



# Willaston Parish Council.

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## Minutes

of the meeting of the Council held at  
Saint Lukes Church, Coppice Rd, Willaston. CW5 6QA  
on  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2026 at 7:00 PM**

**Present:** Cllrs. Salisbury (Chair), Jones, Bailey, Morris, Cutts, Newton and Gough

**In Attendance:** C Coventry - Clerk to the Council  
3 Members of the Public

### 1. Election of Chair:

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Wayne Salisbury be elected Chairman of Willaston Parish Council for the municipal year 2026-27.

### 2. Election of a Vice Chair:

The Chair expressed his thanks to Cllr Cutts for her service as Vice Chair. Cllr Angier had submitted a request to be proposed in advance and members noted her significant contribution to Council activities.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Emma Angier be elected Vice Chairman of Willaston Parish Council for the municipal year 2026-27.

### 3. Apologies:

Cllr. Kirby, Cllr. Angier. Cllr. Barrow  
Leave of absence was granted for Cllr. Brazier

### 4. Declarations of interest:

- a. There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.
- b. Councillor Bailey declared an interest in item 8 as a member of the Methodist Church.
- c. No dispensations were requested or granted.

### 5. Committees

#### a. Staffing Committee (4 Seats)

**RESOLVED:** that the membership of the Staffing Committee for 2026-27 be: Cllr Salisbury, Cllr Angier, Cllr Jones, and Cllr Newton (alternate member).

#### b. Willaston Events Committee (4 seats)

**RESOLVED:** that the membership of the Willaston Events Committee for 2026-27 be: Cllr Salisbury, Cllr Angier, Cllr Newton, and Cllr Barrow.

**c. Village Hall Advisory Committee (7 seats)**

The Chair reported that the Methodist circuit had resolved to retain St John's Church as a community space, with the pre-school as anchor tenant and the hall remaining available for hire. The committee had been formed to secure village hall provision in the village; that purpose had been met without council intervention. Members agreed there is no current need to re-establish it.

**RESOLVED:** not to establish the Village Hall Advisory Committee for 2026-27.

**6. Officers of the Council**

**a. Playing Field (4 members)**

Cllr Bailey provided background on the council's by-laws and the legal authority they confer on appointed officers when performing duties such as opening or closing the playing field. Four officers currently open the field on five weekday mornings, the security contractor opens on weekends and closes daily.

**RESOLVED:** that the officers of the council for the playing field for 2026-27 be: Cllr Salisbury, Cllr Angier, Cllr Bailey, and Cllr Newton.

**b. Allotments (1 member)**

Members acknowledged Cllr Angier's sustained contribution to the allotments throughout the year. Cllr Angier confirmed willingness to continue via email in advance of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Angier be appointed as Allotments Officer for 2026-27.

**c. Terms of Reference for Allotment Officer Delegation**

The Chair noted that the terms of reference had been prepared in consultation with Cllr Angier and reflected the work already being undertaken. Cllr Cutts drew members' attention to the provision that the officer has no authority to make binding decisions on behalf of the council unless expressly delegated.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Terms of Reference for the Allotment Officer delegation.

**7. Police Liaison Representatives (2 members)**

The Chair noted that revised Terms of Reference for the Police liaison role had been adopted at the April 2026 meeting and provide for appointment at the annual meeting. Members were reminded that those appointed must operate in full accordance with the revised terms of reference, the email communication acceptable use policy adopted at the April meeting, and the council's standing orders and code of conduct.

**First appointment.**

Cllr Morris confirmed her willingness to continue in the role.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Morris be appointed as Police Liaison Representative for 2026-27.

**Second appointment.**

Cllr Bailey addressed members regarding the concerns arising from the preceding period, involving Cllr Kirby, including: two separate breaches of Standing Order 33(b), the external circulation of internal council correspondence to a third party, failures to keep the co-liaison informed of meetings arranged with the police, failures to keep the Clerk informed of relevant matters. Cllr Bailey noted that Cllr Kirby's recent email seeking

reappointment made no reference to the concerns raised at the March and April meetings or to any intention to address them.

Cllr Gough volunteered for the position.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Gough be appointed as Police Liaison Representative for 2026-27.

#### 8. St. John's Management Group

The council provides two representatives to the St John's Church Management Group.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Angier and Cllr Bailey be appointed as the council's representatives on the St John's Church Management Group for 2026-27.

#### 9. Wybunbury United Charities

##### a. Annual Report

Cllr Bailey presented the annual report of the Township Administrating Trustees. Mentioning the sudden passing of Cllr Frank who had served as an estates trustee for many years.

Grants totalling £600 were awarded during the year, all applications received were successful. Approximately one third of grants went to female victims of domestic violence. Nantwich Food Bank and Looking After the Homeless were made aware of available support, no applications from either have been received to date.

Income for the year: £281.06. Grants awarded: £600. Current balance: £2,314.75.

The AGM was held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026, attended by Mr Keith Ward. The payment for the township of Willaston was confirmed; the exact amount was not yet to hand.

The Nantwich branch of the charity's bank closed during the year; paper statements are due at six-monthly intervals, with the next expected in June.

Administrating trustees: Cllr Bailey and Mr Keith Ward. Estates trustee vacancy following the passing of Cllr Morton.

##### b. Appointment of Trustee

The appointee must reside within the historic township of Willaston. Cllr Bailey noted the appointment is for life unless the appointee resigns. Cllr Angier had expressed interest prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Angier be appointed as estates trustee of the Wybunbury United Charities and the Sarah Jane Wood Charity.

#### 10. SUPPORT SERVICES

##### a. Internal Audit – JDH Business Services

The Clerk confirmed satisfactory experience of JDH Business Services. The internal audit for 2025-26 had recently been submitted and returned without queries.

**RESOLVED:** to continue the appointment with JDH Business Services for internal audit services.

##### b. Payroll Services – Shires Accountants

The Clerk confirmed satisfactory experience of Shires Accountants for payroll services.

**RESOLVED:** to continue the appointment of Shires Accountants for payroll services.

## 11. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 are a true and correct record.

**Matters arising:** Cllr Bailey noted that the inaugural board of directors meeting of the new Combined Authority for Cheshire and Warrington is scheduled for the first week of July 2026. One member place has been confirmed. A member is awaiting formal notification of arrangements.

## 12. Police

### a. Report from Police Representatives

No police representative was present. The Clerk reported that following the April meeting she had written to the Nantwich Sergeant to outline the revised police liaison arrangements. A reply had been received confirming that the area is transitioning back to the Crewe Local Policing Unit. New contacts have been identified as PC Causton and PCSO Barrington.

### b. Report from Council Police Liaison

Cllr Morris reported one matter arising since the previous meeting: a resident enquiry regarding parking near the bowling club. The enquiry was forwarded to the outgoing sergeant's team and an entry has been made in the action log.

## 13. Public Participation

Three members of the public attended and representations were made relating to planning application 26/1149/FUL (land to the north-west of Crewe Road, Wistaston). The following concerns were raised:

- Conflict with the strategic green gap and risk of coalescence between settlements.
- Highway safety: a fatality on Crewe Road in 2025 is not reflected in the submitted travel plan; the access arrangement at Crewe Road/Wistaston Road raises significant concerns; cycle provision between Crewe and Nantwich is inadequate.
- Cumulative development impact, including proposed developments off Joey the Swan and Rope Lane
- Environmental concerns: bats, badgers, and barn owls are present on site; a badger survey report referenced in the application could not be located on the planning portal; the environmental assessment appears to be desk-based only and conducted over an insufficient timescale.
- Drainage and flooding: surface water from Crewe Road flows through the site; the fields already flood; implications for the Weaver catchment, which experiences regular flooding, have not been adequately assessed.
- Agricultural land: the site is Grade 2 agricultural land and is actively farmed.
- Lack of adequate public consultation: the application was submitted on 26 March 2026; notification letters were reportedly sent on 27 April and only two households are understood to have received them. The consultation deadline has since been extended.
- The 2025 EIA consultation process was widely misunderstood: many residents believed they were objecting to the development itself, producing a misleading outcome.
- A historical foot and mouth burial is believed to have occurred on the site, though formal records are difficult to locate.
- Local infrastructure is already overstretched.

Cllr Bailey advised attendees that all representations carry most weight when grounded in specific planning policy, including the Wistaston Neighbourhood Plan and the Cheshire East Local Development Plan.

The Chair noted that members of the public may attend and address the Cheshire East Strategic Planning Committee directly, should the application proceed to that stage.

#### 14. Borough Councillor's reports

The Clerk conveyed a written report and apologies from Cllr Coiley. Cllr Coiley confirmed awareness of residents' concerns regarding application 26/1149/FUL, and that he and Cllr Simon have been working on this.

Cllr Bailey wished it to be recorded noted that Cllr Coiley had now missed 23 consecutive meetings of the council, Cllr Gage 25, and Cllr Simon 29.

#### 15. Planning Applications

##### a. Planning applications to be considered.

##### **26/1149/FUL – Land to the Northwest of Crewe Road, Wistaston**

Proposal: full planning permission for residential development and associated access and infrastructure works, including roads, drainage, car parking, public open space, and landscaping. Deadline for comments: 18 May 2026, extended by Cheshire East to 1 June 2026.

**RESOLVED:** to OBJECT to planning application 26/1149/FUL on the grounds set out below.

**Named vote:** Cllr Craig Bailey – For. Cllr Anna Cutts – For. Cllr Chris Gough – For. Cllr Matthew Jones – For. Cllr Lis Morris – For. Cllr Simon Newton – For. Cllr Wayne Salisbury – For.

Cllr Bailey had prepared grounds of objection and Cllr Cutts raised issues regarding the traffic information provided in the planning application.

##### ***Willaston Parish Council Object to the application on the following grounds.***

*The proposed development under application 26/1149/FUL should be resisted due to its clear encroachment into open countryside and the misleading characterisation of the site and its surroundings within the submitted documentation.*

##### ***Protection of Areas of Open Space (GS2 Wistaston NDP)***

*The applicant's Planning Statement by Statplan Planning and Development (section 2.1) states that the site is bounded by undeveloped land to the north and west, and allotments to the east. This is materially misleading. The applicant's own Landscape and Visual Appraisal by FPCR Environment and Design (section 4.15) confirms that the Huntsbank allotments are separated from the site by an agricultural field. Furthermore, Policy GS2 of the Wistaston Neighbourhood Plan makes clear that the land to the west and south of the allotments is agricultural land, not allotments. The reality is that the site is surrounded on three of its four sides by agricultural land, reinforcing its strong open countryside character and clear separation from the settlement boundary.*

*This misrepresentation significantly understates the degree to which the site is physically and visually detached from the settlement. It cannot reasonably be described as "a sustainable location for additional housing development, particularly where growth can be delivered as a logical extension to the existing settlement edge (Section 2.2 of the applicant's Planning Statement)" but rather constitutes an incursion into open countryside. This concern is compounded by section 2.2 of the applicant's Planning Statement, which asserts that the site forms part of Crewe. This is incorrect. The site lies within Wistaston, Nantwich (CW5), not Crewe (CW2), and this is evident in its local governance, postcode, geographical*

position, and established identity. The attempt to associate the site with Crewe appears to be a deliberate effort to frame the development as part of a larger urban area, thereby downplaying its true countryside context.

#### **Wistaston Settlement Boundary (H4 Wistaston NDP), Green Gap (Policy GG1) and Cheshire East Local Plan, Open Countryside (Policy PG6)**

Policy H4 of the Wistaston Neighbourhood Plan is explicit that land outside the defined settlement boundary is to be treated as open countryside, where new housing is strictly controlled. The application site lies outside the Wistaston settlement boundary and is therefore contrary to this policy. Moreover, Policy GG1 (Green Gap) seeks to prevent coalescence between settlements and to maintain openness. The proposal, extending development into land that is surrounded on three sides by countryside, would erode this openness and undermine the strategic separation between built-up areas. The proposed development is also contrary to policy PG 6 Open Countryside of the Cheshire East Local Plan for the same reason.

#### **Sustainability Para 8 and 174 National Planning Policy Framework**

In addition, the proposal fails to meet the central test of sustainability set out in paragraphs 8 and 174 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Sustainable development requires the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental objectives, as well as directing growth to appropriate and sustainable locations. In this case, the proposed development would constitute an unsustainable pattern of growth, extending built form into an area that is clearly characterised by open countryside and not representing a logical or well-related extension to the existing settlement boundary.

By encroaching into the Green Gap and conflicting with the policies of the up-to-date Wistaston Neighbourhood Plan, including Policy GG1, the proposal would undermine the environmental role of sustainable development by eroding openness and contributing to the coalescence of settlements. Furthermore, its location outside the defined settlement boundary, surrounded on three sides by countryside, demonstrates that it is not a sustainable or appropriate site for development.

As such, the proposal does not represent sustainable development and should not benefit from the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Overall, it conflicts with the spatial strategy of the Neighbourhood Plan and would result in an unjustified expansion into open countryside, eroding the rural edge of Wistaston and setting a harmful precedent for further incremental encroachment into the surrounding agricultural landscape.

#### **Comments on Transport Assessment**

The Transport Assessment undertaken in support of the application contains material errors and draws conclusions which are not supported by the data provided.

The comments below reference sections in "086957 Land off Crewe Road, Wistaston Transport Assessment" undertaken by Cutrins, included in the formal planning application.

2.4.2

Factual error: There are **no** speed cameras in the vicinity of the site.

2.4.4

The traffic data was gathered **more than three years ago** and therefore likely understates current levels by 5%. It does not correctly reflect the actual volume at the present time, which has greatly increased due to:

the "return to normal" which took some time post covid and had not occurred by Feb 2023  
The figures quoted show that the peak average southbound speed was **above** the speed limit whilst the average northbound speed was only 0.3 mph below the speed limit.

The figures indicated that **15% of southbound traffic exceeded the speed limit by at least 20%** whilst at least **15% of northbound traffic exceeded the posted speed limit by at least 15%**.

Multiple vehicles were noted travelling at over 50 mph on each day during the survey period.

Based on the observed data, an average of 1,194 vehicles travelled past the site entrance in the peak morning hour. This represents 20 vehicles / minute or one every three seconds.

Peak flows were 15% above this level.

The presence of curves in the road means that visibility for exiting traffic, especially to the left, is restricted. Additionally, there are no natural breaks in traffic flow caused by nearby traffic lights etc. Under these circumstances it is inevitable that vehicles exiting the site will have difficulty, especially in turning right. With, according to the report, 69 vehicles / hour seeking to exit the site it is highly likely that some drivers will feel pressured to turn onto the A 534 with less than adequate spacing, inevitably increasing the risk of collisions.

#### 2.5.2

Factual error: A fatal road traffic accident occurred in September 2025 on the A534 approximately 200m from the proposed site entrance. 2.5.2 Incorrectly states there have been no fatal collisions on Crewe Road.

#### 3.2.1

Who will be legally responsible for and fund the proposed junction re-alignment? And on what timescale?

The proposed junction re-alignment, even if it were to take place, would not materially improve visibility.

#### 5.2.2

This is a questionable assertion, ignoring the localised impact of at least 250 additional vehicles exiting / entering the site daily.

#### 5.4.1

The developer's own modelling suggests that 85% of peak-time departures from the site will occur in vehicles. (121 of 142 people).

#### 6.8.1

The report's summary focuses on maximum junction capacities whereas the real risk and major failing in the planning proposal centers on the newly created risks associated with significant additional vehicle activity at the site entrance.

#### 7.2.7

This is a questionable conclusion. Even using the Developer's own figures, traffic typically exceeds the speed limit on the A 534 at the site entrance.

#### 7.4.1 / 2 / 3

With the Developer's own traffic flow analysis suggesting that 85% of peak-time departures will be by motorised vehicles, the proposal is absolutely failing to "manage car use" and "reduce the need to travel". It is therefore very clearly **NOT** in line with national and local transport policies and guidance.

#### 7.5.1

The fact that the site is accessible by active and sustainable modes of travel completely overlooks the reality that, even using the Developer's own analysis, only 15% of residents will actually use such means during peak hours (which is also the time at which the risk of road accidents will be at their peak).

#### 8.1.2

8.1.2 states that a realignment of the existing Wistaston Road/Crewe Road junction will improve visibility to the left. This is incorrect as the sight line will not be improved by

*amending the orientation of the junction island, in fact this will make the turn into Wistaston Road from the Nantwich direction even more difficult.*

*Given the serial failure of developers to fulfil promised road improvement and safety enhancement works in the vicinity of residential developments, what assurances do local residents have that the "proposed" highway improvements works will be undertaken on a timely basis or, indeed, at all?*

*The proposal suggests that traffic can be reduced by use of cycles and walking. This suggestion is flawed as follows:*

*The cycle path on Crewe Road is only a white line painted on the highway. In many places this is barely visible.*

*Vehicles often park on the cycle lane, especially close to the proposed development, making it necessary for the cycles to swerve into the main carriageway or use the pavement.*

*From the entrance of the proposed development, it is a:*

*2.0 mile / 44 minute walk into Nantwich Town Square (source Google maps)*

*2.7 mile / 57 minute walk into Crewe Town Square (source Google maps).*

*It is unlikely that the majority of residents of the proposed site will undertake to walk these distances often. Therefore, the likelihood is there will be between 200-300 cars entering and exiting the site which is already in a congested area of Crewe Road due to traffic entering/exiting: Wistaston Road, Church Road, Huntsbank Nursery, Huntsbank business - Co-op, Snap Fitness, Garage and other businesses.*

### **Other Areas of Concern**

*Local schools are already oversubscribed.*

*Local doctors and dentists are oversubscribed.*

*Flooding issues. There are already issues with drainage on Crewe Road and the area forms part of the Weaver catchment.*

*Lack of a full Environmental Study - many residents have stated that in the badly worded consultation, they thought they were objecting to the proposal rather than the needed for an EIA. The lack of an EIA endangers local wildlife.*

*The site may contain a 1967 Foot and Mouth burial site, development of which is regulated.*

## **16. Playing Field and Open Spaces**

### **Lettie Spencer Playing Field**

The Clerk had received a resident enquiry about the playing field opening earlier than 7.30am. Members confirmed that reasonable flexibility is acceptable and does not give rise to concern.

Cllr Bailey noted that the planter and a bollard adjacent to the entrance gates appeared to have been moved. Members agreed the situation should be monitored to determine whether any access changes are being made.

### **War Memorial**

Members noted that the weeds at the war memorial had recently been cleared. It was agreed that the planned herbicide spraying should proceed, as weeds will return.

### **The Spinney / Mike Heywood Green**

No matters arising.

## **17. Clerks Report**

The clerk circulated a report prior to the meeting of work undertaken.

The Chair expressed his appreciation for the work the Clerk had undertaken on the internal audit, noting it had been returned without queries.

#### **18. Authorisation of Payments**

**RESOLVED:** The schedule of payments for May correctly states the invoices presented and that £3642.58 is approved to be paid (as detailed on 5082)

#### **19. Insurance Renewal**

The council's three-year term with Zurich Municipal has now concluded. The Chair presented a one-year renewal quotation of £1,186.82. A full market test had not been possible in the current year given the demands on the Clerk's time during the audit period. The three-year option was not recommended as it would limit flexibility. Members agreed that a market test should be conducted in 2026-27.

**RESOLVED:** to accept the one-year renewal of the council's insurance policy with Zurich Municipal at £1,186.82.

#### **20. Bank Reconciliation Q4**

**RESOLVED:** to verify and accept Q4 bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. (Page 5083)

#### **21. Budget Review**

The Q4 budget review for 2025-26 was considered. An underspend of £7,850.63 was noted.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Q4 budget review for 2025-26. (Page 5084)

#### **22. Budget Position 2025-26**

The full-year budget position for 2025-26 was presented. Cash in hand on 31 March 2026: £40,262.93 No appropriation from reserves is budgeted for 2026-27.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the budget position for 2025-26. (Page 5085)

#### **23. Annual Approved Payments List**

The Annual Approved Payments List for 2026-27 was presented. (page 5086)

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Annual Approved Payments List for 2026-27.

#### **24. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

**The Meeting closed at 9.15pm**

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
Chairman, Willaston Parish Council

## Willaston Parish Council

## Schedule of Payments

12th May 2026

	Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe	Rebursal
1		Alpha Omega Security	Security Lock At Playing Field (1.4.2026-30.4.2026)	648.00		LGA 1972 S111		
2		Zurich	Insurance 1.6.2026-31.5.2027	1186.82		LGA 1972 S111		
3		GiffGaff	CCTV Data Bill - May 2026	15.00		Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S17		Claire Coventry
4		Mike Webster & Son Ltd	Grass Cutting - All Sites - March	110.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 S10		
5		Mike Webster & Son Ltd	Grass Cutting - Allotments - April	430.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 S10		
6		Holdfast Secure LTD	Padlock and Keys	171.16		Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908		
7		Camtek Cheshire Ltd	CCTV Service	372.00		Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S17		
8		Unity Trust	Bank Service charge (April 26)	7.00		LGA 1972 S111		
9		Shires Accountants	Payroll Services 6.4.26-6.4.27	226.20		LGA 1972 S111		
10		JDH Business Services Ltd	Audit Fees 25/26	476.40				
		<b>Total</b>		<b>3642.58</b>				

Prepared by: C. P. Kelly  
 Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Date: 16/4/26

Approved by: C. P. Kelly  
 Name and Role (RFO/Chief of Finance etc)

Date: 16.4.26

<b>Bank Reconciliation at 31/03/2026</b>			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		24,555.95
	<b>ADD</b> Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026		76,912.24
			101,468.19
	<b>SUBTRACT</b> Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026		61,205.26
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 31/03/2026</b> (per Cash Book)		<b>40,262.93</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/12/2025	0.00	
	Unity Trust - Instant Access 31/03/2026	36,473.78	
	Unity Trust - Current T1 31/03/2026	5,278.14	
	Business Savings Account - Busin 31/12/2025	0.00	
	Business Current Account - Comm 31/12/2025	0.00	
			<b>41,751.92</b>
	Less unrepresented payments		1,488.99
			40,262.93
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>		<b>40,262.93</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		

## Willaston Parish Council Budget Review Summary, End of Q4 - 2025 to 2026

### Income

- Precept: £56,572.00 received in full.
- Allotments income: £1,821.80 against a £2,000 budget (slightly under). Field Rent £284.00 (£350 budgeted)
- CIL income: £1,609.67 received (not originally budgeted).
- Key deposits: £595.00 received.
- Bank interest: £474.12 (above the £350 forecast).

### Expenditure

- Administration: £6791.14 spent of £6,870 budget (1% underspend). Major payments include insurance (£994.23), audit fees (£663.00), subscriptions, including Scribe (£1683.06) and room hire (£465.00). Miscellaneous costs of £2049.50 included the Locum Clerks fee and legal fees. (92.4% overspend)
- Allotments: £3676.59 spent of £4,590 budget (19% underspend). Spend covers general maintenance (£1568.63), grass cutting (£617.67), water rates (£226.49), clearance (£755.00) and Scribe software (£432.00).
- CCTV: £150.00 spent (data plan only). Annual ICO registration was £52.00 (£40 budget) The annual service will take place in 26/27 (58% underspend)
- Civic: £1439.62 spent of £1,575 budget (Remembrance and civic expenses, 8% underspend).
- Community Projects: £1092.82 spent (budget £4,800) 77% underspend.
- Events Committee: £132.16 spent of £2,800 budget. (spend £460.53, however an uncashed cheque from a previous year has been included)
- Playing Field and Open Spaces: £21,547.26 spent of £14,250 budget (51% overspend). Expenditure includes security (£7037.50), grass cutting (£1122.31), inspection (£265.00) and playground repairs (£11316.60), which had an original budget of £2500.00 (+352%)
- Salary Costs: £10225.69 spent of £14,574 budget (40%). Clerk's salary (£7596.94) and tax/NI (£2251.75).
- Willaston in Bloom: £8900.50 spent of £10,700 budget (16% under spend)
- Total expenditure: £54,007.75 (ex VAT) (approx. 13% underspend, despite the playground repair costs.
- Total income: £61,958.59 including precept, CIL receipts and Willaston In Bloom Sponsorship
- Overall: The council remains in a healthy financial position with £7,850.63 being carried forward.



## 2025-26 Year Budget Position

<b>Actual Cash in Hand – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025</b>	<b>£24,555.95</b>	
<b>Budget set for 2025 - 26 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026)</b>		
Payments	£60,749.00	
Receipts	£60,749.00	
<b>Budgeted appropriation from reserves</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Full Year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026)</b>		
Payments	£54,007.78	Excluding VAT
Receipts	£61,958.41	Excluding VAT
Payments	£61,205.26	Including VAT
Receipts	£76,912.24	Including VAT
<b>Actual appropriation from reserves</b>	<b>£15,706.98 (Addition to Reserves)</b>	
<b>Actual Cash in Hand – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026</b>	<b>£40,262.93 (Total)</b>	
<b>Budget set for 2026 - 27 (1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027)</b>		
Payments	£67,435.00	
Receipts	£67,435.00	
<b>Budgeted appropriation from reserves</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	
<b>Forecast Cash in Hand – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027</b>	<b>£40,262.93 (Total)</b>	

Willaston Parish Council - Approved Annual Payments List 2026-27				
Supplier	Frequency	Payee	2026-27 Approved Amount	Avg 2025-26 Actual
Clerk's Salary	Monthly	Claire Coventry	Variable up to £750	706.88/ month
PAYE/NI	Monthly	HMRC	Variable up to £300	220.29/month
Payroll Processing	Annual	Shires Accountants	Variable up to £250	£232.20/payment (one payment visible 2025-26)
ICO Registration	Annual DD	Information Commissioner's Office	Variable up to £60	£52.00
Membership	Annual	ChALC	Variable up to £1,250	£1,152.06
Membership	Annual	Cheshire Community Action	Variable up to £60	£50.00
Membership	Annual	The National Allotment Society	Variable up to £90	£84.00
Clerks Expenses	Quarterly	Claire Coventry	£78.00 per quarter	£78.00/quarter
Chairman's Allowance	Annual	Chair	Variable up to £100	£70.00
Audit Fee	Annual	JDH Business Services Ltd	Variable up to £450	£417.60
Audit Fee	Annual	PKF Littlejohn	Variable up to £400	£378.00
Insurance	Annual	Zurich Municipal	Variable up to £1,100	£994.23
Accounts Software	Annual	Scribe	Variable up to £550	£489.60
Allotments Software	Annual	Scribe	Variable up to £600	£518.40
Website & Domain Hosting	Annual	Stablepoint Limited	Variable up to £100	£86.10
Microsoft 365	Annual	Microsoft	Variable up to £120	£104.99
CCTV Data Plan	Monthly DD	GiffGaff	£15.00 per month	£15.00/month
Bank Service Charge	Monthly	Unity Trust Bank	Variable up to £8	£6.00/month
Water Rates	Monthly DD	WaterPlus	Variable up to £70	£56.62/month
Playing Field Security	Monthly	Alpha Omega Securities	Variable up to £1,340	703.00/month
Grass Cutting	Monthly (seasonal)	Mike Webster & Sons	Variable up to £620	410.00/ month seasonal average
Playground Inspection	Annual	Playsafety Limited	Variable up to £350	£318.00
Meeting Room Hire	As required	Various venues	Variable up to £500 per annum	£315.00 annual
Storage Unit	Twice yearly	U Storeall	Variable up to £600 per payment	£549.00/payment
Member & Employee Training	As required	ChALC / SLCC	Variable up to £300 per annum	£136 annual total