

## Willington Parish Council

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### **Parish Council Minutes of Willington Parish Council Held on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at The Old School, Castleway, Willington**

**Present:** Cllrs P. Allsopp (Chair), M. Bartram, J. Houghton, T. Bartram, C. Harrison, A. Davenport, R. Titley, C. Mead, I. Hudson and T. Bates.

County/District Cllr. M. Ford.

Members of the Public.

Rachel Male (Clerk).

#### **160724/1 To Receive Apologies for Absence**

None.

#### **160724/2 Variation of Order of Business**

Not required.

#### **160724/3 Declaration of Members' Interests**

None.

#### **160724/4 Public Speaking, including County, District and Police Representation.**

a) No comments made by members of the public.

b) County Councillor Martyn Ford gave the following updates:

- Blocked gulleys at The Green – awaiting a date, however it'll be a construction services job with a 3-month lead time, this is the same team who are doing the potholes
- Completion of Castleway street lighting – DCC have been waiting for the National Grid to make a final connection to the distribution box. Once this is completed the new lighting will be in operation and DCC will remove the redundant lighting.
- Meadow Lane Gate – Countryside Services wrote to the Angling Club on the 8th July giving them one-month to remove the gate.
- Loose chippings and debris resulting from the pothole repairs on Repton Road are due to be tidied imminently.
- Willington Bridge (Repton Road) – DCC are waiting for the old stones to be recovered from the river. Quotes for new stone are also be sourced should the recovered stone be unusable.
- Pedestrian Refuge, Twyford Road – works is due to be completed late summer or early autumn.
- A futher BESS application off Twyford Rd has come into planning, just past Frizams Lane, DMPA/2024/0664.

District Councillor Ian Hudson gave the following updates:

- Everyone should have received the updated leaflet on the Willington – Chesterfield Grid Upgrades. Recently, a meeting was attended along with Cllr. T. Bartram and several other Parish Councils to discuss coordinating efforts and the potential for seeking collective legal advice regarding the upgrade.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Nicolle Ndiweni has launched a consultation on the Police and Crime Plan for Derbyshire. The responses to this consultation will directly feed into the Plan and help to tackle the challenges that will make Derbyshire safer.

**160724/5 To confirm and agree as a true record the non-confidential Minutes of the Willington Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 2024**

**RESOLVED to agree and sign the Minutes as a true and accurate record.**

**160724/6 To consider a resolution to close the meeting for public participation under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.**

Not required.

**160724/7 Finance – Income and payments to 16th July 2024**

To approve the income and payments to 16th July 2024. (attached). All invoices were available for inspection prior to the Meeting.

**RESOLVED that all income and payments as submitted be agreed.**

**160724/8 To confirm and agree the accounts to month ending 30th June 2024**

**RESOLVED that the accounts and bank reconciliation to month ending 30th June 2024, as submitted, be agreed.**

**160724/9 Authorisation of August Payments**

**RESOLVED that as there is no planned Council Meeting in August, the Clerk in consultation with the Chair and the Chair of Finance Committee be delegated authority to pay any invoices urgently required, to include payment of wages. All paid invoices to be submitted to Council to note in September.**

**110624/10 Planning Applications**

a) DMOT/2024/0724 - The pruning of Oak tree covered by South Derbyshire District Council Tree Preservation Order no. 237 at 31a Hall Lane, Willington, Derby, DE65 6DR.

**Application withdrawn.**

b) DMPA/2024/0645 - The erection of a single storey rear extension and garage conversion at 3 Sealey Close, Willington, Derby, DE65 6EP.

**Noted.**

c) DMPA/2024/0664 - Erection of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with associated infrastructure on Land north of Twyford Road, Twyford, Derby.

**RESOLVED to OBJECT.**

The Council support the initiative however the disruption to the village is unacceptable.

There is no construction traffic plan documented in this application. Concerns are as follows:

- **Disruption During Construction:** The construction phase is expected to involve heavy vehicle traffic, road closures, noise, and other disturbances, which will have a significant impact on residents, businesses, and essential services in the village.
- **Infrastructure Limitations:** The narrow village roads are not suitable for the expected increase in large construction vehicles, raising safety concerns, particularly for pedestrians, including schoolchildren and the elderly.
- **Environmental Impact:** Concerns were raised about the potential environmental harm, including dust, emissions, and damage to local infrastructure, which could affect air quality and residents' well-being.
- **Cumulative Impact of Future Projects:** The Council noted that additional BESS projects are likely to be proposed over the coming years, leading to extended periods of disruption for the village.
- **Support for Renewable Energy Initiatives:** While the Council supports renewable energy and the UK Government's net-zero targets, concerns were expressed about the specific location and infrastructure implications of this project on the local community.

d) DMPA/2024/0586 - Installation and operation of an Energy Storage System (ESS), including energy storage units, substation, site access, cable connection, landscaping and ancillary infrastructure on Land At Sk3229 8968, Unnamed Road From Twyford Road To Buckford Lane, Stenson, Derby.

**RESOLVED to OBJECT. As per DMPA/2024/0664**

**RESOLVED to request both applications (0664 and 0586) be called into Planning Committee.**

**RESOLVED the Clerk will write to the new local MP, requesting a strategy to address the increasing number of BESS applications. The Council highlighted the availability of more suitable brownfield sites closer to the National Grid, which could avoid the need for such significant disruption in Willington. The Council asked whether these alternative locations could be thoroughly investigated.**

#### **1607024/11 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Cllr. J. Houghton emphasised the urgency of finalising the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) due to the recent change in government and the potential relaxation of planning regulations. It was stressed that it is more important than ever to complete the NDP to protect the interests of the community.

The final draft of the NDP will be presented for community consultation starting on 27th July. This will involve an 8-page questionnaire for residents to complete, seeking their input and feedback. Full copies of the draft plan will be available at the doctor's surgery and the Post Office for public viewing.

The first public consultation event will be held on Saturday, 27th July, at the Village Hall, and Cllr. Houghton requested the support of Council members on the day. A second consultation will be scheduled for September.

**RESOLVED to approve the expenditure of £869 plus delivery costs for the printing of the questionnaires.**

#### **160724/12 Twyford Road proposed community building and changing rooms**

*Planning Approval:* The Clerk reported that the planning application for the proposed community building and changing rooms at Twyford Road has been approved by South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC).

*Tender Advertisement:* In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, the Clerk has advertised the tender via the HMRC Tender Contract portal.

*Funding and Grants:* A meeting has been scheduled with Ian Hey and Sally Hemsley from SDDC to explore potential funding and grant opportunities for the project.

#### **160724/13 Scouts Fireworks Event**

**RESOLVED to grant Scouts permission to go ahead with their annual event subject to insurance confirmation and a risk assessment being carried out prior to the event. Should works have commenced all areas will be fenced off.**

#### **160724/14 Village maintenance**

The Clerk informed the Council of the number of concerns raised recently around the condition/maintenance of some areas of the village and these have been reported to either our grounds contractor or the relevant authority. The Clerk informed the Council she aims to publish a map of the village with who is responsible for which verges/open spaces/hedges and publish on the website within the next 2-3 months.

#### **160724/15 Clerk's Report**

Noted and attached.

#### **160724/16 Play area inspections**

**RESOLVED to defer and delegate the decision on the June's report works to the RAC committee.**

**160724/17 Correspondence**

a) Parking concerns on Kingfisher Lane/Avocet Drive.

A resident raised concerns regarding ongoing parking issues on Kingfisher Lane and Avocet Drive due to vehicles using the medical centre. Despite over a year of dialogue with Martyn Ford, DCC, the problem remains unresolved.

The resident noted that the streets are often used as an overflow car park, creating access difficulties, obstructing emergency services, and increasing the risk of accidents due to illegal parking.

**RESOLVED to chase DCC on this matter.**

b) Untidy areas of Willington

A resident raised the following issues:

*Overgrown private hedges on Hall Lane and Twyford Road*

The Clerk reported that residents have been written to and DCC informed.

*Jitty off Twyford Road – is overgrown and untidy*

This hedge is the responsibility of the school and they have been informed and asked to cut as soon as possible.

*Railway Bank Overgrowth - the area from the Chip Shop to the railway bridge is heavily overgrown.*

The Clerk will report to the necessary authority.

*Lane from Twyford Road to The Dragon - the lane is severely overgrown, and there is concern that The Dragon may not be aware of their responsibility to maintain the hedge to the posts.*

The Council believe this is The Dragon's responsibility, the Clerk will check with the previous grounds contractor if this was a hedge they maintained and contact The Dragon to try to resolve.

*Kingfisher Drive Overgrowth - Clarification is needed on whether the overgrowth on Kingfisher Drive is the responsibility of Persimmons or the Parish Council.*

This land is maintained and cut by Persimmons.

*Exhaust fumes - A resident expressed concern about vehicles idling with engines running at various locations including the doctor's surgery, Coop car park, outside the school, and on Twyford Road. The resident highlighted the environmental impact and the need for cleaner air.*

*The resident requested that the Parish Council promote awareness about the issue by encouraging residents to turn off their engines while parked. They suggested installing signs as a polite reminder and inquired if there is a by-law similar to the one prohibiting golf on playing fields that could address this issue.*

While the Council understands the resident's concerns, this issue is beyond the Council's jurisdiction. The Council will contact the local school to request that parents be reminded about engine idling. The resident will be advised to direct this type of inquiry to Highways or the local Police for further action.

c) Angling club gate, Meadow Lane

A resident expressed disagreement with the Council's position on the Meadow Lane gate mentioned in the July/August Village News. They praised the Angling Club for their efforts to maintain access and prevent misuse of the lane, noting that the gate does not hinder legitimate use and enhances safety. The resident suggested that the Angling Club might offer pass-keys or codes for closer access and requested acknowledgment and consideration of their feedback by the Council.

**RESOLVED to inform the resident that the matter concerning the gate on Meadow Lane is under the jurisdiction of the County Council, which has deemed the gate unlawful.**

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d) Concern over a very old tree that sits at the end of the farm driveway next to the old farm (tree is close to Willington Power Station)

A resident expressed concern about two old trees near the old farm and the adjoining power station. They believe one tree has a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and worry that the demolition of the power station chimneys could damage both trees.

**RESOLVED to inform the resident that, to the best of the Council's knowledge, there are no plans for the demolition of the power station. Additionally, the trees in question are believed to have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) attached to them.**

**160724/18 Meeting close**

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

**Signed:**.....

**Date:**.....

<b>Payments to approve</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>VAT</b>	
	John Houghton	Xero invoice (July)	£ 6.00	£ 36.00
	Old School	Room hire		£ 64.20
	SDDC	Play area inspections (June)	£ 21.86	£ 131.16
	Contractor (GC)	Grounds Maintenance - Inv. 97		£ 432.00
	Contractor (AL)	Mowing of Twyford Road (2 cuts June)	£ 48.68	£ 292.08
	Clerk	Stationery and mileage		£ 37.40
	SDCVS	Clerk's Salary (June top up)		£ 0.50
	Willington Newsletter Editor	Newsletter costs for the July/August edition		£336.85
<b>From Unity Trust Bank Statement</b>				
03.06.24	SDDC	Business rates - Cemetery		£ 41.00
03.06.24	SDDC	Business rates - Tennis courts		£ 28.00
27.06.24	Eon	Pavilion Electric		£ 55.21
28.06.24	Eon	Bowls club electric		£ 40.34
28.06.24	SDCVS	Clerk's Salary (June)		£ 1,241.75
30.06.24	Unity Bank	Service charge		£ 18.00
01.07.27	SDDC	Business rates - Cemetery		£ 41.00
01.07.24	SDDC	Business rates - Tennis courts		£ 28.00
11.07.24	Contractor (BP)	Groundsman maintenance (Inv 983)	112.7	£ 676.22
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 189.24</b>	<b>£ 3,499.71</b>
<b>Income since the last meeting</b>				
Various	Burial income			£ 1,512.00
05.07.24	SDDC	2nd precept payment		£ 29,083.50
		<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 30,595.50</b>

**Clerks Report July 2024**

<b>COUNCIL 8TH JUNE 2021</b>		
080621/17 To Consider a Health Initiative Proposal Using Outdoor Gym	<b>RESOLVED</b> that a personal trainer be approached to carry out three one-hour sessions over a three-week period at a cost of £40.00 per session. Evidence that they are fully insured and a risk assessment must be provided to the Clerk before this takes place.	Clerk to meet with a representative from SDDC on site.
<b>FULL COUNCIL MEETING 11TH JANUARY 2022</b>		
110122/15 Village Green Application – Twyford Road Playing Fields	<b>RESOLVED</b> for the Clerk to investigate how we can protect the playing field if the Village Green application is unsuccessful.	Clerk is in discussions with Field in Trust.
110122/19 Young Tree on Beech Avenue and Oaks Road	The tree has a TPO attached to it, planning permission to prune has been requested. <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept a quote of £100, Clerk to check with Contractor the exact work he plans to undertake.	Clerk has a site visit with DCC on 11th May to considered. Permission now granted – to decide at the meeting when work is to be carried out. <b>RESOLVED</b> to carry out the work at the end of the year (it was reported it appears to have already been done). Clerk has requested the work to be carried out by another contractor.
<b>Full Council Meeting – 14th June 2022</b>		
140622/21 Correspondence b) Email from resident regarding SDDC Tree preservation Order records for trees in Willington	<b>RESOLVED</b> to email SDDC, Strategic Director asking for an audit to be carried out.	Emailed.
<b>Full Council Meeting – 12th July 2022</b>		
<b>120722/18 Correspondence</b> a) Marina parking (email from resident).	<b>RESOLVED</b> to ask County Council if wooden bollards could be placed around the area to prevent cars from being parked on the green.	Requested. Chased April 2023
<b>Full Council Meeting – 11th October 2022</b>		
<b>111022/29 Correspondence</b> a) Canal Marina out of date map (email from resident)	The map at the marina is out of date (pharmacy at its old location) <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Clerk will investigate replacing.	Being investigated.

<b>Other outstanding matter for Council's information:</b>
<b>Graffiti</b> - please report any graffiti to the Clerk. Findern side of the railway bridge – reported to SDDC.
<b>Centre of the village – zebra crossings</b> Faded lines have been reported to DCC. Clerk continues to chase.
<b>Tree planting at the marina for the Queen's Jubilee</b> <b>RESOLVED to request a cultivation license to enable this. Clerk to action.</b>
<b>Hall Lane play area</b> Minute ref 130623/16 - It was discussed whether the green fencing to the left of the footpath should be removed or replaced. RESOLVED to replace should the cost be £300 or below and the Clerk will go ahead if this is the case. Update: Awaiting contractor site visit. Update: quote received to replace fence link and posts approx. £2080. Other options to be investigated. 141123/19 a) <u>Hall Lane play area – chain link fence replacement</u> <b>RESOLVED to accept a quote received for £688.13 + VAT to replace. Contractor instructed. Work should be done by the end of May. Contractor chased.</b>
<b>October 2023 Meeting Actions:</b> - Look into repair on cemetery gate