**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2023 – NO. 129**

1. **Present:** Cllr Ray, Chairman**,** Cllr Shilvock, Cllr Stewart, Cllr McMillan, Cllr. Nurser-Stephens, Cllr. Mahon, Cllr. Boyes and nine members of the public.

 **2. Apologies:** County Cllr. Daniell and District Cllr. Holmes

 **3. Written requests for disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda:**

No requests received.

**4. To approve for signature the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November 2023.**

 These minutes were approved by all members present and signed by Cllr Shilvock who chaired the meeting.

**5. Public participation:**

Ms. Everson and some members of the public reiterated concerns about the condition of the Mary Arden Inn and a desire to get something positive done to protect the future of this pub.

 As this is an item on the agenda Cllr Ray, with the agreement of Councillors, brought it forward.

 After considerable discussion, Ms. Everson suggested that a public meeting should be held to discuss the community’s concerns and to discuss what pressure, through a co-ordinated central approach, can be applied to the owners, the tenant, Stratford District Council and any other relevant parties to bring about change and improvement as well as protecting the community’s interest in the pub providing any ideas for further action.

 Cllr Ray proposed confirmed that the parish council would support a public meeting and suggested that Ms Everson should chair it having been directly involved with all parties involved. The Clerk was asked to check availability of the village hall during January.

 Ms. Everson’s offer to draft a new application to have the shop re-listed as an Asset of Community value was accepted. Subject to one or two checks being completed and the receipt of a new application form this can be taken forward.

**6. County & District Councillors reports:**

 Reports from both County Cllr. Daniell and District Cllr. Holmes are appended at the end of the minutes.

**7. Planning applications:**

The current status of applications had been provided to Cllrs. prior to the meeting.

 The following application was then considered:

 Planning application no. 23/02433/LDP 4 Church Road, Wilmcote stationing of 3.96 x 12.19 caravan, within the definition of a caravan in the Caravan Sites and Control Act 1960 (as amended) within the garden as ancillary to the accommodation of the dwelling house.

 It was proposed by Cllr Ray and seconded by Cllr Shilvock that we uphold our objections to this as per our response to Application No.22/02744/LDP. It would appear to be back land development and for full time occupation. Several works have already taken place connecting to services and a parking area provided – we are unaware whether permission has been obtained for these works. The caravan is in full view of the Church, also a Grade II listed building. All Cllrs agreed with this response.

**8. Correspondence:**

 All correspondence received and circulated electronically is taken as read.

 Since preparation of the agenda the Clerk was advised that the overgrown footpath from The Stables, Featherbed Lane to the line has now been cleared. Cllr Stewart agreed to check that out.

**9. Mary Arden Inn:**

See agenda item No. 5.

 **10. Willow Wood Play area:**

The October inspection report raised several defects as in the previous month, generally low risk. It has been suggested we should now consider replacing the Multi Play as the condition of this item is poor and of moderate risk. Some suggestions for replacement items had been put forward and Cllr. McMillan advised that he is waiting for quotations.

 **11. Community Speedwatch:**

Mr. Yates, representing the Community Speedwatch scheme, advised that the team had been unable to operate for several months, for various reasons, such that they haven’t been quorate. In 2017 when this was first broached, there were seven volunteers and now there are only three. Despite advertising for more volunteers unfortunately none have been forthcoming.

 Mr. Yates had been to a meeting in Bearley where the co- ordinator for CSW, Gary Strain, spoke about some new speed guns, Bushnel Velocity, that are much easier to manage. Apparently some forces have approved them and Cllr. Shenton agreed to investigate them further and report back.

 The Chairman thanked Mr. Yates for his update.

 **12. Pathlow Park Traveller Site:**

 Mr. Chatterton is still awaiting an update from County Cllr. Daniell on the fencing situation. However, he did receive a message from a Mr. Jeff May who is the new hub manager for the G & T Team.

 Mr. May advised that 12 letters have been sent to residents by legal team in relation to the extended pitch boundaries and they have 28 days, taking it to 8th December, to rectify the breach of their licence. Those who fail to rectify the breach will be notified that their legal team will begin the eviction process through the courts.

                             The Mobile Homes Act 1983 is the legislation they must use to have the tenants put the boundary fencing back to its original position, this is the process they are following.

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

Cllr Stewart reported that the public footpath going towards

 Pathlow Park site is becoming over overgrown.

* Agenda items:
* Precept
* WRCC Original housing survey is now out of date and ideally a new one should be undertaken.
* CSW – Bushnel Velocity speed guns update.
* New notice board by Glebe Estate – request from Mr Bailey History Society Secretary.
* Willow Wood Playground update.

**14. Date of next meeting:** 20th March 2024.

 Annual Parish Council meeting followed by an ordinary parish council meeting.

No further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm

Weekly Update Warwickshire County Council

Alcester Division

Local updates

Alcester High Street Closed:

Please note that this week emergency work has been taking place on the water main and it is

anticipated to be completed by 17th however they have a 5-day emergency work permit to carry out

the work needed. Piers has been escalating this in response to concerns by traders on the Highstreet

and damage to trade.

Puffin Crossing Upgrade on Kinwarton Road and Swan Street:

The refurbishment works are necessary as the existing traffic signal equipment is approaching the

end of its’ serviceable life; the works will include the replacement of all traffic signal equipment

including the controller cabinet, traffic signal poles, electrical cables and traffic signal aspects

including the push button units.

The installation of the new traffic signal equipment will bring environmental benefits with reduced

ongoing energy and maintenance costs and will also allow the engineers to remotely monitor the

crossing more effectively for operational faults.

Expansion of Early Years Entitlements and Wrap Around Care:

The government currently funds the following early education entitlements for parents of young

children.

• All parents of 3- and 4-year-olds can access 15 hours of childcare per week, regardless of

their immigration status or whether they are working

• Eligible working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds can access an additional 15 hours of childcare,

known as the ‘30 Hours’ entitlement

• Disadvantaged 2-year-olds may be eligible to access 15 hours of childcare (2Help)

At the Spring Budget 2023, the Government announced that funded childcare will be expanded to

parents/ carers of eligible children over the age of nine months +. Changes will start from April 2024.

The Government are introducing the expansion gradually, to ensure that there are sufficiency places

for families to access the entitlements. The changes are that from April 2024, working parents of

two-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours of funded childcare a week. From September 2024,

working parents of children from the age of 9 months will be able to access 15 hours of funded

childcare a week. From September 2025, working parents of children from the age of 9 months up to

school age will be able to access 30 hours of funded childcare a week.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are

expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after

school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as ‘wraparound care’. By September 2026 it is expected

that all Primary Schools will either have signposted or provision on site that provides childcare, this

is in addition to enrichment activities such as after school sports clubs.

Support for Early Education Funded Places and capital allocations will be issued in late November

2023. Place expansion is required for both offers, and delivery support funding will provide

opportunity for the new wrap around places including hub and group support models.

Provider Engagement Sessions are due to be run between December and February for information

sharing, support and planning.

Visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/childcarecosts

Changing Operating Model for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue:

The county are exploring changing the way we deploy our WFRS resources to match where the levels

of risk are across the County. This will look at locating our resources more strategically to ensure we

optimise the cover available to improve our response times. They are seeking to achieve a model of

resourcing which will see the Warwickshire Fire Service sustainable into the future.

WFRS currently has a blend of wholetime and on-call firefighters. They are struggling to recruit

sufficient on-call firefighters to maintain acceptable levels of cover. Their resources and availability

of cover do not align to risk and demand. Also they have been unable to meet response standards

for 4 years and this needs to improve. On-call fire appliance availability due to crew availability is

reducing and raises challenges around sustainability.

WFRS have worked with independent experts to look at future resourcing models to enable us to

mitigate current and future risks. This is an evidence-based approach including an independent

evaluation of WFRS' risk analysis. The work has produced several resourcing models to align risk and

activity levels with the effective deployment of resources (appliances and crews). Each of the

proposals aligns the available resources to activity levels and risk. All models give greater cover and

availability than is currently in place.

£9 Million Commonwealth Games Legacy Fund:

Communities across Warwickshire are being encouraged to apply for a share of the £9 million

Commonwealth Inclusive Communities Fund. The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) has

announced a significant milestone in its commitment to building stronger, healthier, and more

connected communities in the West Midlands with the launch of the Inclusive Communities Fund,

Following months of careful design and development, the WMCA is seeking to distribute the Games’

legacy funding to grassroots projects. These projects will promote physical and mental well-being,

foster community cohesion, and ensure that the positive legacy of the 2022 Commonwealth Games

reverberates throughout the region for generations to come.

The fund, the largest of its type in the UK, is now open to applications from community groups,

charities, not-for-profit organisations, schools, and colleges across Warwickshire.

The fund is split up into four tiers:

Small grants (up to £15, 000)

Medium grants (between £15k and £75k

Large grants (between £75k and £300k)

Small works and refurbishment (up to £100k)

Anyone wishing to apply can find more information and application forms here:

https://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/icfund/. The closing date for applications is 4 January.

Neighbourhood Watch Community Grants:

We are pleased to announce the launch of another round of funding for community projects open to

Neighbourhood Watch groups.

Applications are now open for you to apply, and close on 1 January 2024. We want to help you

kickstart, improve or expand your community work as part of Neighbourhood Watch. We’re also

interested in funding events which address crime prevention and those that draw out some of our

hard-to-reach communities, connecting them with neighbours in a social setting – it could be a

street party, or a coffee morning – anything that helps address loneliness in your area.

The size of grant you can apply for in this round is between £50 - £300. Groups can only hold one

grant at a time and only hold one grant in each financial year. The grant will need to be spent by the

end of October 2024. Groups are defined as: schemes, areas, districts or Associations, e.g. several

schemes can hold grants within an Association, and that Association can also hold its own grant, but

all projects or applications must be clearly defined and separate from each other.

Applying couldn’t be easier – just visit https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/communitygrants read the

guidance, and fill out the online form by 1st January 2024.

Don’t forget to report highway issues:

Warwickshire County Council is urging residents to report any Highways faults that they encounter

while driving or walking in the county via its website.

Highways faults that can be reported online include:

• Potholes;

• Street light problems;

• Rights of way problems;

• Faulty traffic lights; and

• Roadwork problems.

By reporting these issues, residents can help ensure that Warwickshire’s roads, footpaths, rights of

way and cycleways remain safe and well-maintained for everyone. This encouragement comes as

Warwickshire moves into periods of warmer weather which allow for more remedial road

improvements, particularly the repair of potholes, to take place. Also it has a further £2.87M of

funding from Government to spend.

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit

Updates:

Please be aware that we post regular updates to /AmazingAlcester/ – but we are also keen to share

good news. If you have any stories that you want us to share, please let us know.

www.facebook.com/amazingalcester/

www.twitter.com/amazingalcester/

www.instagram.com/amazingalcester/

**Cllr Thom Holmes District Council Report**

**Wilmcote Parish - November 2023**

**Live & Local events**

**Live & Local**  is a network of over 250+ voluntary organisations across the West and East Midlands who book and promote professional shows, screening, and participatory arts into venues such as village halls, church halls and community centres. **The shows are chosen by the local community, for their local community.** Made possible by funding from Arts Council England and your local authorities, including Stratfor don Avon District Council , but it all happens because of the commitment and enthusiasm of the voluntary organisations.

**Climate Change Fund**

Stratford District Council will be implementing a **Climate Change Fund,** to which parish councils can apply to, as well as community groups and charities.  Funding streams are climate adaptation, mitigation, reduction of carbon emissions for example via use of solar panels or green technology. The Fund has been formally approved by Cabinet. The funding allocated to the first year (2024) for the Climate Change Fund are £100,000 (in two tranches of £50,000). I will circulate details once call for projects is open.

**Winter Warmth grants now available from Stratford on Avon District Council**

As we head into winter, Stratford-on-Avon District Council is pleased to announce new funding options available to residents to help keep homes warm and reduce the cost of energy bills.

The new schemes are the Home Upgrade Grant - phase 2 (HUG2), Energy Support Fund (ESF) and Physical Intervention Fund (PIF). HUG2 is funded by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, and ESF and PIF are funded by Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

HUG2 is designed to specifically tackle cold and damp homes that are not connected to the mains gas heating network. If you are eligible for the scheme, and your home assessment recommends the installation of energy efficiency measures, all works are carried out free of charge.

ESF has been set up to offer financial support this winter for vulnerable households within the District who are struggling to pay their energy bills. This payment consists of a one-off payment of £500 (for households with children) or £300 (for households without children). This payment is made directly to the energy provider.

PIF is a programme to assist individuals and households experiencing hardship through significant increases in the cost of living. The scheme aims to support vulnerable households by paying for works to repair, supplement and/or improve domestic heating systems. Households can apply for works up to a limit of £6,000.

The schemes all have different eligibility criteria which are listed on the District Council's website: <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/people-communities/green-home-grants.cfm>

Stratford-on-Avon District Council has teamed up with local energy experts Act on Energy to help administer all winter warmth grant funding. The charity may contact residents directly to let people know about the funding and issue invitations to local events where they can find out more.

If you would like to apply for any of these funding schemes or find out more about eligibility criteria, please visit the Act on Energy website: [www.actonenergy.org.uk](https://www.actonenergy.org.uk/)

Or you can contact Act on Energy directly via phone 0800 988 2881 or email advice@actonenergy.org.uk

**South Warwickshire Local Plan Timetable update**

Following public consultation on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Issues and Options earlier this year, both Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils have been progressing work on the joint Local Plan. Since the existing timetable for the preparation of the Plan was approved in March 2022 a number of factors are now requiring a revision to this timetable, including:

* A delay to the publication of 2021 Census data resulting in a delay to the production of the Coventry & Warwickshire Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (C&W HEDNA), a key piece of evidence required to support the Plan
* Changes to the administrations of both councils and the need to ensure new administrations and members of all parties understand progress to date on the plan and have an opportunity to input in the process
* The uncertainty of potential changes to national planning policy and to the planning system, including the process for producing plans.

Following a meeting of the SWLP member Advisory Group on 19th October 2023, a revised timetable is being recommended for approval to the Joint Committee of both councils at a meeting to take place at the first available opportunity, and certainly before the end of 2023. This proposed timetable envisages a Preferred Options consultation in autumn 2024 followed by further stages of consultation and a public examination, with final adoption of the Plan by 2027. (An alternative approach would be to cease work on the SWLP until the Levelling Up & Regeneration Bill passes into law. This would likely mean pausing work on Local Plan preparation until possibly the autumn of 2024 and re-commencing work on a "new style" Plan under the new legislation. This alternative approach is not considered desirable and will not be recommended to the Joint Committee.)

Once a revised timetable is approved by the Joint Committee it will be published on the SWLP website. It is important to note that the proposed revised timetable is subject to a continuation of the existing national plan-making system. The government has recently consulted on reforms which may impact on the process and timescale for the production of the SWLP. Depending on whether and when these changes are implemented by the government, this may result in the need for further revision to the timetable in due course.

**Stratford-upon-Avon Gateway Masterplan Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultation**
**The consultation starts on Thursday 19 October 2023 and runs until 5pm on Friday 1 December 2023.**The Gateway site in Stratford upon Avon has been identified by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as a suitable location for a new museum and visitor attraction celebrating the life, works and times of William Shakespeare. The proposed World Shakespeare Centre (WSC) will anchor a broader mix of town centre uses on the Gateway site and provide a complementary addition to Shakespeare's birthplace and his other family homes in the town, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), and other cultural attractions around the town.The SPD provides a framework to guide the re-development of the Gateway site. It is one of several Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) that accompanies the Core Strategy. The SPD will bridge the gap between the planning policies and proposals that are set out in the Core Strategy, Neighbourhood Plan and the emerging SAP and will help to co-ordinate delivery of development that will create a new World Shakespeare Centre and other uses.A copy of the draft SPD and all associated documentation can be viewed on the Council's website at [www.stratford.gov.uk/gatewayspd](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/stratford-upon-avon-gateway-masterplan.cfm)Hard copies of the consultation documents are available to view at the District Council Offices and at Stratford-upon-Avon library as well as all other District libraries.

You are encouraged to submit your representations electronically. This can be done either by using the on-line form on the website at [www.stratford.gov.uk/gatewayspd](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning-building/stratford-upon-avon-gateway-masterplan.cfm) or by attaching a form to an email and sending it to policy.consultation@stratford-dc.gov.uk

If you want to post your response, please send it to Planning Policy, Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Elizabeth House, Church Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6HX.

Live & Local – Briefing 2023

General

* Live & Local is a network of over 250+ voluntary organisations across the West and East Midlands who book and promote professional shows, screening, and participatory arts into venues such as village halls, church halls and community centers. **The shows are chosen by the local community, for their local community.**
* Made possible by funding from Arts Council England and your local authorities, but it all happens because of the commitment and enthusiasm of the voluntary organisations.

Supported Activities

Community Performance Schemes

High quality professional performing arts program chosen and promoted by voluntary run organisations including:

* Indoors ticketed performances.
* Outdoors performances for fetes, carnivals, and festivals.
* Inn Crowd – high-quality spoken word performers in licensed premises.
* Shows in libraries.

Moving Pictures, Big Picture Show, and Big Picture Festival

A film screening program chosen and promoted by voluntary run organisations (branded Moving Pictures in South Warks). The Big Picture Festival is an annual film festival that is scheduled for Stratford upon Avon in 2024.

Live & Local - Livingroom

Creative participation projects involving micro-commissions twinning artists with communities to create bespoke performances and artworks.

DART

Developing Artists for Rural Touring – Arts Council England funded initiative supporting emerging professional artists and the development of new work for rural touring networks and audiences.

Rural Hub Towns Initiative

A new Arts Council funded program for five rural hub (market) towns and their rural hinterland that brings people, places, and arts together.

Structure, Network and Joining

Live & Local is managed by a ‘not for profit’ organisation, based in Warwick with a team of 15 professional staff.

Any bone fide voluntary organisation (within a funded District/Borough) can join the network. It is not a “membership” organisation and there is no annual subscription for the participating local organisations. Participating organisations only pay the much subsidised fees after a performance, screening, or other activity.

Find Out More

Email community@liveandlocal.org.uk or call 01926 402173 to have a chat with one of our friendly Community Engagement staff or to receive some more information. You can also visit our website at liveandlocal.org.uk. Live & Local April 2023 (Updated Sept)