

WILLASTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 10th MAY 2011

Present : Parish Councillors S Brazier, M R Crimes, A J Cutts, J M Flackett, B Harding, M R Jones, W E Kirby, F R Morton, S Potts & C F Todd.

Cheshire East Councillor B Silvester.

Apologies : Parish Councillor D W Lewis.

1 CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED : that Councillor M R Jones be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED : that Councillor C F Todd be appointed Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED : that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2011 and the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th April 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 OPEN FORUM

The following issues were raised by members of the public :-

- A resident expressed concerns about speeding on Green Lane, particularly in the mornings when it is used as a rat run by motor cyclists as well as car drivers. Councillor Todd advised that the police had carried out speed checks in the lane last week and a number of fixed penalty tickets were issued.
- The issue of a pedestrian crossing on Crewe Road close to the junction of Colleys Lane was raised. The introduction of a new crossing in this area has already been agreed in principle by the Highways Department, but is subject to the availability of funding.

6 POLICING ISSUES

Councillor Todd reported that he had discussed attendance at parish council meetings with the police and they expect to be represented at the June meeting. Councillor Todd has already had a meeting with the new Inspector to discuss various issues, including the perennial problem of speeding in Colleys Lane. Inspector Smithers advised that 5 fixed penalty tickets had recently been issued to speeding motorists on the lane.

7 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILLORS REPORT

Borough Councillor Silvester congratulated Councillors Jones and Todd on their appointments as Parish Chairman and Vice Chairman and reported that :-

- Cheshire East Council had indicated agreement to the village green being named Heywood Green in memory of Councillor Heywood

- Donations of £440 towards Willaston in Bloom had been raised at a recent event organised by Councillor Silvester in memory of Councillor Heywood. It was suggested that this could be used to fund a sign to be displayed on the village green naming it Heywood Green.
- Councillor Silvester had also spoken to the police about speeding on Colleys Lane and confirmed that several speeding tickets had been issued.

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

11/1168N – Variation of the approved plans by deleting reference to the plan numbered 26_02 & approval of the plans numbered 23_04 Rev D & 26_05 Rev C for 10/2109N, 147 Wistaston Road
No objections

Cheshire East Council decisions

No decisions have been received since the last meeting.

9 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED : that a Britain in Bloom Committee be appointed and that a Planning Committee be appointed consisting of the following members :-

- Britain in Bloom Committee – M R Crimes, J M Flackett, D W Lewis, S J Renkel-Clarke.
- Planning Committee – S Brazier, A Cutts, F R Morton, S Potts & C F Todd.

10 APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE TO WYBUNBURY UNITED CHARITIES

RESOLVED : that Councillor Brazier be appointed as trustee to Wybunbury United Charities.

11 GREEN GAP POLICY UPDATE

Councillor Cutts reported that the next meeting of the Green Gap Action Team will be held on Thursday 19th May. A meeting was held with the Cheshire East Council Local Development Framework Team on 15th March, following which a letter was sent to the Spatial Planning Team on 23rd April detailing the concerns of residents.

Councillor Kirby expressed concerns that planning policy was being railroaded through by Cheshire East Council, that the consultation process was being short circuited and that Willaston was being treated as part of urban Crewe. He proposed that various letters should be sent by the Parish Chairman, including one to the Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council. However, the meeting considered that it would not be appropriate to write further letters at this time as responses were still awaited to previous letters, and the deadlines given for those responses had not yet passed.

12 PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

The following matters were reported :-

- A Willaston walks leaflet is being produced and should be available by the end of the month.

- The web site is still in the early stages of development.
- The first Community Pride Award inspection took place on the Tuesday after Easter and the next inspection will be in the second week of June. The clerk is to contact Cheshire East Council to ask for the street sweeper to be deployed in the village a few days beforehand. Entries have also been submitted for the Parish magazine and the Community Spirit Award.
- The Spring edition of Willaston Reach has been cancelled and the next edition will now be published during the second week of June.

13 SUMMER FETE

Councillor Flackett reported that a working group meeting was held on 14th April and the next meeting will be on 19th May. Forms are now available for girls aged 7-11 to apply for the position of Rose Queen, and St John`s Chapel has once again agreed to the use of their toilet facilities for the fete.

Last year representatives of Cheshire East Council put on entertainment for children at the fete and Councillor Flackett would like to see that repeated this year. However, due to cost constraints, the Borough Council is unable to fund the total cost this year, but has offered to provide matched funding if the parish council will provide a contribution of £50.

RESOLVED : that a contribution of £50 be provided towards the cost of the children`s Entertainment on the understanding that this will be matched by Cheshire East Council.

14 ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

RESOLVED : that the annual inspections will take place on Wednesday 15th June at the following times – 6.30pm at the Playing Field and 7.00pm at the Allotment Site.

15 REPORT OF THE CLERK

The clerk presented his usual written report and made particular reference to the following items :-

- The RoSPA report on the children`s play area has now been received with most items of equipment and safety surfacing assessed as either low risk or very low risk. There are a couple of items of medium risk and few minor issues which need to be addressed.
- An offer has been received from Aoife Middlemass of Cheshire East Community and Voluntary Services to attend a future council meeting in order to explain the services which they provide. It was agreed that the clerk should respond by offering an invitation to a future meeting.
- Details of ChALC training courses for the coming year have now been received and these may be of interest to the new councillors in particular.

16 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED : that the accounts totalling £2,489.83 as detailed in the attached schedule be approved for payment.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was confirmed as 28th June 2011.

18 OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The following matters were raised by councillors :-

- The weeds along the entrance to the playing field keep re-appearing and the possibility of a permanent solution was raised. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the June meeting.
- Willaston History Group currently has a display in Nantwich Museum which runs until 18th June.
- There has been an incidence of fly tipping next to 178 Colleys Lane. This has been reported by Councillor Kirby and the refuse is due to be collected tomorrow.
- The recent change in refuse collection dates has left some residents with a three week gap until the next black bin collection. The clerk is to write to Cheshire East Council regarding this.
- The embankment alongside the pavement on Park Road is expanding and covering the much of the pavement. The clerk will report this to the Highways Department.
- The red telephone box on Wistaston Road needs re-painting.
- Hedge cuttings have been deposited behind the Willaston in Bloom sign at the end of Wistaston Road, apparently by the occupier of the adjacent house. This detracts from the image of the village and will have a negative effect on the Community Pride and Britain in Bloom judging. Councillor Cutts will speak to the occupier about this.
- The Royal British Legion has asked whether the inscriptions on the war memorial can be duplicated on the village green. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the June meeting.
- The insurance cover for the Willaston Clean Team was raised. The clerk is to make enquiries of Cheshire East Council in this respect.
- It was agreed that the clerk should write to Keith Ward to thank him for his services as a councillor over the last several years.

Chairman..... Date.....