



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 28th July 2026 at 7:00 PM

Present: Cllrs. Salisbury (Chair), Cutts, Bailey, Angier, Gough, Jones

In Attendance: C Coventry - Clerk to the Council

1. Apologies:

Cllrs Barrow, Newton, Morris. Leave of absence was granted for Cllr. Brazier

2. Declarations of interest:

- a. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. Cllr Bailey declared an interest that he was a payee on the schedule of payments (item 11).
- b. None.
- c. No dispensations were requested or granted.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th June, 2026 were considered, and amendments agreed to Item 6. Para 2, Standing Order should be 29(b) and the correction in spelling from "Alan" to "Allen" Item 9a. To correct the spelling of Lettice, to Lettie.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2026 are a true and correct record subject to the above amendments.

4. Police

a. Report from Police Representatives

No police representative was present.

b. Report from Council Police Liaison

Cllr Gough gave a report as Police Liaison, updating the council on the current concerns within the village.

New antisocial behaviour powers are due to take effect from 26 October 2026, including additional local officers and increased powers in respect of vehicle confiscation, fines, bans and imprisonment. The Cheshire Police website beat data page had not been updated since the end of May 2026 and so no further data was available at the time of the meeting.

Cllr Bailey wished it recorded that police liaison activity had noticeably improved in the past two months, and thanked Cllr Gough and Cllr Morris for the work they had put in.

The clerk is to provide contact details to Cllr Gough for Rope and Wistaston to arrange cluster meetings.

5. Public Participation

No members of the public were present.

6. Borough Councillor's reports

No reports had been received from Cheshire East councillors.

Cllr Bailey wished it to be recorded that Cllr Coiley had now missed 25 consecutive meetings of the council, Cllr Gage 27, and Cllr Simon 31.

7. Planning Applications

- a. There were no planning applications to be considered or noted at the meeting.

8. Playing Field and Open Spaces

a. Lettie Spencer Playing Field: members returned to the ongoing question of sheltered seating in view of the current hot weather. Suggestions were made to the type of seating and the location as to minimise the effect on neighbouring properties. It was agreed that the item, along with a decision regarding the old seating, will be brought back to a future meeting on the basis that a member sponsors the project and brings quotes and location options for consideration. Cllr Jones raised the idea of a pump track as a possible future project. This to be considered further as part of future budget setting.

The Spinney: no matters raised at this item.

Mike Heywood Green: This location was discounted as a site for the old seating with a concern for damage to tree roots. Over hanging branches from the tree are causing problems with a neighbouring property and the Clerk is to obtain quotes and progress under delegation, with contractors to be drawn from the Cheshire East approved contractor list where required.

War Memorial: no matters were raised.

b. Request for a "no littering" sign at Lettie Spencer Playing Field

Members considered the request. On the basis that signage of this type had not proved effective in the past and that those who litter are unlikely to be influenced by signage, no action was taken.

9. Playground Inspection Report

The Council received the annual playground inspection report completed in May 2026. Matters requiring prompt attention will be dealt with by Cllr. Gough who will inspect the toddler multiplay and the Clerk who will obtain quotations for repair to the playground gate. It was noted that the cableway is listed on the report because it cannot be visually inspected; it had been serviced within the last twelve months.

Members discussed the frequency of inspections and noted that the budget provides for more than one inspection per year. Kompan was noted as a possible alternative inspection provider and offers quotations for remedial work identified during inspection.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk obtain quotes and progress prompt repairs to the pedestrian gate. Cllr Gough to look at the issue with the toddler multiplay. The Clerk to identify an inspection provider able to carry out remedial work identified through inspection, with a view to increasing the frequency of inspections within budget.

10. Clerks Report

The clerk had submitted a written report in advance of the meeting and this was received by the council. The response from the monitoring officer was shared. The council were advised that repairs to the book box were in hand.

11. Authorisation of Payments

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments for July correctly states the invoices presented and that £12778.83 is approved to be paid (as detailed on page 5096) and that £7.00 had been paid to avoid late payment

12. Allotments

a. Update on the Allotments

Judging for the Best Plot competition had been completed, with 25 plots judged and high overall scores. Two awards will be presented: the Best Allotment award and the new Most Improved Plot (Colin Todd Shield).

RESOLVED: The presentation will take place at the allotment site on Sunday 16th August 2026 during Allotment Week. Prizes will be free rent for the following year for both winners. Certificates will be presented to the second and third placed plots in the Best Allotment category. Where the winner of the Best Allotment award would also be entitled to the Most Improved Plot award, the Most Improved Plot award will be presented to the next placed plot to allow the recognition to be extended to a further tenant.

b. Ban on Fires and Barbecues

RESOLVED: The temporary ban on fires and barbecues on the allotment site remains in place until further notice. Cllr Angier and the Clerk have delegated power to lift or impose bans in severe weather conditions. To review and update the allotment rules to expand the safety provisions and to clarify tenant liability for damage caused by fire originating on their plot. Any resulting changes to the rules will be brought back to the Council for consideration.

13. Willaston in Bloom

The Council considered two quotations from JD Services. The quotation of £550 for repairs to sponsorship signage was not moved; members noted that maintenance of sponsorship signage is properly the responsibility of individual sponsors and this will be raised with sponsors when signage arrangements are next reviewed

RESOLVED: to approve the £80 quote from JD Services for the removal of the Willaston in Bloom planter from Park Road to the allotments; To request the removal of the planter from Victoria Mill Drive (Maurices's Maze) with the water bowser transferred to JD Services in return. For the Clerk to arrange for the disposal of the planters via ChALC.

14. Budget Review

The Council received the Q1 Budget Review for 2026/27 together with the Clerk's written commentary. It was noted that allotment income above budget reflects active management of the plots and the application of the new tariff to plots let during the year. Future virements between budget lines may be considered and a clearer indication where expenditure has been met from reserves, so that budget lines do not appear exhausted. Members also discussed ownership of community projects held within the budget, including boundary signage, benches, and the War Memorial resurfacing, and reiterated that projects should have a named member sponsor to progress them within the budget year.

RESOLVED: to accept the Q1 Budget Review for the Council year 2026/27.

15. Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED: to accept the bank reconciliation to 30th June 2026 (Quarter 1).

16. Exclusion of Persons other than Willaston Council Members and Staff.

No members of the public being present, the item was not moved.

17. Land Dedication Agreement and the Spinney

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to Scanlan's representative to thank him for his email and request he shares the legal advice they have received.

18. Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th August 2026.

The Meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

Signed: Date: 25th August 2026

Chairman, Willaston Parish Council

Willaston Parish Council

Schedule of Payments

28th July 2026

	Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe	Reimbursal
1		R & R Landscapes	Installation of Barrier Gate	728.00		Smallholding and Allotments Act 1908 S23		
2		Mike Webster & Son Ltd	Grass Cutting - Allotements June	65.00		Smallholding and Allotments Act 1908 S23		
3		Mike Webster & Son Ltd	Grass Cutting - All Sites July	430.00		Open Spaces Act 1906 S10		
4		Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge June 2026	7.00		LGA 1972 S111		
5		Crewe Road Nurseries	Willaston in Bloom	9768.60		Tourism - LGA 1972 S144		
6		Alpha Omega Securities	Security Lock at Playingfield (June)	684.00		LGA 1972 S111		
7		Claire Coventry	July Salary	691.44		LGA 1972 S112		
8		HMRC	Employer Tax and NICs	239.89		LGA 1972 S112		
9		Claire Coventry	Clerks Expenses (April, May, June)	78.00		LGA 1972 S112		
10		Plymtec	Enamel Lapel Badges	71.90		LGA 1972 S111		Craig Bailey
11		GiffGaff	CCTV Data Bill - July 2026	15.00		Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S17		Claire Coventry
	Total			12778.83				

Payments made as authorised by the Approved Payments List, Meeting Resolution, and to avoid late payment							Rebursals	
	Date of Debit	Recipient	Purpose	£	£	Power of expenditure	Scribe	
								N/A
12	30.6.2026	Unity Trust Bank	Unity Trust Service Charge May 2026	7.00		LGA 1972 S111		
Total				7.00				

Cllr - Proposer - Sign & Date

Cllr - Seconder - Sign & Date