

Willington Parish Council

T: 07976 230669 E: clerk@willingtonpc.org.uk

Parish Council Minutes of Willington Parish Council Held on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at The Old School, Castleway, Willington

Present: Cllrs P. Allsopp (Chair), T. Bartram, M. Bartram, A. Davenport, R. Titley and C. Harrison.
Members of the public.
Rachel Male (Clerk).

010225/1 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs. C. Mead, I. Hudson. J. Houghton.

010225/2 Variation of Order of Business

Not required.

010225/3 Declaration of Members' Interests

None.

010225/4 Public Speaking, including County, District and Police Representation.

a) Members of the public raised several concerns:

A resident asked about the Repton Road bus stop (opposite Hall Lane), specifically whether an RTI (Real-Time Information) display would be installed. While an RTI display is not planned for this location, it is expected to be installed at the stops near the Green Man and Rising Sun. The resident also suggested that the WI take on the responsibility of keeping the stop clean and tidy. The Clerk requested that the WI submit a formal request to the Parish Council regarding this.

Additionally, a resident asked for an update on the Community Building. The Chair noted that a meeting with the FA to discuss funding is scheduled for March 5th.

b) **County Councillor Martyn Ford:**

Road Works Around Willington - The ongoing roadworks in and around the village are causing significant disruption, with further works planned in the near future. While contractors have compulsory rights to carry out these works, limiting the Council's influence over scheduling, it was noted that four out of the five village exits are currently affected. The Council suggested that better coordination of timing could help reduce the impact on residents.

RTI Signs - Progress on this project remains slow. DCC plans to install the foundations for the totem within the next few weeks. Additionally, they will assess the poles at the two other stops on the green early next month. If the existing poles are suitable, RTI units will be installed; if not, they will be replaced with new poles to accommodate the RTI units.

Willington Bridge Repairs (Willington to Repton) - DCC's Structures Management Team has received two quotes for the permanent repairs. Once the necessary paperwork is approved, repair dates will be confirmed.

Gully Repair at Station Garden - The manhole chamber has been installed, and a CCTV survey has identified necessary repairs to the culvert running from the gully/manhole to the watercourse. The culvert is currently functioning and allowing rainwater to flow. Any additional works will be scheduled for the new financial year, as the asset is operational at present.

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Refuge on Twyford Road - County Cllr M. Ford has been actively following up on this project. However, it is not included in the programme for completion before the end of the financial year. He will continue to pursue updates on our behalf.

The County Council elections would go ahead in May 2025.

The County Council had set Council Tax increases at 2.99% with extra 2.00% for Social Care; a total Council Tax rise of 4.99%.

Derbyshire County Council had just signed a new drain clearance contract.

District Councillor (SDDC) Ian Hudson:

Cllr. I. Hudson was absent from the meeting however sent the following update:

Update on the Local Government Re-organisation - if you recall this will be whereby the 2-tier council system throughout England will be abolished and replaced with larger unitary councils. So, for us that means no more Derbyshire County Council and no more South Derbyshire District Council. It has now been decided that this change, for us will take place in 2027/2028 and May's County Elections will take place as planned. There are lots of 'discussions' on what the boundaries of our New Unitary Council will be, an initial proposal will be made to the government in March, so next month.

BESS application decisions - are on hold until some elected member training is completed.

010225/5 To confirm and agree as a true record the non-confidential Minutes of the Willington Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2025

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

010225/6 To consider a resolution to close the meeting for public participation under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

Not required.

010225/7 Clerks Report

Noted and attached.

A request from National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for access to Twyford Road Playing Field for a one-day soil resistivity survey was received late; however, the Council wished to be made aware and agreed in principle to proceed. The matter will be formally added to the March agenda for further discussion and a final decision.

NGET has requested a 12-month survey access license in relation to works at Willington Substation, offering compensation of £500 plus an additional £250. The survey is expected to take place on March 25th.

010225/8 Planning Applications

DMPN/2025/0126 - Prior Approval for change of use of food premises to dwellinghouse at 5 The Green, Willington, Derby DE65 6BP – **Noted**, however, District Councillor I. Hudson has informed the Council that this will need to be remade as a full planning application.

010225/9 Highway Repairs

The Council discussed ongoing issues with potholes, road deterioration (e.g., Hall Lane, Milton to Foremark), and neglected pavement repairs, noting that some areas are prioritised over others, and the disabled paving at Churchside/Repton Road remains unaddressed.

RESOLVED to encourage residents to report issues and to forward the reference number and email confirmation when they report a fault or pothole in the village. The Clerk will then periodically follow up with DCC Highways to ensure unresolved issues are addressed.

010225/10 Tree Works

Deferred to March as awaiting quotes.

010225/11 Replacement of village litter bins

RESOLVED to replace litter bins on Station Garden, Trent Avenue play area, Twyford Road (adjacent to the school) and the bin on the corner Trent Avenue and Twyford Road by the notice board. At a cost of £314.99 plus VAT plus the fitting (approx. £100 per bin) and fixtures per bin (total of 4 bins). **RESOLVED** to remove the Trent Avenue play area dog bin completely.

010225/12 Future of Village Planters

The Council discussed the future of the village planters, noting that there are currently 10 displays, costing approximately £2,600 per year for summer and winter planting, including watering. Some planters are showing signs of wear and tear.

The Council discussed the future of the village planters and **RESOLVED** to discontinue the winter displays. The RAC will meet to discuss the number of planters (likely a reduction of 10 down to 6), locations, costs, and potential reinvestment in newer planters, including the possibility of self-watering options. Another option considered was to invest in new self-watering planters for the main entrances/exits to the village and reuse the current ones for other locations. The RAC will also consider planting daffodils around the village's green verges. Additionally, the Council will explore whether the school is interested in repurposing any planters being removed.

010225/13 Neighbourhood Development Plan

- **Green Spaces:** The map needs further work to align with SDDC comments, and it needs to be shaded before it can be sent back for review.
- **Key Views:** Working group members have been collaborating with the planning consultant on this aspect, and further work is ongoing.
- **Public Consultees:** Work is being done to amalgamate the public consultees and create a document in Word format, though the final format still needs to be determined.
- **Heritage Assets:** Justification for inclusion is required, followed by contacting the relevant owners.
- **Statutory Consultees:** This will be reviewed and updated in collaboration with the planning consultant.
- **History of Willington Neighbourhood Group:** Members of the working group are working on compiling the history of the NDP, outlining the consultations and progress made to date.

010225/14 Play area inspections

Recent report was noted.

Cllrs. P. Allsopp and M. Bartram, along with the Clerk, met with Elaine Clamp, Parks & Green Spaces Facilities Officer from South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC), to review the play area inspection reports in more detail. The purpose of the meeting was to better understand the process and the works required.

During the discussion, it was suggested that SDDC may be interested in reclaiming ownership of the Trent Avenue play area. Elaine agreed to inquire about this on behalf of the Parish Council.

Additionally, the Council agreed to obtain a quote for the removal of the wooden railing either side of the basket swing at Trent Avenue. As there is no legal requirement to have these railings and the wood is deteriorating, it was recommended that they be removed. The Clerk will seek a quote for this work.

The Clerk will also get a quote to have new signs erected on the play areas.

a. Trent Avenue Swing Replacement

DEFERRED to next month.

010225/15 Correspondence

a. Dog Fouling Concerns in Village

The Council acknowledged an email from a resident regarding significant dog fouling in key areas of the village. The issue has been flagged with South Derbyshire District Council. **RESOLVED** to encourage the resident and others to report any further instances of dog fouling directly to SDDC, as this would help ensure a warden visits the area and identifies hotspot locations.

b. BESS Applications – Fire Risk Concerns

The Council discussed an email from a resident raising concerns about the fire risks associated with Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), specifically the potential release of toxic hydrogen fluoride (HF) in the event of a fire. The resident requested further clarification on fire suppression measures, emergency response protocols, and the adequacy of the information provided in the planning applications regarding potential emissions and storage capacity. The Council agreed to direct these concerns to South Derbyshire District Councillor Ian Hudson. However, Councillor Hudson had already reviewed the agenda item and responded via email to the Clerk, asking for the email to be forwarded to him so he could provide an answer. He also clarified the following:

- BESS units use lithium-ion batteries, which, in the event of a fire, can release toxic gases. These batteries are widely used in many products such as mobile phones, cars, laptops, and toys.
- A Bill currently before Parliament, if passed, will make it a requirement for the Fire and Rescue Service to be a statutory consultee for all BESS applications.
- South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) already consults with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding BESS applications.
- The Fire and Rescue Service requires a full fire suppression and mitigation scheme, as well as an emergency action plan, for BESS applications. SDDC is likely to follow the Fire and Rescue Service's expert advice on these matters.
- The Council noted this information and agreed that concerns regarding BESS applications should continue to be directed through the proper consultation channels with SDDC

c. Cadent Gas Works – Findern Lane, Willington

The Council noted that Cadent Gas has planned essential works on Findern Lane due to an 8" gas main requiring attention. The work will involve a rolling road closure, with different sections of the road closed at different times rather than a full closure. The proposed dates for the works are from 3rd March 2025 to 5th May 2025.

While this is a compulsory order, the Council expressed concerns about the timing, as it coincides with other ongoing works in the village, which could cause additional disruption.

d. Maintenance of Trees and Hedges Behind Derwent Court Allotments

The Council discussed a resident's concerns regarding trees and hedges backing onto the allotments at Derwent Court that have not been trimmed in line with others. Additionally, an apple tree in the area was reported to be attracting rats.

It was **AGREED** that the Council would obtain a quote for the necessary trimming and maintenance work.

010225/16 Finance – Income and payments to 18th February 2025

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To approve the income and payments to 18th February 2025. (attached). All invoices were available for inspection prior to the Meeting.

RESOLVED that all income and payments as submitted be agreed.

010225/17 To confirm and agree the accounts to month ending 28th February 2025

RESOLVED that the accounts and bank reconciliation to month ending 28th February 2025, as submitted, be agreed.

010225/18 To discuss and agree the opening of a savings account for reserve funds held by the Parish Council

RESOLVED to open a savings account.

010225/19 Date and time of next Parish Council meeting and any potential committee meetings

The next meeting of the Willington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 18th March 2025.

010225/20 Exclusion of the Press and Public Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Members of the public left the meeting.

010225/21 Memorial tree planting

RESOLVED to allow a memorial tree to be planted on Bargate Lane.

010225/22 Meeting close

The meeting closed at 20.58

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Clerks Report February 2025

FULL COUNCIL MEETING 11TH JANUARY 2022		
	110122/15 Village Green Application – Twyford Road Playing Fields	RESOLVED for the Clerk to investigate how we can protect the playing field if the Village Green application is unsuccessful.
		Clerk is in discussions with Field in Trust.
	110122/19 Young Tree on Beech Avenue and Oaks Road	The tree has a TPO attached to it, planning permission to prune has been requested. RESOLVED to accept a quote of £100, Clerk to check with Contractor the exact work he plans to undertake.
		Asking for a re-quote and an agenda item for February.
Full Council Meeting – 11th October 2022		
	111022/29 Correspondence a) Canal Marina out of date map (email from resident)	The map at the marina is out of date (pharmacy at its old location) RESOLVED that the Clerk will investigate replacing.
		Being investigated.
Other outstanding matter for Council’s information:		
<u>Graffiti</u> - please report any graffiti to the Clerk. Findern side of the railway bridge – reported to SDDC.		
<u>160724/14 Village Maintenance</u> 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 to approve				
Date	Name	Description	VAT	
	John Houghton	Xero invoice (February)	£ 6.60	£ 39.60
	Clerk	Mileage, stationery, ink	£ 3.08	£ 56.95
	Village Hall	Room hire (inv. 9061)		£ 18.00
	Contractor (GM)	Grounds Maintenance (invoice 18)		£ 192.00
	J. Houghton	Christmas tree expenses	£ 17.53	£ 237.60
	SDDC	Play area inspections and repairs (January - Inv. 81129788)	£ 21.86	£ 131.16
	Funding Assistant	Twyford road Project (invoice 3)		£ 72.00
From Unity Trust Bank Statement				
27.01.25	Eon	Twyford Road changing rooms electric		£ 74.11
27.01.25	ICO	Data protection renewal		£ 35.00
28.01.25	Eon	Bowls Club Electric		£ 40.34
28.01.25	SDCVS	Clerk's Salary January + associated fees		£ 1,288.11
29.01.25	Contractor (BP)	Grounds maintenance		£ 563.52
31.01.25	Unity Bank	Service Charge		£ 6.00
		Total	£ 49.07	£ 2,754.39
Income 15.01.25 - 18.0.25				
17.01.25	Burial Income			£ 472.00
24.01.25	Burial Income			£ 315.00
28.01.25	Allotment income			£ 40.00
29.01.25	Burial Income			£ 136.00
04.02.25	Burial Income			£ 136.00
14.02.25	Burial Income			£ 42.00
		Total		£ 1,141.00