

**WILLINGHAM BY STOW PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held in the Village Hall on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 8pm**

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Present: Cllr D Bingham (Chairman), P Bates, D Wain, D Leak, S Webster, A Borman, S Cullen, S Faull, R Didcock, B Bussey, C Billingham, K Birkett, S Hunt, L Foreman, S Martin and L Brooks-Sleight (Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Received from S & G Carter, S & D Cannon, G Hicks

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2015**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 were approved & signed as a true and correct record **Resolved**

**3. Chairman's Report** – presented by Cllr D Bingham

- Thanked all fellow councillors who have served the village over the last year and a special thank you to Dave Edwards who stood down in December as he was moving away, Dave put a lot of work into several village groups and will be missed by us all
- This year we have been able to buy and put into place our defibrillator with the help of the Willingham & District Relief in Sickness Charity, Cllr Reg Shore Council Initiative Fund and the Parish Council Funds. We also put on a training session which was well attended
- We have worked very hard on getting the drain opposite the surgery sorted and not getting very far until we contacted Sir Edward Leigh who managed to pull some strings and get Anglian Water into action. They have now put a valve into the pipe work to transfer all water and such to the sewage works and at present seems to be working well. I would also like to thank Sandy Carter for her help on this matter, hopefully we have now resolved the problem
- I would also like to thank the WI for the village Christmas tree, we provided funds for the lights and with the help of Dave Bussey and Martin Shaw, the background lighting on the church and the tree all looked very effective thank you
- In the autumn, we planted bulbs around the village entrance signs, on hospital corner and round the cemetery railings, the WI planted some at the village hall which has brightened up the village this spring. Thank you to Maureen Volvert for maintaining the village planter. We did have our annual litter pick at the start of the month, thanks to those who turn out and hopefully we made the place tidier, lastly, we have bought a village flagpole to be placed at the playing field entrance so we can fly various flags for special occasions
- Best kept garden this year was won by Mr & Mrs Willgoose, 7 High Street
- Planning this last year have mainly had alterations and granny flats, plans for a new bungalow on Gainsborough road was refused by West Lindsey
- Lastly a big thank you to Lisa our clerk for all her hard work and hours she has put in and for putting up with me!

4. **Parish Council Accounts 2015/16** – presented by the clerk  
Balance brought forward from 31st March 2015 was **£8,356.54**

- **Expenditure** consisted of the Clerk's salary, room hire for meetings, LALC annual subscription, the grass cutting contract, handyman costs, insurance, audit fees etc. Grants of financial support were given to both the village hall (£1,500), the playing field (£2,000) to enable them to carry out the vital work they do in the village and a donation to the Church for Christmas Lights (£89.27)
- A Defibrillator & Cabinet; a plaque; office printer; a road sign; 6 passive road signs; Flagpole & flags;
- Total expenditure was **£11,539.11**.
- The main part of the Parish Councils **Income** comes from the precept at **£9,500**. Other income from cemetery fees, Defibrillator donations, rental of the parish fields and maintenance for public footpaths from the County Council.
- Total income was **£12,539.25**

We ended the year with **£9,366.68**

**Resolved**

5. **Reports for Village Organisations**

- **WI** – have enjoyed an active year and made full use of the facilities offered by the Village Hall. Topics covered as diverse as Pork Pie making and sinking the Titanic. All members have been active in supporting local organisations including the Lincolnshire Show where we gained 4<sup>th</sup> place in the floral exhibit class and the Willingham Horticultural Show where we gained 1<sup>st</sup> place in a similar class. We provided food for the village Twinning event and held a mosaic workshop which well attended and enjoyed.  
We had some brilliant speakers who have entertained us in style including several locals such as Dave Bussey, Sandra Pickesly and the Rev Phillip Wain.  
Members planted daffodil bulbs at the village hall in the shape of the WI emblem and a tree in the Church Yard to mark the National WI's Centenary Year and a Centenary Tea at Kirton Garden Centre.  
For the future – we have produced a new style program for 2016 and have copies placed at the Doctors surgery/local pubs/ halls & clubs. We have already had demonstrations of willow making with Tai Chi in June followed by Lincolnshire Superstitions, foraging for Fungi, Halloween evening and a talk from Ruston's and Siemens, making Christmas Crackers, line dancing. We are an active group with wide ranging interests.  
Overall, the Village Hall has allowed many people to meet, laugh and have fun together and we thank the VH committee for their support and maintenance of the hall for our meetings. We have a Facebook page with contact details for anyone interested.
- **Willingham & District Relief in Sickness Charity** – The Charity covers the villages of Willingham, Kexby, Upton, Heapham, Sturgate, Springthorpe and Corringham. The charity recently donated £650 to Willingham Parish Council to help with the cost of the Defibrillator and is giving the same amount to the other villages. A donation is given each year to the village hall for the storage of equipment. We have several wheelchairs, walking frames, commodes which are available for loan to residents. Full details from Dorothy Wain
- **Friendship Club** – meets every other Wednesday afternoon in the village hall, have 22 members. We have a variety of speakers and social afternoons, outings and a garden meeting. We are still looking for someone to take over the running of the club as chairman, at the moment the main contact is Dorothy but we take turn to chair the meetings. Speakers include Alex & Janet Whitehead, Mavis Wilkinson, Mary Porter, Age Concern and Sue Faull with her Hand bells. New Members always welcome.

- **Howson House** - main contact Sally Cullen spoke of the recent planning permission that had been granted by W. Lindsey
- **Playing Field** – a report was given on behalf of Tim Foreman with an update from the Playing Field Committee. Annual auction raised over £1000, but sadly the attendance has been declining over last 3 years. Bringing back the May Day breakfast in conjunction with the Nativity. Committee Members dwindled from 15 to 5 members. A special recognition to Mary Clark who has been on the committee from the beginning and has done a tremendous amount from this committee. There is grave concern that without new & enthusiastic members the Playing Field will dwindle & will be forced to hand back to the Parish Council.
- **Brownies** – Louise Foreman reported - the past year has seen the number of Brownie girls attending range from 11 -18 members in the 1<sup>st</sup> Willingham unit. The girls attending mostly coming from Sturton by Stow primary school. Louise Foreman reported - the past year has seen the number of Brownie girls attending range from 11 -18 members in the 1<sup>st</sup> Willingham unit. The girls attending mostly coming from Sturton by Stow primary school. So far, this year Brownies have achieved their hobby badge, attended QEHS for a day of craft in celebration of World Thinking Day and represented Willingham by Stow in the Gainsborough St Georges Day parade. We now are looking forward to working towards the Brownie Traditions badge, visiting the playing field and park and maypole dancing. Sadly, since the departure of Snowy Owl, I have struggled to secure another second in command and therefore I rely heavily on parents helping as and when they can. Due to various reasons, I am handing in my notice as leader to 1<sup>st</sup> Willingham Brownies - end of July. So, to keep Brownies in Willingham it is with earnest, another leader be found to take over this unit as soon as possible, If you know of any willing females over the age of 18 whom you think would be suitable to take over as Brown Owl please refer them to me at their earliest convenience
- **Village Hall** – Louise Foreman spoke in Rebecca Andrews absence – 150 Cub still available, Repairs done to main hall floor holes, cooker bought up to regulation - £791, donations received from regular hall users towards this. Coffee morning on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday every month from 10am. Strawberry Tea Aug 2015 went well, Christmas Fayre last year well attended – over £300. New cleaner appointed. Valentines Dance joint with Twinning just over £180. Future – Queens birthday celebrations June 10 & 12<sup>th</sup> and Strawberry Tea 13<sup>th</sup> August.
- **Table Tennis (Adults)** – report from Colin Gill, another steady season, the adults only have only 8 people so desperate for new members. Please pass the word around, we have now finished & will restart on 7<sup>th</sup> September at 8pm.
- **Table Tennis (Juniors)** – report from Kev Burkett, secondary age children up to 18 years, average attendance 8-10. Last 4 years had teams in local Gainsborough League with 2 divisions. This year reached the Calcutta Cup Final and next year numbers will be down due to some going to Universities, so welcome any new comers. We meet 7-8pm in village hall every Wednesday between September and April.
- **Bell Ringers** – regularly rung on Sundays & Wednesdays practice nights. Had 4 new ringers from Willingham and 1 from Upton with all 6 bells ringing again on Sundays. Regular visitors from other churches around West Lindsey as well as further afield. Will Continue to put on special ringing to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the deaths of Willingham residents of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. There will also be a special ringing for the Queens official birthday in June.
- **Horticultural Society** – A very successful show last year, support received from Brownies, Beavers and Cubs, the School and villagers. Pleased with more entries from the allotment holders. This year's show will be our 70<sup>th</sup>. Coffee morning to boost income at Sue Bingham on 7<sup>th</sup> May. We would be pleased to recruit new members to the committee, no gardening expertise necessary.
- **Cricket** – Simon Hunt reported on the cricket club and that the cricket team will be returning to the village

- **St Helens Church** – report received from Barbara Bussey, we have an electoral roll of 50 with 20 regular worshippers on a Sunday. It is a large and old building to maintain so grateful for all support during the year. Main fundraiser is the annual hog roast so please come along. Minor repairs required both internal & externally, beginning to raise funds for a larger project to repair the roof. Financial assistance from the Parish Council at Christmas and tree from the WI. Andrew Staton new organist & choir master. The group of churches as between one priest leaving and another being appointed. All parishioners welcome -at all times, the church is open most days for private prayer. The Parish Magazine continues to be a posting place for many village organisations as well as church news, it's non-profit making and completely edited and delivered by volunteers. Please let us know if you would like a copy.
- **Twinning** – Ray Didcock, Chairman gave the 2015/16 report. Including the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning, the village joining with Moyenneville in France in 1999. And the visit to Willingham that took place the second weekend in July. All costs covered by fund-raising activities - the production of a play in the village hall. Our fundraising efforts often benefit other groups in the community -a donation was made to the village hall as a contribution for the new cooker hood This year we head to France with 34 guests, this includes several children who go free.  
In summary, whilst 'new blood' is always welcomed, WTA remains healthy in terms of support and finances and we all looking forward to our long weekend in Moyenneville in July.

#### **Open forum for public participation**

- Positive response received for the daffodils/flowers around the village. A possible request of a decorative village signs and bulbs/plants under signs
- A request for Smiley Sid on the High Street, been good seeing it out on Stow Road but still concerns of speeding traffic on the High Street
- Howson House – residents concerned of the planning permission recently granted for change of use of bungalow, expansion not wanted

Meeting Ended 9pm