**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2017 – NO. 94**

1. **Present:**  Cllr. Ray, Chairman, Cllr. Massey, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr Stewart, two members of the public and one member of the press.

**Part meeting**: County Cllr. Cargill

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Lowis, Cllr. Fraser and District Cllr. Lawton

**3. Written requests for dispensation for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

**where that interest is not already in the register of members’ interests.**

No written requests were received.

**4. Co-option of two Parish Councillors:**

Mrs. Shilvock and Mr. Leger had expressed an interest in being co- opted onto the Parish Council. Cllr. Ray pointed out that both have been on the Parish Council previously and asked for a vote with a show of hands in favour of both co-options. All Councillors present were in favour.

Declarations of Acceptance of Office were signed by both and their Registers of Interests will be completed and returned to the Clerk in the next fortnight.

The Clerk was asked to provide both new Cllrs. with a copy of the current Lead Councillor information.

**5. To approve for signature the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th September 2017.**

These minutes were approved by all members and signed by the Chairman.

**6. Public Participation:**

There was no public participation, both members of the public were co-opted onto the Council.

**7. County & District Councillor’s reports:**

There was no District Councillor report available.

County Cllr. Cargill reported briefly on the following:

a. Local Housing Companies moving along nicely.

b. The Strategic Review has been completed and the actions have commenced.

c. Although crime has increased in rural areas Stratford District is still one of the lowest districts for crime in the country.

d. Reorganisation is taking place of S106 agreements and CIL will be replacing part of these. It is anticipated this will come through in the next few weeks.

e. The Gypsy and Traveller Plan will not now be coming out until the second quarter of 2019.

f. Health and Well Being initiatives are progressing well.

g. Children’s Centres – Alcester Children’s Centre will be remaining open.

**8. Planning Applications: status of current planning applications:**

*Planning Application No.* 17/01267/OUT 1 The Orchard, Wilmcote: Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of up to 4 residential dwellings and associated works including demolition of part of single-storey garage forming part of Arden View (no.2 The Orchard). Appeal in progress.

*Planning* *Application No. 17/01449/FUL* Loughrigg, Hardwick Rise, Pathlow:

Proposed porch and side extension. Appeal dismissed.

*Planning Application No. 17/02610/FUL* 26 Marsh Road, Wilmcote: Ground

floor extension to include the rebuilding of substandard garage. Permission

granted.

The following application was received after the agenda had been circulated:

*Planning Application No. 17/02726/FUL* The Mary Arden Inn: A new entrance

canopy with new glazed doors, a small flat roof extension cedar clad

externally, cedar cladding to an existing wall by entrance.

Having studied the hard copy of the plans, Cllr. Ray proposed that a response

of No objection should be submitted to SDC. Seconded by Cllr. Massey and

agreed by all.

**9. Correspondence received:**

- Budget Capping (Referendum Principles)/Disqualification Criteria Consultations.

- Warwickshire County Council Trading Standards Service Briefing document.

- Cllr Ray had been contacted by a resident asking what the guidelines are for a business being run from a private property. The Clerk was asked to verify this with the Planning Dept. at SDC.

**10. Wilmcote Parish Council Emergency Plan:**

Cllr. Stewart is in the process of updating the plan and, if time allows, is hoping to circulate the revised copy to all Councillors for approval either via email or at the January meeting.

**11. Progress report:**

Security lights at The Flats, Station Road: The Clerk had a meeting with Andy Fathers, Orbit Housing Officer who agreed to continue looking into a solution to resolve the problems Mrs. Stacey is having with the lights shining into her home. Mr. Fathers had written to Mrs. Stacey accordingly.

Car Park proposals in Station Road: As agreed at the last meeting, the Parish Council hosted a public meeting in the Village Hall on the 25th October to enable residents to put forward their opinions on the proposals being presented by The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Andrew Russell-Wilks on behalf of Mr. & Mrs Tucker of Station House.

Notes from the meeting are attached on page 6. There was no support for the proposal at Station House. Contact details of a Core Group of residents who have concerns about the Mary Arden’s Farm proposal have been passed to Abi Moore in order that direct contact can be made between them.

**12. Willow Wood Play Area update:**

The annual inspection was carried out on the 11th November and, from a quick look at the report received today, it appears that there are some items requiring attention or monitoring. All appear to be very low risk. The Clerk was asked to contact our contractors and ask them to have a look at these items when they make their next monthly inspection.

**13. Neighbourhood Plan update:**

At the Cabinet meeting on 9th October SDC voted to proceed to a referendum and the date for this is the 30th November 2017. Cllr. Ray will put together a final update letter for circulation to all residents.

**14. Road Traffic items:**

School Safety Zone:

Information received from the school secretary indicates that the hedge will be cut back sometime during week beginning 27th November. Once this is carried out satisfactorily Cllr. Cargill will contact John Brown, Highways Dept. WCC, regarding repairs to the footpath.

In view of Cllr. Cargill’s report about the CIL moving forward the Clerk was asked to check with Dave Webb, Executive Director, SDC, whether now is the time to put in a bid in connection with the Bishopton development. Cllr. Cargill did say he wasn’t so sure there would be any children likely to come to Wilmcote School from this development as the school in Bishopton has been extended and is greatly under populated.

Community Speedwatch scheme:

Cllr. Massey reported that three meetings to carry out the risk assessment with PCSO Becky Morris had already been arranged and cancelled. A meeting is now scheduled for this coming Friday.

Vehicles parking on the pavement/bridge near the railway station:

This situation is still a problem. The Clerk had contacted Sgt. Shaw again who replied that they will continue to take some action when they can in the hope that the inconsiderate parking does not continue. Cllr Massey agreed to ask PCSO Becky Morris if they would be able to provide us with some warning notices that we could put on the offending vehicles. If this is not possible Cllr Ray will draft a letter to the Chief Constable and Crime Commissioner to ask if further action can be taken to stop this inconsiderate parking.

**15. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

There were no outstanding invoices.

Cheques were signed for the S137 grants agreed when setting the Precept in January this year:

St. Andrews Church £300.00 (100576)

Wilmcote C of E School 300.00 (100577)

1st Wilmcote Scout Group 300.00 (100578)

Cllr Ray proposed that we should provide the S137 grant agreed earlier in the year despite the fact that the Parish Council intends to help with funding for the school safety zone. All Cllrs were in agreement with the proposal.

The Clerk asked if any of the Cllrs. know who is responsible for the Scout group in view of the fact that an acknowledgement of the previous grant, sent in November 2016, was not received until the middle of this year after considerable prompting. Cllr. McMillan agreed to make some enquiries.

**16. Councillors’ reports and items for the agenda for the next meeting:**

Items for the next agenda to include:

Willow Wood Play Area

Neighbourhood Plan

Road Traffic Items

**17. Date of next meeting:** 17th January 2018.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

**PUBLIC MEETING, HOSTED BY WILMCOTE PARISH COUNCIL, AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL TO CONSIDER TWO CAR PARK PROPOSALS – 25TH OCTOBER 2017.**

**1. STATION CAR PARKING AT STATION HOUSE, WILMCOTE**

**Presented by Andrew Russell-Wilks, Godfrey-Payton on behalf**

**of Mr. & Mrs. Tucker.**

**2. PROVISION OF AN ADDITIONAL 66 PARKING SPACES IN THE FIELD**

**ADJACENT TO MARY ARDEN’S FARM.**

**Presented by Abi Moore and Mark Ratcliffe, The Shakespeare**

**Birthplace Trust.**

All members of the Parish Council were in attendance and in the region of sixty members of the community.

Cllr Ray welcomed the members of the public and thanked them for attending the meeting to provide their opinions on the above proposals.

Mr. Russell-Wilkes was then invited to make his presentation.

Mr. & Mrs. Tucker who own Station House and the adjoining paddock on the east side of the canal have been following the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan noting that lack of car parking in the village, in particular for the station and visitors to the canal, had been mentioned more than once and feel they may be able to contribute to a solution by providing a new car park together with some enabling development, perhaps fourteen blocks of development, four being affordable housing. Possibly some form of traffic calming could be put in place from the Featherbed Lane direction at the entrance to the village.

Two railway companies had been contacted and were in favour of car parking facilities for Wilmcote station.

Mr. Russel-Wilkes stressed that this could only go ahead with the support of the village and if that was not forthcoming the proposal would not be progressed.

Mrs. Moore and Mr. Ratcliffe followed on with their proposal for Mary Arden’s Farm, to provide parking for a further 66 cars.

Reference was again made to the Neighbourhood Plan and car parking issues in the village.

The proposal is to extend the existing car park by using the field adjacent to the current visitor entrance. No hard surfacing would be used, grass protection matting to parking bays and gravel pocket matting to routes servicing the parking bays, both allowing good drainage. The existing entrance track and opening to the field would be used

The advantages would be an improvement in the prominent public view across the protected green space on the opposite side of the road, families would no longer have to cross a busy and sometimes congested road, reduction in parking on the footway in the vicinity of the farm and easier to monitor and control. Only the gateway would be visible from the road and it could be completely reversed if it proves to be no longer necessary in the future.

**Summary of comments made at the meeting**

**Station House**

Would create an Increase in cars from out of the parish wanting to park there.

The majority of drivers using such a car park would not be residents of Wilmcote and indeed the majority of vehicles parking in this area currently are from outside the parish.

New houses could be seen from all around.

Increase in vehicle movements from new housing.

Exiting from this land would be extremely dangerous due to poor visibility because of the railway bridge blocking a safe view of the road.

Would not be in favour of traffic lights at access.

The offer of parking facilities could be seen to be a way of obtaining permission for a residential development by the back door.

**Mary Arden’s**

Concerns about drainage in view of previous issues in Station Road

Less damaging to the environment and village scene to expand an existing car park

Would enable easier management than using the field opposite

It should be exclusive to Mary Arden’s Farm otherwise it may become a convenient car park for the station meaning more traffic in Wilmcote.

Access would be safely at a distance from the bridge and not opposite existing housing.

Would Mary Arden’s allow some parking for people currently parking in Station Road providing it fitted in with opening times ?

Would they consider their car park being available all year ?

Proposed car park extension preferable to continued use of the Protected Green space as an overflow car park and improvement for the openness of the Green Belt at the entrance to the village. The proposed extension to the car park would not be visible from the road.

Not convinced the requirement of ‘very special circumstances’ has been satisfactorily addressed.

Consider there are better options at the rear of the current car park and, with reorganisation, another 10 or so spaces could be made available in the existing area.

Resident overlooks overflow car park, it is minimal trouble and he can’t see what the problem is with the proposal.

**Communications received**

11 communications also received from residents unable to attend:

1 No objection to either subject to number of houses re the limited development at the station.

All except one were not in favour of the proposal at the station

1 Not in favour of either proposal.

9 In favour of the Mary Arden’s Farm proposal.

**Concluding position**

Mrs Moore said that special circumstances in this case are an increasing demand for using the overflow car park and officially this should not be used more than 28 days a year – they are conscious that with visitor numbers rising they have been using it more often. Ease of access and to control. Safer for families not having to cross a busy road.

Mrs. Moore said there is still some research to be carried out and they are willing to listen to suggestions. She would be more than happy for anyone to go in and see her.

Cllr. Ray asked for a show of hands for each proposal. There was no support for the proposal at Station House, the majority of attendees were in favour of the Mary Arden’s Farm proposal, although there were reservations with the proposal presented and some modifications would be required.

At this stage there are no formal planning application consultations and the object of this exercise was for data gathering to judge the feelings of the community. Cllr. Ray suggested that in relation to the proposal at Mary Arden’s Farm, residents with concerns might like to form a core group to communicate direct with Mrs. Moore and Mr. Ratcliffe, anyone wishing to be part of this group to give their names and contact details to the Clerk. Eleven residents are keen to do that.

The current parking situation in Station Road by the canal bridge was raised amongst the above comments and Cllr. Ray advised as follows: The Parish Council is communicating with the Police on this matter, in particular inconsiderate parking on the footpath. The Police have issued some advisory notices and will continue to monitor it as and when they are able. They do of course consider parked cars to act as traffic calming.

The Core Group

Jamie Perry – Station Road

Tony Massey - Arden Mews, Station Road

Wendy Simmons - The Orchards, Station Road

Terry Simmons – The Orchards, Station Road

Jill George – Arden Mews, Station Road

Audrey Eborall – Arden Mews, Station Road

Gordon Simpson – Arden Mews, Station Road

Mary Harman – Stone Pits Meadow

Alan Griffiths – The Wharf

Ted Mander – Church Road

Ron Douglas - Pathlow

For information only:

The following payments were made between meetings:

R. Harrison (printing re public meeting) £ 39.00 BACS

HMRC PAYE 283.20 (100574)

C.P.Wheeler (grass cutting) 60.00 (100575)

Mrs. H. Martin (Audit) 80.00 BACS

WILLOW WOOD PLAY AREA:

Playground Supplies Ltd (Inv 5467) 72.00 BACS

G. Compton 795.00 BACS

Playground Supplies Ltd (Inv 5481) 72.00 BACS

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

R. Harrison (printing) 39.00 BACS