

Willington Parish Council

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Parish Council Minutes of Willington Parish Council Held on Tuesday 12th November 2024 at The Old School, Castleway, Willington

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

121124/1 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs. I. Walters and I. Hudson and County Cllr. M. Ford.

121124/2 Variation of Order of Business

Not required.

121124/3 Declaration of Members' Interests

None.

121124/4 Public Speaking, including County, District and Police Representation.

a) A member of the public raised several concerns:

Overgrown Hedges - concern was expressed regarding overgrown private hedges. The Council advised that such issues should be reported to DCC, which can enforce action if the overgrowth is not addressed.

Allotments on Findern Road - Issues were raised about the overgrown state of the allotments, however these are not managed by the Council.

Canal and Adjacent Land - questions were raised regarding overgrowth and maintenance issues near the canal, with clarification needed on the responsibilities of the Canal and River Trust. A fallen tree and subsequent landscaping concerns were discussed, with uncertainty about who is responsible for the area. The land is not registered, and the Council confirmed it does not own it. Further investigation may be required to determine ownership and responsibility.

b) County Councillor Martyn Ford was absent from the meeting however sent the following report:

Willington Bridge Repairs:

Cllr. M Ford is following up with County for updates on the repairs to the causeway. They are awaiting information on quotes, delivery dates, and replacement stone requirements.

Lighting Columns on Castleway:

A request has been made to National Grid to complete the works on Castleway and remove the remaining barriers.

Street Lighting on Repton Road:

A resident has raised concerns about the need for additional street lighting on Repton Road near Bittern View.

Gulley Survey Findings:

As previously reported, the gulley survey identified a blockage on the opposite side of the railway bridge.

Twyford Road Refuge:

An update has been requested on the timeline for the start of construction on the refuge on Twyford Road.

District Councillor Ian Hudson was absent from the meeting however sent the following report:

McDonalds Application - Appeal

McDonalds have lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) against SDDC's decision to refuse their application at the South Bound Y-Pas. SDDC await a 'start letter' from PINS, once received they will write to all interested parties, so anyone who has lodged support or non-support previously. SDDC will then draft a summary for PINS, this will include all previous comments. But everyone can still comment again, even make entirely new points if they so wish.

Martyn Ford and I will be involved in the SDDC summary, I will also write separately to PINS, so can others. PINS decision could go either way.

Bittern View developer

Monument Two, have gone into administration. This means that the Court Injunction proceedings against Monument Two, filed by SDDC are on hold and cannot proceed. This is terrible news for the residents who have an incomplete road, pavements and green space. The residents are very upset, rightly so. Martyn and I have met online with SDDC Legal and Planning, we have asked officers to provide a detailed response to resident concerns.

Flood liaison Meeting

The next meeting is on Thursday 21st November, on teams, 10:00 - 12:00

Freeport

There was a recent webinar on 23rd October, it was quite poorly attended, which we think was more an error on invitations not being sent out appropriately. No new details discussed, but you can take it that the Freeport will be going ahead. One timescale given was for businesses to be on site, up and running by 2031. This, I believe, is ambitious.

Area Forum Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be 21st January 2025, 18:00 - 20:00 at Newton Solney Village Hall

121124/5 To confirm and agree as a true record the non-confidential Minutes of the Willington Parish Council Meeting held on 8th October 2024

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

121124/6 To consider a resolution to close the meeting for public participation under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

Not required.

121124/7 Meeting with Local MP – discussion on BESS applications

Cllrs. Allsopp and I. Hudson met with MP Samantha Nesbitt to discuss concerns regarding the numerous Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) planning applications affecting the village. They highlighted the disruption caused by the spread of these applications across the area.

Cllr. Hudson also invited the Chair and Vice-Chair of Findern Parish Council to the meeting, as they are facing similar issues in their parish. MP Nesbitt was supportive of the concerns raised by both villages.

During the discussion, the need for a national policy on BESS applications was discussed, as this is a growing issue affecting many communities connected to the National Grid.

A suggestion was made as to the possibility of contacting the owners of the power station or investigating a compulsory purchase of a portion of its 280-acre land. Allocating around 50 acres for BESS installations near the grid connection point could minimise disruption to the village while accommodating the infrastructure requirements.

121124/8 Clerks Report

Noted and attached.

121124/9 Planning Applications

a. DMOT/2024/1287 - The pruning of a Holly, Cherry, Norway Maple, Horse Chestnut and Hybrid Black Poplar trees covered by South Derbyshire District Council Tree Preservation Order no. 565 at 46 Hall Lane, Willington, Derby, DE65 6DR

Noted.

b. DMPN/2024/1285 - Prior Notification of larger home extension for erection of a single storey rear extension, with eaves of 2.5 metres and maximum height of 3.5 metres extending 5 metres from the rear wall at 80 Twyford Road, Willington, Derby, DE65 6DE

Noted.

c. DMPA/2024/1345 - The retention of gravelled surface and continued use of land for open storage on Land to the east of the A38, Willington, DE65 6GY

RESOLVED to object in relation to traffic safety at the junction.

121124/10 Chesterfield to Willington Overhead Line - EIA Scoping Regulation 11 Notification and Consultation

The Parish Council discussed the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed Chesterfield to Willington overhead line, as determined by the Planning Inspectorate. As a consultee in this process, the Council noted that, with nine power lines already entering the Willington Power Station site, the addition of one more is unlikely to pose significant new environmental impacts. The Council **RESOLVED**, however, to explore any potential mitigation measures that could be secured through the potential works.

121124/11 South Derbyshire Draft Local Plan 1 Consultation

Last month, Cllrs. J. Houghton, R. Titley, and I. Hudson were appointed to review the South Derbyshire Draft Local Plan 1 and to prepare a proposal for the council's response. This presentation has been delayed to the December meeting, as the South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) planners will be available at the Old School on 20th November, from 16:00 to 19:45 to meet with residents as part of the consultation.

121124/12 Derbyshire County Council Draft Council Plan 2025-29 Consultation

Cllr. C. Harrison was appointed to review the Derbyshire County Council Draft Council Plan 2025-29 and to prepare a proposal for the council's response. Following this, the Council **RESOLVED** to note the consultation.

121124/13 Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Development Plan group met approximately three weeks ago to discuss the next steps. While the original timeline for completion may have been optimistic, the group now anticipates concluding the plan by late 2025. Currently, the group is midway through analysing the questionnaire responses, with another meeting scheduled next week to review the findings and continue progress.

121124/14 Twyford Road proposed community hall and changing rooms

The new funding assistant has been working on the project for the past four weeks and has made progress, particularly with the FA, regarding updated requirements for the changing room facilities. Several zoom meetings are planned in the coming weeks to continue discussions.

It was noted that a potential Severn Trent grant of up to £250,000 could be available, although such large awards are rare. Additional grant opportunities have been identified, including funding from the Garfield Trust, who are one of the largest grant providers out there.

Progress on this project is expected to be steady but slow over the coming months.

121124/15 Request from Willington Scouts group for a donation towards the costs of the 2024 display

The Council considered a request from Willington Scouts for a donation towards the cost of this year's display and **RESOLVED** to donate £350.

121124/16 Bowls club mower service

The Council considered a request from the Bowls Club for a donation towards the service of their mower and **RESOLVED** to donate £260.

121124/17 Twixmas Drop-In Session – Request for Support

The Council considered a request from a group of six volunteers for support with the Twixmas Drop-In session at Willington Village Hall between Christmas and the New Year. The volunteers sought a contribution towards the hall rental for two small rooms for six hours. The Council **RESOLVED** to donate up to a maximum of £72, as the Village Hall may offer a supportive rate.

121124/18 Christmas Celebrations

The Events Working Group gave a brief update on the planned events for the 1st December. **RESOLVED** the budget would increase by £200 to £700 if necessary.

121124/19 DCC totem interactive screen

The Parish Council agreed to assist by supplying local information for the interactive totem screen that DCC plans to install outside Willington Station. Information will include details on Mercia Marina and Repton School, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust nature trail, among other local points of interest.

121124/20 Play area inspections

The Council reviewed the latest inspection reports for the play areas and **RESOLVED** to carry out the following repair/replacement.

Hall Lane:

- Swing Support Bar: The support bar to the swings requires repairs. The proposal is to remove the existing bolt, replace it with a new one, and weld as needed. The estimated cost for these repairs is £80 + VAT.

Trent Avenue:

- Basket Swing – Cross Beam: Further deterioration of the cross beam has been noted, and the swing has been temporarily removed. A replacement beam will take approximately six weeks to be delivered from the order date. The estimated cost for the removal and replacement of the cross beam is £490 + VAT.

121124/21 Xero Costs

To note that costs for Xero (accounting system) will increase by £3.00 per month.

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121124/22 Finance – Income and payments to 12th November 2024

To approve the income and payments to 12th November 2024. (attached). All invoices were available for inspection prior to the Meeting.

RESOLVED that all income and payments as submitted be agreed.

121124/23 To confirm and agree the accounts to month ending 31st October 2024

RESOLVED that the accounts and bank reconciliation to month ending 31st October 2024, as submitted, be agreed.

121124/24 Recreation and Amenities (RAC) and Footpath and Open Spaces Group (FOSG) Committees

121124/25 Exclusion of the Press and Public RESOLVED that 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.

All members of the public and the Clerk left the meeting.

121124/26 Staff members salary review (as per NALC recommendation)

RESOLVED to accept the NALC recommendations.

121124/27 Meeting close

The meeting closed at 20.21.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Clerks Report November 2024

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. Clerk has a site visit with DCC on 11th May to considered. Permission now granted – to decide at the meeting when work is to be carried out. RESOLVED to carry out the work at the end of the year (it was reported it appears to have already been done). Clerk has requested the work to be carried out by another contractor.
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:		
Graffiti - please report any graffiti to the Clerk. Findern side of the railway bridge – reported to SDDC.		
Centre of the village – zebra crossings Faded lines have been reported to DCC. Now repainted.		
Hall Lane play area Minute ref 130623/16 -_It was discussed whether the green fencing to the left of the footpath should be removed or replaced. RESOLVED to replace should the cost be £300 or below and the Clerk will go ahead if this is the case. Update: Awaiting contractor site visit. Update: quote received to replace fence link and posts approx. £2080. Other options to be investigated. 141123/19 a) Hall Lane play area – chain link fence replacement RESOLVED to accept a quote received for £688.13 + VAT to replace. Contractor instructed. Work should be done by the end of May. Contractor chased. Sept 24: Cllr. Houghton to investigating another contractor. The Clerk is awaiting a quote from a new contractor.		
160724/14 Village Maintenance 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 (November)	£ 6.60	£ 39.60
	Clerk	Mileage		£ 23.40
	Contractor (GM)	Grounds Maintenance - Inv. 14		£ 712.00
	Contractor (BP)	Grounds Maintenance (strim two verges outside of the cemetery - Inv. 1086)		£ 105.00
	Contractor (AL)	Mowing of Twyford Road (2 cuts October - Inv. 4775)	£ 48.68	£ 292.08
	Village Hall	Room hire - Inv. 8162		£ 36.00
	Old School	Room hire		£ 42.80
	SDDC	Play area inspections (October - Inv. 81123990)	£ 21.86	£ 131.16
	Funding Assistant	Twyford Road Project		£ 272.00
	Contractor	Planter flowers	£ 214.88	£ 1,286.88
	Royal British Legion	Donation of remembrance wreath and lamppost poppies		£ 150.00
From Unity Trust Bank Statement				
28.10.24	Eon	Twyford Road changing rooms electric		£ 74.11
28.10.24	Eon	Bowls Club Electric		£ 40.34
28.10.24	SDCVS	Clerk's Salary September (including SDCVS charges and HMRC monies owed)		£ 1,242.75
30.10.24	Contractor (BP)	Groundsmaintenance		£ 563.52
31.10.24	Unity Bank	Service Charge		£ 5.40
01.11.24	SDDC	Business rates - Cemetery		£ 41.00
01.11.24	SDDC	Business rates - Tennis courts		£ 28.00
		Total	£ 292.02	£ 5,086.04
Income 08.10.24 - 12.11.24				
15.10.24	Natwest	Compensation		£ 7,445.00
	Burial Income			£ 136.00
		Total		£ 7,581.00