

**SOUTH WILLINGHAM  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Wednesday 9 May 2018 at 7.00 pm**

**Present:**

Councillor Paul Elliott (Chair)  
Councillor Shirley Asquith (Clerk)  
Councillor Deborah Challender

Paul Ferguson  
Maureen Ferguson

**1. Report from Chair of South Willingham Parish Council**

Cllr Elliott began by welcoming everyone to the meeting. He reported that it had been a quiet year for the parish council, the main issues having been street lighting, tree felling/drainage on Donington Road and continuing vacancies on the council. The progress of erecting new lamp posts and switching to LED lights was very much in the hands of ELDC, despite SWPC having chased this up on several occasions. The expected amount of tree felling had been drastically reduced with only a few trees removed and the ditches cleared. However, the culvert draining under Donington Road was still to be cleared and the council had been informed as it is a Highways issue. SWPC was carrying two vacancies which had been difficult to fill. In the case of absence, the meeting had only just been quorate on many occasions.

**2. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2017**

The minutes were agreed by those who had been present and were signed by the Chair as an accurate record of proceedings.

**3. OPEN FORUM – an opportunity for residents to raise any issues of concern about the village**

Paul Ferguson asked what would happen if the parish council folded. Cllr Elliott said that Richard Fry, the ELDC councillor, would make decisions on behalf of the village. County Councillor Patricia Bradwell had also been supportive in the past. He said that villagers had been interested in SWPC over contentious issues, such as street lighting, and the parish council had put forward the village's collective wish that ELDC not remove all lighting. Each household would save £20-25 per annum should the council be disbanded but they would lose their local voice. Cllr Elliott said that the previous meeting has discussed the possible establishment of a combined parish council with either Benniworth or Hainton. Paul Ferguson was keen to see SWPC continue and offered to become a co-opted councillor along with

Maureen Ferguson. Cllr Elliott said he very much appreciated the offer and they would both be invited to attend the next meeting.

Paul Ferguson commented that the broadband speed had increased. Cllr Elliott said this was due to fibre broadband reaching the Heneage Arms but that you needed to be a BT customer to benefit.

Paul Ferguson asked whether a use for the phone box had been decided. Cllr Elliott said that very few suggestions had been made. Three people had suggested using it to locate a defibrillator but council members felt this would have to be funded all over again and would not get much use. LIVES was well-represented locally. Paul Ferguson, a former LIVES volunteer, agreed that the criteria for using it in an emergency was often not met ie. more than two people in a household at the time of the emergency and living within a certain distance. Cllr Elliott said that the subsequent parish council meeting would be discussing this further.

Paul Ferguson asked about developments with the defaced South Willingham road signs. Cllr Elliott said, as in the minutes of the previous meeting, Highways had been informed of the SWPC's plan to remove all lettering other than the village name from all three signs and that this would be done shortly.

Paul Ferguson asked whether any residents had complained about the brightness of the new LED lighting. Cllr Elliott said the council had not received any comments. Cllr Challender said she did not find the one near her house a problem.

**4. Date of next meeting: to be arranged for May 2019**