

WILLINGHAM BY STOW PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held in the Village Hall on Thursday 23rd April 2015**

Present: Cllr D Bingham (Chairman), P Bates, D Wain, S Cannon, D Leak, H Hunt, G Hicks, A Borman, A Cragg, D Cullen, S Cullen, G Coster, C Coster, R Didcock, J Didcock, D Bussey, B Bussey, C Gill, S Faull and L Brooks-Sleight (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Received from S Webster, D Edwards and R Andrews

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2014

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2014 were approved & signed as a true and correct record **Resolved**

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

- Thanked fellow councillors who served the community over the last year and to David Leak who was co-opted on to the council after a resignation part way through the year, also thanked Simon Cannon for all his hard work as he is standing down, Simon has served two terms on the council and as well as been a past chairman.
- We haven't had any major projects this year, but our last year's project down Cotgarth Lane has been very successful over the past winter. Highways have made a good job of cleaning Green Lane, cutting the thorns back and mowing it.
- We have had a new notice board put up on the bottom green near the planter for all to use.
- We have been several complaints about the smell of the drain opposite the doctors' surgery and rats, this is an ongoing problem we have had for a number of years now, Anglian Water, Highways and Environmental Health are all fully aware of the problem and are now working together to hopefully resolve it.
- You will have all noticed our famous white line now opposite the village hall to help with the parking! This was put in the totally wrong place as someone from Highways can't read a map or job report, no one could give us a reason why it was put there but after several letters and phone calls they have now decided to replace it with a lay-by shortly.
- Best kept garden competition winner was Mr and Mrs Everington, Stow road. The competition will run again in July.
- We have again been able to give grants to both the Village Hall and Playing Field to enable them carry out essential repairs and up keep.
- Planning applications over the year were mainly for alterations and extensions and one for a conversion of the old doctor's surgery into a bungalow and separation from the main house. An application for one new dwelling on Stow road was passed by the Parrish council but turned down by West Lindsey.
- National Cycle Championships will be coming through the village on the 28th June at approximately 10.30, 11.57 and 12.51. There will be several road closures throughout the day and traffic will not be allowed to leave the village southbound towards Sturton 20 minutes prior to the times. We will nearer the time put up routes/times on the notice boards.

- Lastly Graham Coster (a past councillor) was thanked for doing his regular litter picks around the village, Maureen Vauvert for looking after the village planter, Dave Bussey for keeping the village website up to date and to our clerk Lisa who started at the beginning of the year and has been a great help to me and the Parish.

4. **Parish Council Accounts 2015/16** – were presented by the clerk

Balance brought forward April 2014 was **£6,724.92**

Expenditure consisted of the Clerk's salary, room hire for meetings, the grass cutting contract, handyman costs, insurance, audit fees etc. Grants of financial support were given to both the village hall (£1,500) and the playing field (£2,000) to enable them to carry out the vital work they do in the village.

A Cemetery Sign; gate for the Parish Field and a notice board on the corner of Grange Lane/High Street were purchased (for £395.00) **Total expenditure was £9,509.38**

The main part of the Parish Councils **Income** comes from the precept at **£9,500**. Other income from cemetery fees, rental of the parish fields and maintenance for public footpaths from the County Council. **Total income was £11,141**

We ended the year with £8,356.54

Resolved

5. **Reports for Village Organisations**

- **Twinning Committee** reported by Ray Didcock – 2014 saw the 15th anniversary of Twinning the village with Moyenneville in France in 1999. Annual visits until 2011 when twinning included Postrelmov in the Czech Republic, each village hosting every 3 years with this year our turn. July 14 – we visited Postrelmov with Moyenneville – first class opportunity to experience the Czech life.
This year's visit to Willingham -around 50 guests over weekend 10th-13th July with visit to York, hog roast & live entertainment planned. All covered by fund raising with village groups helping. A request was made for accommodation for the visitors. In summary, the group remains healthy in support & finances and looking forward to a successful twinning weekend in July.
- **Table Tennis** report – 15-20 each week (15 young, 8 seniors), new senior members required, Wednesdays 8-10pm
- **Website** – Dave Bussey gave his report on the village website
- **Church** – Barbara reported that St Helens remains a central point in the community. 50 on electoral roll & up to 20 regular worshippers each Sunday. Grateful for support both financially & volunteered to help maintain the building. Annual Hog Roast first weekend in July. Last Autumn St Helens had their quin quennial (5 year building inspection) - no report to date. Rev Rhys Prosser has retired due to ill health and now have a vacancy, services will continue with the lay ministry until a new appointment is made. The church is open daily for anyone to visit for private prayer, all parishioners are welcome each Sunday, lovely to see extra people in the congregation.
- **Howson House** – Sally Cullen gave her report of Howson House
- **Bell Ringers** – bells are rung on Sundays & Wednesday practice nights. On lookout for new recruits as active ringers from village have reduced – only 3 of 6 bells often rung on a Sunday morning. Regular visitors from others churches in West Lindsey on Wednesdays and occasional visitors from further afield helping to maintain a lively and interesting practice. A special ringing for the 100th anniversaries of the deaths of Willingham residents in the 1st World War as listed on the memorial board inside the church and shall continue with this over the next few years. Also been asked to have a special ringing for the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta.

- **WI** – an interesting & active year to report, some highs & lows and change in membership with Angela Borman in her 2nd year as President – with an aim to encourage new members both young and not so young to come & join. Year started with a visit from Horace Liberty – a talk through the Liberty Family, Firm & Fashion, followed by a very interesting talk on building a Saxon House and hoping to visit during 2015. Talks from a retired vet – Stuart Watson about his travels & adventures and a trip down memory lane with Ken Day. The garden party plan for August changed due to the weather but re-organised a session on Middle Eastern and Belly dancing with Connie Hurd which was great fun with members. Joined Lea WI for a demonstration on pastry making with Linda Hewitt. October – celebrated 80th birthday with a meal at Fox and Hounds, birthday cake and WI HQ visitors, an exhibition of handiwork, crafts ephemera in a setting of a 1930's tea shop. A bit disappointed that villagers didn't go and see & enjoy their home made cakes and afternoon teas. A reminder that the WI are a vibrant and active group who are so talented and who really know how to laugh both at themselves and life in general. Later in the year talks and demos from a local goat cheese making organisation; a lesson on 'science is fun'; an hilarious social evening of bingo with Margaret Wilson; our Federation annual meeting at the Embassy Centre, Skegness - listened to a funny talk from Eric Knowles of Antiques Roadshow who presented Margaret Wilson a certificate for 50years membership & Margaret Horsburgh 60years continuous membership. WI delighted when the cooker & hood are restored and appreciative of the improved heating system & redecoration – makes a pleasant place to meet. Would welcome new members and visitors to all meetings, need to grow to survive.
- **Horticultural Society** – a successful show again last year with the support from the Brownies, Beavers and Cubs, the School and villagers was much appreciated. Entries in Domestic baking and flower arranging classes have gradually gone down – hoping to persuade WI to take part as it was the WI who started the Show 69 years ago. This year Show – last Saturday in September – information on classes are on the village website and a show schedule will be delivered to each household in August. The Show makes a loss each year as prize money greater than takings – so had a coffee morning to boost income which was well supported. Pleased to have recruited a new member to the committee but have lost a few lately and would like a few more people willing to help out with the organisation of the annual event.
- **Willingham & District Relief in Sickness Charity** – presented by Dorothy, the charity meets twice a year, they supply Magazines to Upton, and Willingham Friendship clubs & gives donations to the villages for a Christmas Party. If anyone is in need of help that is not available elsewhere we will consider them. The Chiropody service is well used and items available for loan consist of - wheelchairs; shower stool; commodes; back rests and wheeled walkers. The Charity covers the villages of Willingham, Kexby, Upton, Heapham, Sturgate, Springthorpe and Corringham. A donation is given each year to the village hall for the storage of equipment – Thank you
- **Friendship Club** – presented by Dorothy, meets every other Wednesday afternoon in the village hall, have 22 members. We have speakers and social afternoons for knit & natter; play cards; dominos. Speakers include Stuart Watson – life as a vet; Rev Alex Whitehead – his early school days; Trentside Singers entertained us; Gainsborough Old Hall talk & slides; Janet Whitehead – music & poetry afternoon; Howson House – new age Curling; Age Concern – cards & calendars, with several members went to their AGM & Christmas Fair at the Petwood; a garden meeting at Margaret Spencer's; a lovely Christmas lunch at the Half Moon but we are still looking for someone to take over the running of the club, Thank you.
- **Village Hall** – the Committee very appreciative of Grant received from the Parish Council. Barbara reported the cooker is now repaired with the cooker hood changed and now is safe to use. First year of new heating pipes & radiators, much improved - will know in the summer if proves to be more economical and the hall has been redecorated– hopes residents are pleased.

Open forum for public participation

- Concerns were raised about the open dyke problems – What is Happening?
-Cllr Bingham informed everyone that all authorities are now getting together to solve the problem
- A request for the 30 sign near the surgery, to be moved further out of the village
-Cllr Bingham replied that a meeting had taken place with HW regarding this and that HW classed it as a low priority case and that flashing signs are expensive
- Christmas Decorations at the Church corner – very poor, no lights/decorations for the village to celebrate Christmas – Parish Council to add to a future agenda to discuss donation/grant for lights
- Bins at Cemetery, not always emptied, don't go in and collect the bins! – clerk to contact WL
- Manhole cover on Gainsborough Road broken – clerk to notify HW
- Defibrillator – Cllr Bingham informed of intention to purchase and place at the Village Hall, currently looking into available grants
- Concerns that new residents of Willingham not receiving village information – Cllr Bingham informed all that the parish council have a Welcome to Willingham Letter and Cllr Wain delivers to all new residents

Meeting Ends

Signed:

Dated: 28th April 2016