

Wilford Community Group

Striving to build a safe, vibrant local community for all

Email: WilfordCG@hotmail.com

Website: www.thisiswilford.org.uk

Facebook: This is Wilford

AGM Meeting Minutes

Attendees	Sophie Blaken – Chair (SB), Pat Huxley (PH), Jude Nicholas (JN), Daniel Atherton (DA), Ann Gerty (AG), Joanne Mist (JM), Brian Hardy (BH), Robert Nicholas (RN), Bob Atherton (BA), Bill Roughton (BR), Clare Roughton (CR), Heidi Shewell-Cooper (HS).
Also Present	Susan Hogan (SH), Helen Puttock (HP)
Where	The Ferry Inn, Main Road, Wilford
When	19.30, 21/09/2026
What	Wilford Community Group Meeting

Item	Description	Action
0	Agenda	
0.1	1 Apologies 2 Approval of 2025 WCG AGM Minutes 3 Chair's Annual Report 4 Annual Accounts 5 Election of Officers 6 Election of Committee Members	
1	Apologies	
1.1	Cllr Andrew Rule (AR), Rebecca Rule (RR), Cllr Hayley Spain (HS), Terri Slade (TS), Pam Duesbury (PD), Jeremy Pratt (JP).	
2	Approval of Minutes from 15/09/25 Meeting	
2.1	Minutes were approved unanimously.	
3	Chair's Annual Report	
3.1	SB: When I think about why I give my time to Wilford Community Group, it really comes down to one thing: building community. We organise events, look after local spaces, raise issues on behalf of residents and try to make Wilford a better place to live. But for me, the most important part is creating opportunities for people to connect with each other and feel part of where they live. Looking back over the last year, I think we've done a lot of that. The quiz: Our quiz at Moderns Rugby Club, was a brilliant night. We had a fantastic turnout, so much so that people had to bring their furniture from home! We had a great mix of tables and a really lovely atmosphere. Moderns generously let us use the venue completely free of charge, which made a huge difference to us. We did our very best to repay their generosity by almost drinking the bar dry! It was exactly the sort of evening I think the Community Group should be creating: local people getting together, having fun and spending time with neighbours and friends. The money generated by the quiz also gave us a really welcome boost. The cost of putting on our community events has increased	

Chair: Sophie Blaken, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AA **Vice-Chair:** Pat Huxley, Leander Close, Wilford NG11 7BE, **Treasurer:** Jude Nicholas, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AJ
Secretary: Terri Slade, Main Road, Wilford, NG11 7AL, **Digital Secretary:** Daniel Atherton, Vernon Avenue, Wilford NG11 7AE

Wilford Community Group

Striving to build a safe, vibrant local community for all

Email: WilfordCG@hotmail.com

Website: www.thisiswilford.org.uk

Facebook: This is Wilford

Item	Description	Action
	considerably over the last few years, so it helped us cover some of the costs of May Day and, importantly, keep it free. May Day: May Day was a big one for us this year because, for the first time, we moved it to Moderns Rugby Club. I'll admit I was a little nervous about moving such a long-standing Wilford tradition. We needed more space, but we didn't want to lose what makes Wilford May Day feel like Wilford May Day. Thankfully, we needn't have worried. Moderns were incredibly welcoming and once again allowed us to use their venue completely free of charge. Keeping May Day free is really important to me. We want everyone to be able to come along and be part of it, without there being a cost just to walk through the gate. Seeing so many people there enjoying themselves made all the work that goes into organising it worthwhile. And I think the new venue gives us a really good opportunity to continue building on May Day in the future while protecting the traditions that make it special. Safari Sale: The Safari Sale was another fantastic day, but there was one thing in particular that stayed with me. As I walked around Wilford, I kept overhearing conversations that started with some version of: <i>"I've not seen you in ages!"</i> And I loved that. Of course, the Safari Sale is about clearing out your cupboards, selling things you no longer need and hopefully finding a bargain along the way. But actually, that isn't really why we do it. We do it because people come out of their houses, walk around the village, bump into neighbours they haven't seen for months, stop for a chat and reconnect. For me, that sums up why we organise these events in the first place. The activity gives people a reason to come out, but it's the connections it creates that really matter. Working together for Wilford: Building community isn't only about organising events. Sometimes it means bringing people together to tackle the more difficult issues affecting where we live. Flooding has been one of the biggest examples of that. What became very clear was that there wasn't one cause of the flooding and there wasn't going to be one big fix. Instead, progress has come from lots of smaller actions and lots of different people working together. Work has included installing non-return valves on sewer outfalls, sealing manhole covers, cleaning and inspecting sewers and gullies, identifying drainage defects, investigating drainage associated with local developments and carrying out further modelling of flood risk. There are also now clearer arrangements between the different authorities for closing Wilford Lane, including an agreed trigger for when the road should close and better coordination so signage can be put in place sooner. Perhaps the biggest achievement, though, has simply been getting the organisations responsible for sewers, drainage, highways and flood management around the same table. Making sure Wilford is heard: We've also continued to represent residents on other issues affecting the area. Wilford Crossroads has been a particular focus. Residents have consistently raised concerns about congestion and safety, and the response to our petition showed just how strongly people felt. We've subsequently seen changes made to the traffic lights and signalling at the junction. There is still more we'd like to see happen, including yellow box markings, and we'll continue to represent residents and push for improvements. That's an important part of what the Community Group does. We won't always be able to solve an issue ourselves, but we can make sure the right people hear about it, bring people together and keep asking the questions that need to be asked.	

Chair: Sophie Blaken, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AA **Vice-Chair:** Pat Huxley, Leander Close, Wilford NG11 7BE, **Treasurer:** Jude Nicholas, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AJ

Secretary: Terri Slade, Main Road, Wilford, NG11 7AL, **Digital Secretary:** Daniel Atherton, Vernon Avenue, Wilford NG11 7AE

Wilford Community Group

Striving to build a safe, vibrant local community for all

Email: WilfordCG@hotmail.com

Website: www.thisiswilford.org.uk

Facebook: This is Wilford

Item	Description	Action
	The things that happen quietly: Some of the most important things the Community Group does are probably the things most people never notice. There are people quietly giving their time throughout the year to look after the community library and noticeboards, update the website, create and deliver newsletters, manage our social media, litter pick, and care for Iremongers Pond, protect and share Wilford's history and represent our community at council and other meetings. Our litter-picking volunteers have now been going for eight years and have collected well over 1,600 bags of rubbish across Wilford and Rushcliffe. At Iremongers Pond, another year of hard work by volunteers has resulted in a fifteenth consecutive Green Flag Community Award, and the orchard has continued to grow. Then there are all the little things: spotting a problem and chasing it until something happens, turning up to meetings on a dark Monday evening, putting up posters and signs, moving tables, baking cakes, putting up bunting, running stalls and clearing everything away afterwards. A lot of that work is almost invisible when it's being done well, but it all adds up. It's what turns somewhere you live into a community you're part of. But none of it happens without people giving their time. So I want to finish with some thank-yous. To our officers: Dan, for the meeting notes, minutes, all things web and his work on the crossroads; Terri, for keeping us organised as Secretary, and Pam for stepping in when she's away; Jude, for keeping us on the straight and narrow as Treasurer and always being a brilliant sounding board; and Pat, our Vice Chair, AKA Mrs Wilford, who is always there whenever anything needs doing. Thank you to our local councillors for coming to our meetings, listening to residents and representing the things that matter to Wilford. Thank you to Paul and Carol Wicks for another excellent quiz, and to Heidi for helping bring it back to life. Thank you to South Wilford School for letting us use the car park, and a particularly big thank you to everyone at Moderns. Giving us their facilities free of charge for both the quiz and May Day has made a genuine difference to what we've been able to do this year. And finally, thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way, whether that's giving us an hour at May Day, picking up some litter, looking after the phone box, Anne delivering a newsletter, looking after a noticeboard, helping at an event or simply coming along and being part of it. And If I've forgotten to thank anyone I'm sorry, let me know I'll add it before I sent this out officially!	
4	Annual Accounts	
4.1	JN: Up until March 2026, therefore does not include this year's May Day. We had a good year 2025-26 – we made a surplus on the May Day and Safari Sale, as well as a large surplus from our Autumn Quiz. We also received generous donation of £640 from the Bowl's Club, further funding from the sale of donated history books, and a donation from St Wilfrid's Church following unfortunate damage to WCG property. We have opened a business reserve account so that the group can place surplus funds into an interest making account. Accounts have been signed off by our auditor. The donation received from the Bowls Club was earmarked for Village green lights – to be discussed during the regular meeting. The accounts are included as Appendix 1.	

Chair: Sophie Blaken, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AA **Vice-Chair:** Pat Huxley, Leander Close, Wilford NG11 7BE, **Treasurer:** Jude Nicholas, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AJ

Secretary: Terri Slade, Main Road, Wilford, NG11 7AL, **Digital Secretary:** Daniel Atherton, Vernon Avenue, Wilford NG11 7AE

Wilford Community Group

Striving to build a safe, vibrant local community for all

Email: WilfordCG@hotmail.com

Website: www.thisiswilford.org.uk

Facebook: This is Wilford

Item	Description	Action
5	Election of Officers	
5.1	SH kindly chaired the election of the Chair. SB proposed herself, JN and CR seconded the role. SB returned to chairing the election of remaining officers. PH proposed herself for Vice Chair, SB and CR seconded her. JN proposed herself for Treasurer, RN and CR seconded her. TS proposed herself for Secretary, SB and CR seconded her. DA proposed himself for Digital Secretary, SB and CR seconded him.	
6	Election of Committee Members	
6.1	AG, JM, BH, RN, BA, BR, CR, HS, HP, PD, SS.	
There being no further business, the Annual General Meeting ended at 19:49 The next AGM will be on Monday 20th October 2027 at 19:30 in the Ferry, Main Road, Wilford.		

Regular Meeting Minutes

Item	Description	Action
0	Agenda	
0.1	1. Apologies 2. Minutes & Actions from 20/07/25 Meeting 3. Iremongers Pond Update 4. Litter Picking Update 5. Community Events • Autumn Quiz • Open Gardens • May Day • Christmas Meeting/Dinner • Christmas Bauble Hunt 6. Community Group Finances 7. AOB	
1	Apologies	
1.1	Cllr Andrew Rule (AR), Rebecca Rule (RR), Cllr Hayley Spain (HS), Terri Slade (TS), Pam Duesbury (PD), Jeremy Pratt (JP), Jonathan Shewell-Cooper (JS), Stephany Schild (SS).	
2	Minutes and Actions from 20/07/26 Meeting	
2.1	DA – had written to Highways Agency about litter on ring-road sliproad, no reply. JN – Planting bulbs will occur in the future.	

Chair: Sophie Blaken, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AA **Vice-Chair:** Pat Huxley, Leander Close, Wilford NG11 7BE, **Treasurer:** Jude Nicholas, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AJ

Secretary: Terri Slade, Main Road, Wilford, NG11 7AL, **Digital Secretary:** Daniel Atherton, Vernon Avenue, Wilford NG11 7AE

Wilford Community Group

Striving to build a safe, vibrant local community for all

Email: WilfordCG@hotmail.com

Website: www.thisiswilford.org.uk

Facebook: This is Wilford

Item	Description	Action
	DA – No response from NCC Woodthorpe Grange for the Bee Bank. BA – Nottingham Green Guardians may have spare Lime Trees. SB – Carry over action re: stones on road on Main Road AR – Replied regarding recycling bins in the village, Council confirmed that there are no plans to introduce a communal facility in Wilford at this time, but will review this on a periodic basis.	SB
3	Iremongers Pond Update	
3.1	BR: Council is seeking to re-establish license agreement. Several concerns raised about the new arrangements proposed by the Council, including IPA covering legal fees, litter picking requirements, one single manager of the park and angling, etc. Will have further meetings with the Council to take this forward. Next meeting with Council will take place in October, to be arranged. RN confirmed that Wilford Village Allotments are still negotiating their new contract more than five years later. BA - Animal and Plant Health Agency visited to conduct crop surveys of fruit trees within the Pond Site, as part of a study across the UK. Also noted that Nottingham Green Guardians will be conducting a volunteer day with employees of Specsavers, conducting some basic volunteer maintenance on the site. DA – To drop note with Sam Godden about the bridge with the hope of progressing ahead of this year's expected. Check for sure that she is able to do this, and provide the opportunity to say no.	DA
4	Litter Picking	
4.1	AG noted concerns about litter around the river-side area of the pond. CR further noted left over rubbish from the July music festival around the Toll Bridge.	
5	Community Events	
5.1	Autumn Quiz HS: AR confirmed that October is not possible for Moderns, November much more possible due to refurbishing of event space. HS to communicate with AR and Paul Wicks (Quiz Host) about timing.	HS
5.2	Open Gardens DA to put out a survey of interest to see who would be interested in participating in an Open Gardens event in the future.	DA
5.3	May Day 2027 SB confirmed that the plan is for May Day on 3rd May 2027. SB confirmed we would need new signage – DA to assist with this.	SB/DA
5.4	Xmas Meeting and Dinner 2026 SB noted that December meeting would fall on the 21st, and suggested not holding, suggested a January Meal for the committee. 11th January agreed.	

Chair: Sophie Blaken, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AA **Vice-Chair:** Pat Huxley, Leander Close, Wilford NG11 7BE, **Treasurer:** Jude Nicholas, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AJ

Secretary: Terri Slade, Main Road, Wilford, NG11 7AL, **Digital Secretary:** Daniel Atherton, Vernon Avenue, Wilford NG11 7AE

Wilford Community Group

Striving to build a safe, vibrant local community for all

Email: WilfordCG@hotmail.com

Website: www.thisiswilford.org.uk

Facebook: This is Wilford

Item	Description	Action
5.5	Christmas Bauble Hunt SB and DA agreed to coordinate this year's bauble competition. Regular laminated signage this year and assess popularity ahead of possibly improving signage next year.	SB/DA
5.6	Safari Sale SB asked for any feedback on the Safari Sale. SH confirmed it was a lovely way of meeting neighbours. SB will put out a survey to residents.	SB
6	Community Group Finances	
6.1	JN: Paid of £123.38 for the Summer Newsletter and £28.43 for Safari Sale Maps. £9.60 donations on the day. £140 income from entry to the Safari Sale. Funds also expected from surplus books in the Community Library. AG celebrated the Summer Newsletter and thanked DA.	
7	AOB	
7.1	JN raised Christmas Lights on the Village Green. DA warned that there was not a current lead on this. HS further asked about access to power – SB noted that with a change in resident, there is a concern about access to the Church Hall for power and whether St Wilfrid's would provide power as in the past. DA proposed a Christmas tree outside of the Tailor's Arms. HS to take forward.	HS
7.2	JN and JM asked about the water leakage on the corner of Coronation Avenue and Main Road. BA noted that Severn Trent confirmed it was not their pipe that was leaking but, rather, either the Modern's Rugby Club's or Ferry Inn's. SB will fill in a 'report' online.	SB
7.3	BH noted about separation of Heritage Funds in the bank account – acknowledged there's no reason to keep separate. DA confirmed this was precautionary following National Heritage Lottery funding but this is no longer a requirement.	
7.4	BA noted about the dead tree on the Village Green. JM warned about waiting in case of danger to anyone below. DA to ask AR or HS to raise with necessary council teams.	DA
7.5	SH Raised concerns about quad bikes and balaclava wearing. SB confirmed that the police have requested that we report every occasion - 101. Every report is a help as, when we make enough noise, we can get attention. Also noted about reporting online and providing photos in follow-up communication. JN suggested posting Facebook - DA to post information on reporting to police.	DA
7.6	SH noted about flooding. SB shared that unfortunately flooding by Bader is unsolved and this is mainly down to water levels between there and the River.	
7.7	DA raised about Welcome to Wilford signs – agreed to include in feasibility email for other actions.	DA
7.8	WCG members joined in sharing congratulations to Rebecca and Andrew on their nuptials.	
There being no further business, the meeting ended at 20:45 The next meeting is on Monday 18th October 2026 at 19:30 in the Ferry, Main Road, Wilford.		

Chair: Sophie Blaken, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AA **Vice-Chair:** Pat Huxley, Leander Close, Wilford NG11 7BE, **Treasurer:** Jude Nicholas, Main Road, Wilford NG11 7AJ

Secretary: Terri Slade, Main Road, Wilford, NG11 7AL, **Digital Secretary:** Daniel Atherton, Vernon Avenue, Wilford NG11 7AE

Wilford Community Group

Striving to build a safe, vibrant local community for all

Email: WilfordCG@hotmail.com

Website: www.thisiswilford.org.uk

Facebook: This is Wilford

Appendix 1:

Wilford Community Group

Accounts for year ending 31 March 2026

Income		Expenditure	
Mayday Event		Mayday Event	
Public Donations	£601.00	Expenses	£543.61
Safari Sale		Safari Sale	
Receipts	£163.59	Expenses	£26.18
Quiz		Quiz	
Tickets	£772.50	Expenses	
Sticky 13s & Raffle	£325.00		
Total Income from Quiz	£1,097.50		
Misc		Misc	
Book Sales	£53.05	PL Insurance	
Bowls Club Donation	£640.02	Website Costs	£96.00
Interest (Business Reserve Account)	£8.19	Insurance	£117.60
St Wilfrids Donation	£250.00	Paint	£46.00
Total Income	£2,813.35	Total Expenditure	£1,018.15