

# Willoughby Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023

		Action
1.	<b>Record of Members Present</b>	
	Councillors M Beech (MB) (Chair), R Honess (RH), M Lewis (ML), S Sheppard (SS) Clerk: Joanne Jarman	
2.	<b>To receive Apologies</b>	
	None	
3.	<b>To receive Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest</b>	
	None	
4.	<b>Public Participation</b> <b>To receive any questions or presentations from the public</b> (15 minutes will be allowed for this item)	
	<p>Two members of the public were present.</p> <p>Residents referred to planning application reference R23/0702 at Ivy House Farm for an extension to an existing stable block and development of an equestrian arena/manege; the residents confirmed that they have no objection to the extension to the existing stable block.</p> <p>The residents raised objections to the proposal to develop an equestrian arena/manege for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it is located on ridge and furrow land that is 500 to 600 years old and is of historical value to the village</li> <li>• it falls within open countryside where development is not permitted</li> <li>• previous applications have been refused due to being on historical ridge and furrow land</li> <li>• a 300-year-old hedgerow will be impacted</li> <li>• it will be visible from Lower Street</li> <li>• if the planning permission was granted it would leave the door open for further applications</li> <li>• the view of the resident is that the arena is of competition size.</li> </ul> <p>It was also noted that residents living in close proximity to the proposed arena did not receive notice of the planning application.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Planning officer to be informed that residents living in close proximity and with an interest have not received notice of the application.</b></p> <p>The resident asked that the Parish Council object to the proposed arena/manege. The Councillors encouraged the resident to submit their own objections and if other residents are of the same opinion to encourage them to do the same.</p>	Clerk
5.	<b>To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b>	
	Proposed by: Cllr Sheppard, Seconded by: Cllr Lewis. <b>Approved</b>	
6.	<b>To Receive Progress Reports on Outstanding Items not covered later on the agenda</b> (for information only)	
6.1	Brooks Close bench and hedge – Cllr Honess has cleared the overgrowth; the bench is now usable. Cllr Beech thanked Cllr Honess on behalf of the Parish Council.	

6.2	Vegetation around the bench in Woolscott Road – Cllr Sheppard has cleared the vegetation; the bench is now usable. Cllr Beech thanked Cllr Sheppard on behalf of the Parish Council.	
7.	<b>Planning</b>	
7.1	<u>R23/0645 – Navigation Farm – Lawful Development Certificate</u> This is a legal matter. It was agreed that a no comment response would be submitted. <b>ACTION: No comment response to be submitted</b>	Clerk
7.2	<u>R23/0702 – Ivy House Farm, Lower Street – Extension of an Existing Stable Block and Development of an Equestrian Arena/Manege</u> The Parish Council has no objection to the proposed extension to the stables.  The Parish Council <b>objects</b> to the proposed arena because it contravenes Policy W1 (D and E) in the adopted Willoughby Neighbourhood Development Plan.  1. Digging out and flattening a 30m x 50m area will destroy a considerable part of the historic ridge and furrow field and this, together with the use of an unspecified surfacing material and post and rail fencing, will have a very adverse visual impact both on the field itself and the wider setting. Contrary to the information on the application form, the arena would be clearly visible from Lower Street and the public footpath to the north. 2. There is a line of trees and hedgerow, right beside the proposed arena. These form one of the long-established hedgerow field boundaries planted shortly after the 1790 enclosure awards. The proposed arena will cut across this historic boundary into the adjacent field. If some or all of the trees and hedgerow are to be removed or pollarded in some way, this would have a major impact on the wider landscape. It would also mean that the arena is highly visible from the public footpath in the adjacent field, as well as from Lower Street and the public footpath to the north. 3. In addition, the arena would be outside the Willoughby village settlement boundary, in open countryside, where development is not permitted.  <b>ACTION: A no objection response to the extension be submitted along with an objection to the arena/manege.</b>	Clerk
8.	<b>Highways, Street Lighting and Footpaths</b>	
8.1	<u>To receive an update on the “20 is plenty” signs</u> The signs have been erected at the top and bottom of Main Street.	
8.2	<u>To receive an update on the upgrade of the street lighting and to consider next steps</u> Cllr Beech thanked Cllr Lewis and the action group volunteers on behalf of the Parish Council for their considerable amount of work undertaken to date. The Clerk has summarised the information, including how the upgrade could be funded. Cllr Beech thanked her for her work on this.  Cllr Lewis confirmed the running costs of new LED street lights have been compared to the current costs. Three different methods have been used to evaluate the savings, including use of data from National Grid; all three methods indicate similar savings. A significant saving is expected on the current electricity costs. It was noted that the current contract ends in 2024 at which point electricity costs could double; if the upgrade to LED does not take place the Precept would have to increase considerably to cover the increased electricity costs.  <b>ACTION: Finalised quotes to be obtained to enable loan funding to be considered prior to a proposal being submitted for consideration.</b>	ML Clerk
8.3	<u>To receive the maintenance schedule for the benches and to consider next steps</u> Cllr Sheppard reported that all benches are in good condition and will not require any maintenance until Spring 2024. Bus shelters have also been inspected and maintenance will also be required in 2024. Maintenance costs will be considered as part of the budget setting process.	

8.4	<p><u>To receive the quote for the clearing of weeds at the front of the pond</u> The quote to manually remove the weed from the concrete along the edge of the pond is £40 + VAT. It was proposed that the quote be accepted and Greenstone Contracts be appointed to carry out the work.</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Lewis, Seconded by: Cllr Sheppard. <b>Approved</b></p> <p>Greenstone Contracts has carried out additional strimming which will be included in the next invoice.</p>	
8.5	<p><u>To consider the collision data for the Longdown Lane junction and to agree the Parish Council's response</u> Data for 2022 is not yet available. A discussion ensued around the number of accidents and the reasons. There were 11 accidents between 2017 and 2021, including one fatality.</p> <p>WCC Highways has indicated that it will assess the impact of the new traffic calming measures before considering whether any further action is required.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Finance</b>	
9.1	<p><u>To approve the payments in the schedule attached to this agenda</u> Proposed by: Cllr Beech, Seconded by: Cllr Honess. <b>Approved</b></p>	
9.2	<p><u>To confirm the Trustees of the Children's Playing Field Charitable Trust</u> The following existing Trustees will remain: Richard Heckford                      Ben Hallam                      Alan Belgrove Rod Honess                                  Mike Thomas                      Dennis Neville</p> <p>It was proposed that the following Parish Councillors will be appointed as Trustees: Maggie Beech                                  Malcolm Lewis                      Stuart Sheppard</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Honess, Seconded by: Cllr Lewis. <b>Approved</b></p> <p>Rachel Settle has confirmed that she will resign as a Trustee.</p>	
9.3	<p><u>To approve the signatories to the COIF Charities Investment Fund – Children's Playing Field</u> It was proposed that Cllr Beech be appointed as a signatory.</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Sheppard, Seconded by: Cllr Lewis. <b>Approved</b></p>	

Payee Name	Description of Service	Amount £
Greenstone Contracts	July mowing	630.00
S Sheppard	Wood for signs	12.00
nPower	Street light electricity – June	92.63
Numbers Plus	Defibrillator – AED alert number annual charge	118.80
Willoughby Village Hall	Hire of village hall – January to April 2023	48.00
Total		<b>£901.43</b>

<b>10</b>	<b>Play Rangers</b>	
10.1	<u>To receive an update on the Play Ranger Sessions</u> The weather was damp for the first session but activities remained outside, 17 children attended. The second session saw beautiful weather with 20 children attending.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Flood Action Group</b>	
11.1	<u>To receive an update from the Flood Action Group</u> The Flood Action Group (FLAG) has produced a list of measures that need to be addressed to slow floodwater coming into the village and to improve the speed at which it leaves the village at the Lower St./Moor Lane junction. On 28 July, representatives from FLAG met the Flood Risk Management Officer (FRMO) at WCC, for a site visit. The measures listed were discussed and the FRMO agreed to contact the relevant authorities/organisations (Highways, West Northamptonshire Council, Canal and River Trust) about implementing some of the proposed measures. The group is waiting for an update on progress.  It has come to light that the Parish Council received a grant from the Pathfinder Project in March 2015 for £1,890 for an ecological survey, shoring up the banks of the brook between Lower Street and the pumping station, and for road signs/long-handled rakes. Only the ecological survey was carried out at that time. Analysis of Parish Council minutes and accounts shows that, since the grant was awarded, c.£1,390 has been spent on flood-related matters including the survey, gel bags for residents with properties at risk of flooding, printing 200 copies of the Flood Action Plan (2016) for distribution to residents, a donation to Warwickshire Conservation Volunteers for brook clearance, hi-vis jackets and road signs. The balance of £500 will be earmarked for any further flood group related expenditure.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	
12.1	An email related to planning application R23/0702 was received from Steve Tromans on 5th August 2023.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Councillors' Reports</b>	
	None	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Items for the Next Agenda</b>	
	Review of Risk Assessment To consider annual grants to the Village Hall, Air Ambulance and CAB To receive an update on the bridle pathways To receive an update on the tree work at the pond To receive an update on the street lighting on Woolscott Road Review of village street light status	
<b>15.</b>	<b>Date of the Next Meeting</b>	
	Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall	
	The meeting closed at 8.53pm	

Chair .....

Date.....