

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on 16th May 2023 at 6.30pm
At The Old School, Castle Way Willington

AP160523/1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Chris Mead.

AP160523/2 Declarations of Interest

None received.

AP160523/3 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 10th May 2022

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2022 were agreed as a true record.

AP160523/4 The Parish Council's Annual Report – presented by Willington Parish Council Chairman Cllr Phill Allsopp

This year has been particularly busy for the parish council, I will come onto that later but firstly I'd like to thank my fellow Parish councillors for their support and continued hard work that has been put in throughout the year. I think it should be noted that this is a voluntary position and I appreciate all the Councillors who have given up their free time to help make our village a better place to live. I've said this before, the Council work very well together and it's a privilege to have worked with you all. This year was the last in a four-year term of office and it's with sadness that I am announcing that four of our Council team have decided not to continue. I'd like to thank Caroline Blanksby, Sarah MacPherson, Andy MacPherson and Sophie Mead for their hard work and dedication whilst on the Parish Council. I would like to give an additional thank you to Andy who has also stepped down as one of our Representatives on South Derbyshire District Council. I'd also like to thank Martyn Ford for his help and support as our representative on Derbyshire County Council and also South Derbyshire District Council. Finally, thanks must also go to Rachel Male our Parish Clerk for her hard work, dedication and support that she's given myself, fellow councillors and Parishioners over the year.

As I said previously it's been a busy year for the Council.

We organised a Queens Jubilee weekend in June of last year. Over the weekend various activities took place including, On the Friday there was a tea party at the Village Hall, this included a buffet, cakes, teas and coffee etc. Prizes was given out for the children dressed as best King and Queen and there was also a cake competition. Face painting and a bouncy castle was also provided plus the obligatory music. Saturday was sports day with people of all ages involved in football, tennis and bowls activities. Sunday was 'Concert in the park' where local bands performed live at TRPF. Despite the rain a good time was had by all.

We also arranged another tea party at the Village Hall in May of this year to commemorate the Kings Coronation. It was similar to the one held last year for the Jubilee.

A special thanks go out to all the Councillors and volunteers who helped make both of these events go so well and also to the members of the WI who generously donated cakes for this event.

We also arranged a litter pick for the Coronation, there was a good attendance despite the rain. Around a dozen bags of litter was collected, thanks to all that contributed. I was particularly pleased to see a number of children that attend Willington Primary involved, thank you very much, you're a credit to the school.

We also organised a get together to remember our lost loved ones around the tree at Christmas time in the Station Garden. Thank you to the members of the Melbourne Male Voice Choir who ably assisted us in singing carols.

We are continuing to develop our Neighbourhood Development Plan; we have completed a housing needs assessment plus a design code for Willington. Again, we have engaged a consultant to continue to assist us with the plan. As with last year, this has been funded through a government grant.

Work is ongoing with regards to our project to build a new Community Hall and changing rooms on TRPF, planning permission has been granted. We're close to completing the building schedule. This should be complete by the end of this month, allowing us to put the project out for competitive tendering in June.

We have made donations to the following groups within the village,
The Carnival Committee. £500
Scouts, £250
Royal British Legion, £200 (Wreath and village lamp post poppies)
Bowls club, £250
Speed watch equipment, £401.96

We've also arranged with SDDC for play and support activities on TRPF for the summer holidays at a cost of £1240.

Finally, I'd like to give thanks to the following,
Brian Davis for editing the Willington newsletter, we very much appreciate his efforts and hard work.

To Matt King and his team at Making Plans for assisting us with our TRPF project. Matt has kindly donated his and his teams time free of charge.

To the WI for their work on the village triangle and train station.

To Peter and Janet King for continuing to keep the Station Garden looking lovely.

To Sue Carter, Brian Davis and Mark Bassett for their input on the Neighbourhood development Plan.

To all the contractors for maintaining our village and finally as I mentioned last year to all the volunteer litter pickers that carry out regular litter picks and anyone else that's contributed to the upkeep of our village, it's very much appreciated.

AP100522/5 Reports from other Community Groups in Willington

Willington Scouts

Another exciting year has passed. It has been a pleasure to witness the continued dedication of the Leaders and Volunteers behind the scenes that enables Willington Scout Group to excel.

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. We are so lucky here to have such a fantastic leadership team to make this all happen, but we are always on the look out for new volunteers to support the group.

We held a very successful Family Camp at Drum Hill which was well attended and supported by families from all sections of the group. I am looking forward to this year's family camp in June.

Coming up over the next few months we have the Findern Festival, Willington Carnival and Fireworks in November.

I would like to say thank you to PC for £250 donation towards the Fireworks. We had an amazing turnout, I think our best and busiest display ever.

WI

It is safe to say that Willington WI has now returned to full activity after Covid. Membership currently stands at 47, some living outside the village but choosing to join us.

We have enjoyed a variety of monthly meetings, welcoming outside speakers as well as drawing on the skills of our own members for craft, quizzes, and pure fun! Fun and laughter were definitely in evidence for a 'Strictly' evening and our attempts at burlesque caused great hilarity!

Besides our regular monthly meetings, we have monthly walks around the village, lunches, theatre trips- we've been to Derby Playhouse, Lichfield Garrick, The Royal Concert Hall in Nottingham for Jersey Boys and then a ballet. So, members have plenty to keep them busy.

Various sub-groups are also very busy within the village. In the spring term we were able to resume our school cookery link, making ragu sauce and rockbuns with Y5 and Y6 pupils. School then asked if they could be included in our, what is now, annual, Remembrance commemoration so on November 11th WI members joined with a group of Y6 children at our 'triangle' poppy display. We were all visibly moved by the poignant poems written and read out by the pupils who then laid a wreath they had created in the station garden. We hope this link will continue each year.

Our station team has had a very busy year. The station was decorated in red, white and blue for the village Platinum Jubilee celebrations, a poppy display for Remembrance Day, the tree adorned with lights and baubles at Christmas and finally, knitted bunting and flags for the Coronation. One disappointment is the lack of progress on the memorial stone. However, we have been pleased to gain additional sponsorship from local businesses and signs acknowledging their support have been installed recently.

A team of crafters have worked on postbox toppers. Initially, three toppers were crafted as part of a National WI initiative for the Jubilee, but after the positive response from villagers it was decided to create toppers for Christmas and of course the Coronation.

WI has been involved in other village activities, notably a cake stall at the carnival, making cakes for the village Jubilee tea, the Coronation tea and the Coronation village litter pick, as part of the 'Big Help Out'.

Another Willington WI initiative that had to pause over Covid was 'Coffee and Company'. This is now re-established fortnightly, and we have formed a link with Willington Surgery which means that those who might benefit from more social contact are directed to come along.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except August when we plan a day out. All ladies are welcome to come along at 7.30pm to the Village Hall and enjoy the evening's programme, have a coffee and a chat, meet new people, make friends.

Speedwatch

This time last year the village had no speed watch group, it's great to see we now have 5 regular volunteers and 2 more in the pipeline. Since training was signed off for the 5 current volunteers (December) the group have carried out 7 sessions.

There was originally only one location agreed and cleared by the local police however there are now 6. 2 in the 40mph on Castleway and Twyford Road and 4 in the 30mph on Castleway, Repton Road, Findern Lane and Twyford Road.

Out of the 7 sessions held so far 57 letters have been sent out for speeding, 6 of which were residents.

The group have had some good rapport with the locals who have walked by or popped out of their houses. Various gestures have been received – best of which was a driver filming the group while driving!

We hope to continue the growth of the group in the next year.

Willington Old School

It's been a very difficult year for the Old School, our 25-year lease expired last year and negotiations continue with the Dioceses of Derby over its renewal and sadly the latest offer has been rejected. WOST are now preparing their best and final offer, conversations continue.

AP160523/6 Closure of Meeting

The Meeting closed at 6.48pm.

Signed:.....

Date:.....