov.uk)

## Can you help deliver this Newsletter?

This Newsletter is delivered by volunteer residents. The village has been split into delivery rounds, which each take less than 1 hour. If you can help deliver, please email [clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

## Parish Council

The Parish Council is your local council and the first tier of local government.

The Council meets monthly at St. Luke's Church Hall, Coppice Road. Meetings start at 7.15pm.

**All Willaston residents are welcome to attend and will have an opportunity to ask questions or make a statement during the Open Forum.**

**2022 Full Council Meeting Dates:**  
22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug, 27<sup>th</sup> Sep, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov  
No meeting in December.

Additional Council Committee meeting dates are published in advance.

Council documents, meeting agendas and minutes, and further information is available on the Council website

[www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

If you wish to get in touch with the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk via

[clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)

Or contact one of the Councillors below:

### COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS

Craig Bailey - Chairman	07510 888952
Colin Todd - Vice Chairman	01270 569241
Emma Angier	01270 668455
Shirley Brazier	01270 569963
Anna Cutts	07771 503228
Rubina Greenwood	07974 225219
Nigel Keegan	07715 043024
Nigel Lane	01270 666675
Frank Morton	01270 661816
Wayne Salisbury	07549 158379
Keith Ward	01270 665659
Julie Webb	07985 131418

Councillor email addresses are available on the website

### CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS:

Willaston & Rope - Allen Gage  
[allen.gage@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:allen.gage@cheshireeast.gov.uk)  
01270 686474

North Willaston & Wistaston - Margaret Simon  
[Margaret.Simon@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Margaret.Simon@cheshireeast.gov.uk)  
01270 651582

This Newsletter has been produced by Willaston Parish Council.

Contact details: [clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@willastonparishcouncil.org.uk)