

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on 10th May 2022 at 6.30pm
At The Old School, Castle Way Willington

AP100522/1 Welcome and Apologies

None received.

AP100522/2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

AP100522/3 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 18th May 2021

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2021 were agreed as a true record.

AP100522/4 The Parish Council's Annual Report – presented by Willington Parish Council Chairman Cllr Phill Allsopp

“Although the restrictions were partially lifted in May 2021 the pandemic still caused some disruption during the year, especially at the WPC meetings where Councillors and attendees were spread out due to social distancing and unfortunately having to limit the number of Parishioners attending meetings. All restrictions have now been removed and the Council meetings are back to normal.

Again, I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and hard work during the year, the Councillors work well together and I'm proud to be associated with them, this includes Sarah MacPherson and Ian Hudson. Sarah and Ian joined us last year, a warm welcome to you. I'd also like to thank Martyn Ford for his help and support as our representative on Derbyshire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council, I'd also like to thank Andy MacPherson too as our other South Derbyshire County Council member.

In September our Clerk Deborah Townsend accepted another position with a Town Council. I'd like to thank her for her determination, hard work and enthusiasm during her time working with us and wishing you every success in your new career path. In October we were lucky to acquire the services of our current Clerk Rachel Male, welcome to WPC Rachel.

We've made progress during the year despite the restrictions;

An application was made to Derbyshire County Council in 2010 to have the status of TRPF changed to a village green, this has been opposed by WPC over the years. We have increased our efforts this year for DCC to make a decision and we are happy to announce that this application was rejected in April. We can now concentrate on our plans to refurbish the changing rooms and build a community hall for the general use of Parishioners, Scouts and any other body within the Parish.

We've fully refurbished the two tennis courts. The surface has been repaired, repainted and new nets and posts have been installed.

We continue to develop our Neighbourhood Development Plan. This year we have carried out a survey to understand residents views on village requirements. We have also engaged a planning consultant to help us develop the plan. This has been funded by a government grant.

The shelter at the allotments has been rebuilt.

New larger bins have been ordered for the Marina, the existing bins will replace some of the older bins around the village.

The tree has been replaced in the Station Garden.

We also so have plans in place for the Queens Jubilee and have budgeted £2,000 for the events, £200 coming from Martyn Ford at DCC.

We've also donated money to;
The Carnival £500
Scouts Bonfire event £200

Tennis Courts - £5850 (excluding VAT) plus clean-up which was also paid for in this financial year.

We've arranged with SDDC for play and support activities on TRPF for the summer holidays.

Finally, a special thanks to Brian Davis for managing and editing the Willington Newsletter, his hard work and enthusiasm is very much appreciated.

I'd like to thank the WI for what they've done over the year on the triangle at the Station Garden, they've had some amazing displays. Also, to Mr and Mrs Peter and Janet King for their work tending the Station Garden, thank you, it looks amazing.

To all the contractors that we have worked with during the year for maintaining and keeping our village tidy.

Finally, I'd like to give thanks to the army of volunteers that do regular picks around the village, you're accredited to the village.

AP100522/5 Reports from other Community Groups in Willington

Willington Carnival

The Carnival is back this year on Saturday 16th July on Twyford Playing Field

St Michael's Church

Is currently without a vicar. Therefore, the running of the church is left up to the Church Wardens and the PCC, who meet every 2 months. The church continues to hold regular services every Sunday at 10am to which everyone is welcome. Monthly coffee mornings are being held once again, in the village hall on the first Saturday of every month 10-12pm, to raise much need money. The Church library has re-opened and is held in the church on the first Wednesday of every month 10.30-12pm, everyone is welcome. The Church is available for weddings, funerals and baptisms and people should contact the church wardens. Details can be found on village website and Church notice board.

Village Hall

A big thank you to everyone for their support over the years. This is their platinum jubilee year, the hall opened on the 3rd August 1952.

Willington Arts Festival

Will most likely stop this year due to low numbers. A celebration is due to take place in October to celebrate the 15 years they have been running.

WI

Willington WI have continued to meet throughout lockdown with outdoor coffee in members' gardens and weekly walks around the village. We held meetings with speakers via zoom and had weekly social zooms with maybe a quiz, bingo or other silly games. Not everyone joined in, but with phone calls and emails we managed to keep contact with members and since our return to 'normal', membership has increased which is encouraging.

We have been able to meet in person since August 2021, and have already had some excellent speakers. Sue Cooke- who spoke of her experiences after flying into the USA as 9/11 was happening was inspiring and Dr. Catrin Rutland gave a fascinating talk entitled Science Fiction versus Science Fact. Lunches out have resumed and we thoroughly enjoyed a lunch and talk by Lesley Smith at Tutbury Castle where she 'became' Peggy Knight, one of Churchill's SOEs.

We arranged for a local fitness instructor to train us in the safe use of the village's outdoor gym equipment and small groups have met there since for a session- it's hoped to make these monthly. We have continued with monthly walks but now going further afield.

In past years we have organised litter picks around the village. We spoke to Neil about a joint venture, maybe bulb planting or clearing a particular area, but so far nothing has been arranged.

The Station team followed EMR guidance on our visits to the station during lockdown and succeeded in re-planting throughout. Once again, we produced a poppy display for Remembrance Sunday but the hoped for memorial stone was not in place for 2021. However, a stone is now purchased and awaiting a clean and then engraving. Thanks are due to the Parish and District Councils for their support of this project. We have requested a planning application via the PC and now having the size and dimensions of the stone, we can move forward on this. All being well, the memorial will be in place for November 2022. We also intend to bury a time capsule when the stone is set in place.

Coffee and Company is our initiative inspired by the National WI campaign in 2019 on alleviating loneliness, and the Dragon has been very supportive of us from the start. Sadly, this was another casualty of Covid, although Jo Smith, WI president and whose idea this was, kept contact with all those who attended. These very successful gatherings have now resumed, fortnightly on a Thursday morning in the Dragon Conservatory, with an average attendance of twenty locals and WI members.

The past 2 years have been a difficult time for us all but, by working together, we have survived and indeed flourished, and look forward with pleasure to the future of Willington WI in our village.

Willington Scouts

Currently based in Findern School after being evicted from the Power Station. Thank to the Parish Council for allowing us to store our equipment in the changing rooms on Twyford Road. Currently have approx. 70 members. We have 6 leaders and run with a small exec committee. The bonfire event took place which is non-profit making event the Scouts group put on, thank you to the Parish Council for their donation. More volunteers are needed to keep the group going and if anyone is interested, please contact them. The group do not qualify for grants as they do not own their building.

Willington Old School

The trust was set the up 25 years ago, when they were given a 25-year lease which was up last month. They have had a difficult year trying to renegotiate new lease, hopefully now making progress. It's been challenging due to covid. The AGM is being held in July, if anyone is interested.

A resident asked the Council is they could re-consider the public speaking item on the main Council meetings so it would enable residents to bring matters to the attention of the Parish Council which are not on the agenda.

AP100522/6 Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 6.55pm.