

## Willington Parish Council

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### **Parish Council Minutes of Willington Parish Council Held on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at The Old School, Castleway, Willington**

**Present:** Cllrs P. Allsopp (Chair), M. Bartram, J. Houghton, T. Bartram, C. Harrison, R. Titley and I. Walters.  
Rachel Male (Clerk).

#### **100924/1 To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Cllrs. A. Davenport and I. Hudson. District/County Cllr. M. Ford.

#### **100924/2 Variation of Order of Business**

Not required.

#### **100924/3 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 was absent from the meeting however, sent the following report:

You may have seen a team from Highways excavating the gulley near the chip shop. This was found clear and not the source of the flooding problems. A blockage is now suspected between the gulley and the railway bridge. Next steps are to arrange a video camera survey to find the exact area and then carry out works to clear that blockage. I don't have any further information yet as to when this work will be undertaken. Note that 2,500 litres of water was pumped out during the excavations, concern was also raised about the brook, which may need attention to help drainage.

I am chasing Highways for dates when the Pedestrian Crossing repainting will be carried out, similarly the repairs to the Causeway bridge parapet.

On other matters, the LGBC report has been published. The Etwall and Repton Division will disappear. The new Divisions will be Etwall and Findern, with Willington being included in The Stenson and Repton Division. The first elections that include these new Divisions will be in May 2025.

The Stage One consultation for the Chesterfield-Willington Power Line installations finishes on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.

Castleway street lighting, I've spoken to the street lighting team again. It is understood that National Grid have put the supply works back another 4/6 weeks – sadly this is out of our control as we're dependent on them but continue to push them.

Our contractor is completing our works though with them set to be done by the end of next week from our side. Following what National Grid need to do, they will then do the final commissioning and testing.

District Councillor Ian Hudson was absent from the meeting however, sent the following report:

*Flies*

This year has seen a huge escalation in flies in Willington. There has been a lot of talk on social media, BBC Radio Derby came to Willington too and did an article. SDDC Environmental Health have been visiting a site in the village since earlier in the year and on the 9th August issued a Warning Notice to the same site. I'm not naming the site as they deny responsibility for the huge fly numbers. But we all know the site concerned, and SDDC Environmental Health are confident that the majority of the flies came from this one site in Willington.

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The site has complied with the enforcement notice and engaged an independent expert, their fly control procedures are still evolving, but appear to be effective. Fly numbers are now down across the village. When I last asked, SDDC had received over 160 complaints about flies in Willington, this year.

I am talking to the Chair of Environmental and Development Services, and others as to how we can ensure that this situation does not happen ever again.

A few quick Fly facts for the type of fly in question, they can travel 1-2 miles maximum, they live circa 28 days and they do not bite.

### *Chesterfield – Willington Grid Upgrade*

There is a lot of chat about this at SDDC. The 1st Stage of the consultation process ends on Tuesday 17th September. It is really important that if people have concerns, they lodge them before the 17th. National Grid, after the 17th will then finalise a route for the new pylon line and go to a second stage consultation. I do think that although we should keep involved and informed, that this national infrastructure project is very different for us in Willington, we already have 7 power lines going into the Willington Site and I counted 17 pylons in Willington from a railway bridge earlier today.

Our MP has received a lot of letters of concern, and is holding a public meeting at Burnaston Village Hall on Thursday 12th September @ 19:00. I will attend, everyone is welcome.

### *Battery Energy Storage Systems*

I spoke to SDDC Chief Exec about compulsory purchase of the Willington Power Station site, for possible BESS use. He had already looked into the matter and rejected the idea. For various reasons, but mainly because such a multi million £ purchase of contaminated land would pose too big a financial risk to the District as a whole. The idea of compulsory purchase remains a good one, but seems too big an idea for SDDC.

It is unclear to me whether the various BESS applications have been exploring the Willington Power Station site, fully. I have asked the Head of Economic Development to try to make direct contact with the owner.

SDDC have started a consultation on 'Polling Places Review' which will close on 21st October 2024. I don't think we have any concerns in Willington, but if you need details, please ask.

### *Old School Update*

We had a committee meeting yesterday, Ian Walters was there so can add detail.

The attached School House is now empty, the Willington Adventure Club have now left and are located at the Primary School. As such we have had a huge hit on our income. Despite this we are committed to remaining open to long term hirers until 31st July 2025, when the Trust and Main Hall will close, we hope that the Pre School will continue on site for a little while afterwards. Please note WPC will require a new venue after this date.

### **100924/5 To confirm and agree as a true record the non-confidential Minutes of the Willington Parish Council Meeting held on 16th July 2024**

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

### **100924/6 To consider a resolution to close the meeting for public participation under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.**

Not required.

### **100924/7 Councillor resignation**

Tony Bates has resigned from his position of Councillor. Cllr. Allsopp expressed gratitude to Tony, for his contributions to the Parish Council.

The Clerk will advertise with South Derbyshire a casual vacancy which takes 14 days. The Clerk will then advertise for co-option with an aim to co-opt at the November meeting.

**100924/8 Clerks Report**

Noted and attached.

**100924/9 Play area inspections**

Noted.

**100924/10 DCC Snow Warden Scheme 2024-2025**

**RESOLVED** that Willington Parish Council would not participate in this scheme 24/25.

**100924/11 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

There were no updates, aside from the reminder that the Public Consultation on the Pre-Submission will close on 21st September 2024. Following the closure, the questionnaires and feedback will be reviewed.

**100924/12 Twyford Road proposed community hall and changing rooms**

A meeting was held with Ian Hey and Sally Hemsley from South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) to discuss potential funding and grant opportunities for the project. They advised that most funders would not provide financial support if construction had already commenced. Therefore, the Council was advised to secure the majority of the required funding before starting the build.

Cllr. Houghton reported that a separate meeting took place with the Football Association (FA) to explore funding possibilities. The discussions were positive, and the Council will continue working with the FA to potentially secure funding for the project.

a) Rural Action Derbyshire

The council discussed the benefits of joining Rural Action Derbyshire to support funding opportunities for the community building. After consideration, it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the membership at a cost of £30.

b) Assistant Clerk Role

The council discussed the potential appointment of an Assistant Clerk to assist in advancing the community building project. It was **RESOLVED** to advertise for a Funding Assistant on a contract basis to help move the project forward. Should suitable candidates come forward, interviews will be conducted. If required, an extraordinary meeting will be convened to approve the appointment once the right person is identified.

**100924/13 Update from EMR: Proposal for a new Community Rail Partnership**

East Midlands Railway (EMR) is establishing a new Community Rail Partnership (CRP) – the Erewash & Trent Community Rail Partnership – covering stations from Sheffield to Burton upon Trent, including Willington. CRPs aim to promote sustainable travel, support local communities, and drive economic development. The Parish Council is invited to learn more about this initiative and explore involvement opportunities.

The Council agreed to arrange a meeting with EMR's Community Team to discuss further details. Cllr's P. Allsopp, R. Titley and C. Harrison to attend.

**100924/14 Chesterfield Willington National Grid Upgrade Works**

Cllr. Allsopp attended an online briefing regarding the National Grid's upgrade plans, focusing on the transition to cleaner energy sources, including wind farms. National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is developing plans for the Chesterfield to Willington route as part of the Great Grid Upgrade, which is essential for achieving the Government's net zero targets by 2050.

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To meet the anticipated increase in electricity demand, the network requires significant reinforcements. The proposed project involves constructing a new high-voltage electricity transmission line, spanning approximately 60 kilometers, connecting a new 400 kV substation at Chesterfield to the existing Willington substation.

NGET's Strategic Options Report outlines how various technical, environmental, and community factors were considered to identify suitable connection points. The emerging preferred corridor will avoid populated areas and navigate around natural obstacles. The project will involve approximately three steel lattice pylons per kilometer, standing around 50 meters high.

The proposed corridor is divided into six sections:

1. Chesterfield substation to Stretton
2. Stretton to Ripley
3. Ripley to Morley
4. Morley to Ockbrook
5. Ockbrook to Aston-on-Trent
6. Aston-on-Trent to Willington substation

The Stage One consultation for the Chesterfield-Willington Power Line installations finishes on 17 September 2024.

More information can be found here [Chesterfield to Willington | National Grid Group](#)

### **100924/15 Correspondence**

- a) To review an email from the Environmental Agency concerning a dead tree on Ferry Green overhanging their assets, which they request to be removed

Quotes for the removal will be sought and reported back to the Council.

- b) To review reports of recent fires in Dumble's Wood and extend thanks to local volunteers

The Council reviewed reports of recent fires in Dumble's Wood and agreed to report these and future incidents to the local police. The Council also extended its thanks to the local volunteers for their continued efforts in maintaining the area.

### **100924/16 Remembrance Day wreath and poppies**

**RESOLVED** to purchase a wreath and 20/25 additional lamppost poppies with a donation of £150.

**RESOLVED** that the Clerk would purchase cable ties approx. cost of £25.

### **100924/17 Christmas Celebrations**

This item was deferred to the October meeting to allow the Events Working Group time to discuss and explore options.

### **100924/18 Possible Copyright Infringement on [willingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://willingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

The Council reviewed the issue and agreed it was not a genuine claim. No further action will be taken.

### **100924/19 Finance – Income and payments August 2024**

To note the income and payments made in August 2024 in accordance with Minute Number 160724/9 (attached).

**NOTED.**

### **100924/20 Finance – Income and payments to 10th September 2024**

To approve the income and payments to 10th September 2024. (attached). All invoices were available for inspection prior to the Meeting.

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

**100924/21 To confirm and agree the accounts to month ending 31st August 2024**

**RESOLVED** that the accounts and bank reconciliation to month ending 31st August 2024, as submitted, be agreed.

**100924/22 External Audit Report**

The Clerk had anticipated receiving the audit sign-off by this meeting. However, as it has not yet been received, this item will be deferred to the October meeting.

**100924/23 Parish Council Insurance**

Deferred to October meeting has renewal information has not been received.

**100924/24 Meeting close**

The meeting closed at 8.56pm

**Signed:**.....

**Date:**.....

**Clerks Report September 2024**

<b>COUNCIL 8TH JUNE 2021</b>		
	080621/17 To Consider a Health Initiative Proposal Using Outdoor Gym	<p><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.</p>
		<p>Clerk to meet with a representative from SDDC on site.  <b>Sept 2024: Agreed to revisit in March/April 25</b></p>
<b>FULL COUNCIL MEETING 11TH JANUARY 2022</b>		
	110122/15 Village Green Application – Twyford Road Playing Fields	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> for the Clerk to investigate how we can protect the playing field if the Village Green application is unsuccessful.</p>
		Clerk is in discussions with Field in Trust.
	110122/19 Young Tree on Beech Avenue and Oaks Road	<p>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.</p>
		<p>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.</p>
<b>Full Council Meeting – 11th October 2022</b>		
	<p><b>111022/29 Correspondence</b>                      a) Canal Marina out of date map (email from resident)</p>	<p>The map at the marina is out of date (pharmacy at its old location)  <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Clerk will investigate replacing.</p>
		Being investigated.
<b>Other outstanding matter for Council’s information:</b>		
<p><b><u>Graffiti</u></b> - please report any graffiti to the Clerk.                      Findern side of the railway bridge – reported to SDDC.</p>		
<p><b><u>Centre of the village – zebra crossings</u></b>                      Faded lines have been reported to DCC. Clerk continues to chase.</p>		
<p><b><u>Tree planting at the marina for the Queen’s Jubilee</u></b>  <b>Sept 24: It was previously resolved to request a cultivation license for tree planting in honor of the Queen’s Jubilee. However, in September 2024, it was agreed not to proceed with this plan.</b></p>		
<p><b><u>Hall Lane play area</u></b>                      Minute ref 130623/16 -_It was discussed whether the green fencing to the left of the footpath should be removed or replaced. <b>RESOLVED</b> to replace should the cost be £300</p>		

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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) Hall Lane play area – chain link fence replacement

**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. Sept 24: Cllr. Houghton to investigating another contractor.**

### October 2023 Meeting Actions:

- Look into repair on cemetery gate. **Sept 24: Clerk to action.**

### 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. **Clerk to action.**

Payments made in August 2024 under delegated authority (up to 31st August 2024)				
Date	Name	Description	VAT	
28Aug2024	SDCVS	Clerk's August Salary (?????)		£ 1,242.75
28Aug2024	Eon	Bowls Club Electric		£ 40.34
27Aug2024	Eon	Twyford Road Changing Rooms Electric		£ 74.11
14Aug2024	SDDC	Play area inspections (July 81115559)	£ 21.86	£ 131.16
14Aug2024	B. Davis	Printing for NDP (Questionnaire)	£ 70.26	£ 1,029.51
14Aug2024	Contractor	Grounds Maintenance (01)		£ 1,000.00
14Aug2024	Village Hall	Room Hire (8048)		£ 75.00
14Aug2024	SDDC	Play area inspections ( June 81113302)	£ 21.86	£ 131.16
14Aug2024	Contractor	Planters - summer displays (1750)	£ 214.48	£ 1,286.88
14Aug2024	J. Houghton	Xero - August (20177602)	£ 6.00	£ 36.00
14Aug2024	Contractor	Twyford Road Playing Field Mowing (4750)	£ 48.68	£ 292.08
14Aug2024	NDP Planner	Invoice 545		£ 867.00
14Aug2024	Clerk	Office 365 and ink	£ 16.41	£ 98.48
01Aug2024	Direct Debit (SDDC)	Business Rates - Tennis Courts		£ 28.00
01Aug2024	Direct Debit (SDDC)	Business Rates - Cemetery		£ 41.00
30Jul2024	Contractor	Grounds Maintenance (998)	£ 112.70	£ 676.22
29Jul2024	SDCVS	Clerk's July Salary (12268)		£ 1,242.75
29Jul2024	Eon	Bowls Club Electric		£ 40.34
29Jul2024	Eon	Twyford Road Changing Rooms Electric		£ 74.11
<b>Total</b>			<b>£ 512.25</b>	<b>£ 8,406.89</b>

Income to note up to and including 31.08.23				
09Aug2024	Locality	NDP Grant 24/25		£ 3,480.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>£ 3,480.00</b>



<b>Payments to approve</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>VAT</b>	
	John Houghton	Xero invoice (September)	£ 6.00	£ 36.00
	SDDC	Play area inspections (August)	£ 21.86	£ 131.16
	Contractor (GC)	Grounds Maintenance - Inv. 04		£ 372.00
	Contractor (AL)	Mowing of Twyford Road (2 cuts August - 4759)	£ 48.68	£ 292.08
	Clerk	Mileage		£ 23.40
	Willington Newsletter Editor	Newsletter costs for the Sept/Oct edition		£263.03
	Rural Action Derbyshire	Annual Membership		£30.00
<b>From Unity Trust Bank Statement</b>				
02.09.24	SDDC	Business rates - Cemetery		£ 41.00
02.09.24	SDDC	Business rates - Tennis courts		£ 28.00
02.09.24	Contractor (BP)	Grounds Maintenance		£ 602.41
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 76.54</b>	<b>£ 1,819.08</b>
<b>Income since 31.08.24</b>				
Various	Burial income			£ 178.00
		<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 178.00</b>