**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD USING ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING ON TUESDAY 17TH March 2021.**

 **NO 113**

**1. Present:** Cllr. Ray, Cllr. E. Lee, Cllr. J. Lee, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr. Shilvock, Cllr. Simmons, Cllr. Stewart

 Part meeting: County Cllr. Cargill, District Cllr Shenton

 **2. Apologies:** There were no apologies.

**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**. **To approve for signature the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**

 **held on 27th January 2021 and extraordinary meeting held on 5th March 2021.**

 These were agreed by all members for signature by the Chairman.

 **5. Public Participation:**

There was no public participation.

 **6. Correspondence:**

 All Correspondence circulated electronically to date was taken as read.

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

 Cllr. Shenton provided a report, and this is attached at the end of the minutes.

 Cllr. Cargill provided a report, and this is attached at the end of the minutes.

**8. Planning Applications:**

Status of current applications circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

 The following items were then considered:

 Application No. 20/03354/FUL New House Farm, Pathlow: The planning officer informed us that she is minded to approve this application and asks whether the Parish Council would wish to speak against officer recommendations at Committee in view of our objection.

 After considerable discussion it was agreed that the Council should take this to committee and stand our ground objecting to the use of Class Q as fallback to build new properties in the Green Belt. Cllr. E. Lee agreed to speak at that meeting. It is expected to be 31st March and the Clerk will advise when confirmation is received from SDC.

 Application No. 20/02899/FUL Field House 8 Manor Drive, Wilmcote:

 The planning officer provided two photographs to highlight the views from the balcony in both directions.

 Cllr. Shenton suggested that he and a member of the parish council could ask the applicants if they could pay a site visit to see the views for themselves. Cllr. Shilvock offered to accompany him and the Clerk was asked to arrange the visit.

 **9. Road Safety items**

Gateways in Billesey Road and Aston Cantlow Road have now been installed.

**10. Willow Wood Play Area:**

Play equipment was researched by Cllr J. Lee with assistance from the Clerk and the results circulated in two tables to Cllrs. prior to the meeting. The proposal is to replace the zipwire and a further piece of equipment to take the place of the scale swings.

The final recommendation is to purchase both replacement items from Wicksteed on the basis that they offer a 20% discount on each item plus a further small discount for the purchase of both items together. They also offer a lifetime guarantee on the zipwire frame.

Cllr Ray proposed the above recommendation, seconded by Cllr. Shilvock and agreed with a show of hands by all Cllrs.

Part of the fencing by the single gate has come adrift from the post and Cllr Simmons offered to get that repaired.

Cllr. J. Lee proposed that a simple metal tamperproof lockable notice board be installed adjacent to the single gate. The Chairman asked Cllr. Lee to provide some photographs and information to all Cllrs. for consideration.

**11. Review of Financial Regulations:**

 The Financial Regulations set out in paragraph 14 and Appendix 1 and 1V of the Standing Orders have now been reviewed. Cllr Ray proposed the revised regulations be adopted, seconded by Cllr. Shilvock and agreed by all.

 **12. Review of Emergency Plan:**

Cllr. Stewart has reviewed the plan and updated where necessary. Cllr. J. Lee agreed to her contact number being inserted on the basis that this is not in the public domain. The revised document has been circulated to all.

 **13. Training in use of defibrillators.**

Cllr Stewart will proceed with this once restrictions applicable to Covid 19 allow.

 **14. Environmental initiatives:**

Cllr. Simmons has researched this and there are lots of initiatives but nothing specifically relevant to Wilmcote Parish. Items such as grass mowing, street lighting are mentioned and volunteer litter picking groups are active currently. Cllr. Shenton is mapping hotspots for fly tipping and areas that are identified will have cameras installed.

 **15. Review of entire Standing Orders:**

 Cllr. J. Lee will review the Willow Wood area of the orders and Cllr Ray is prepared to go through and update the main document.

 **16. Review of Lead Cllrs. and responsibilities:**

A**ctivity/Topic Lead Councillor**

Planning matters Cllr. Shilvock, Cllr Simmons

Website: Cllr. Ray and the Clerk

Standing Orders: Cllr. Ray

Willow Wood Play Area: Cllr. K. McMillan, Cllr. J. Lee

Risk Register: Cllr. Ray

Financial matters: Cllr. Ray

Road Safety and Parking Cllr Simmons, Cllr J. Lee, Cllr. Ray

 (Including Community Speed Watch)

Defibrillators/

Parish Emergency Plan: Cllr. Stewart

Wilmcote School Trust Fund: Cllr. E. Lee

Environmental Issues Cllr. Simmons

Parish Online Cllr. Simmons

Grant applications Cllr. Shilvock

 If anyone has any comments please refer them to

 Cllr. Ray.

**17. Parish Online – Parish Council initiatives/information and specific**

 **responsibilities:**

 Cllr Simmons proposed that she hosts a couple of sessions to show how this can be used to the best advantage for Wilmcote parish council. This was received favourably and she will put forward suggested dates.

Receive Report from Working Group on Parish Online

 **15. Date of next meeting:** to be advised – subject to Covid 19 regulations.

No further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

**Wootton Wawen Ward - District Councillor’s report as at 17/03/2021**

**Garden Waste subscription**

**Just as a reminder please remember to sign up for the Garden waste collection scheme. Whilst the cost has now increased to £40 as the early bird scheme has ended it still represents great value.**

With gardens starting to bloom into life again there will grass clippings etc. that will need to be disposed of and the easiest way is to subscribe to the service. Registering and paying can be done on line or by phoning the district council. Over 30,000 households have already subscribed.

**After the 1st April if you haven’t subscribed and are not displaying a permit on your green bin, it won’t be emptied.**

**Covid-19 (As at Sunday 14/03/3031)**

Another encouraging week but I hasten to stress our infection rates are at a similar level to what they were in September so we still have a way to go and with the schools having gone back this week and some restrictions being lifted at the end of the month, we still need to be vigilant and keep doing what we’ve been doing in terms of hands, face and space.

The figures over the last seven days are down to 45/100,000 from 68 last week, and the over 60’s rate has slightly decreased to 48/100,000 (53 last week) (with 20 cases over the last seven days) – which when compared to other districts in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 80/100,000, North Warwickshire 84/100,000, Warwick 58/100,000 and Rugby 77/100,000.  So Stratford and Warwick Districts still have the lowest case rates across the county.

The locally led Lateral Flow Testing facility for people WITHOUT coronavirus symptoms in Stratford has now carried out 18,556 tests with 65 positive results.  If you are returning to a busy workplace environment it is important to use this facility and get tested on a regular basis.

Vaccinations Program – Coventry & Warwickshire

|  |
| --- |
|  Sunday of the week prior. **% who have had at least 1 dose (using ONS denominators)**  |
| **65-69**  | **70-74**  | **75-79**  | **80+**  |
| 91.9%  | 95.2%  | 100%\*  | 96.7%  |

**20/02899/FUL Field House**

I’ve had a number of conversations with the Planner on this, the latest response is as follows:

*My assessment of the design of the balcony is based on it being to the rear and some 70m from the footpath to the rear, I therefore do not consider it would be a reason for refusal.*

*Yourself or the PC would need to make arrangements to undertaken a site visit at the properties with the relevant parties involved. I have visited the site from the Manor House, the application site and the footpath to the rear so I do not need to attend another.*

It would be interesting to get Members feedback on this because looking at the photo’s that were sent and the plans it would seem to me that the property to the south is too far away to be overlooked, other than maybe into their garden which is common with many properties and the property to the North may have no objection if the screens are attached to the stairs and balcony on that side (I haven’t seen confirmation of this). The only sure way is to arrange a site visit to see the issue from all three properties. It would also seem that we are unlikely to get anywhere on the aesthetics of the balcony. Questions that come to mind:

* Should we arrange a site visit and if so would it change Members minds if either of the properties affected felt they could live with the balcony.
* Do Members feel strongly enough to make the case at Planning Committee in the light of the likelihood that the Planner will recommend approval?

Your thoughts would be welcome as I do not feel, at this stage, strongly enough about this to go against the planner as I think that the overlooking issue is not strong (based on what I see on the plans) and if I can get confirmation that the screens are acceptable to the North side then the case against approving appears to be weak. It may be that this is one that should be delegated to the planner now.

**20/03354/FUL New House Farm**

On the 3rd of this month we met and the overwhelming view was that we should object and trigger a planning Committee decision.

I attended a training session on Class Q on Thursday 11th March and I took note of the following.

* Called a prior approval as refusal can only be granted for a few nationally agreed reasons
* It must be determined within 56 days otherwise it is deemed approved
* The building (typically barns at present) must have been used solely for agricultural use
* A maximum 5 dwellings can be built (based on size)
* Agricultural buildings built since 2013 do not qualify at present but will do so from 2023 when a rolling 10 year qualification period will be part of the test.
* Building work is limited i.e. it must be a conversion not a rebuild (see case Hibbitt and another v Secretary of State (2016))
* Class Q can be used as a fall back position in a full application for a dwellings in a location that might not otherwise be approved (such as greenbelt)

The above being the case it would seem that going to Committee would be fruitless unless Members can prove that there is something intrinsically better in the Class Q application than the Full application that would convince the Planning Committee that the fall-back position is better. At present the planner feels that the full application is better than the fall-back position. We may not like the fact that Class Q can be used this way but the planning rules are clear on this matter so my view is that we either

* Show good planning reasons for refusing the full application
* Or we withdraw our refusal by amending to “No Comment”

If we do nothing it will trigger the Planning Committee and then we would need to represent our view and face potentially hostile questions if we have no valid planning reasons for refusing it. Refusing it because we don’t like the principle of Class Q being used this way is not a valid reason, in my opinion, as it is a legitimate tactic or way forward for an applicant.

Your thoughts on this would be appreciated.

**Other Matter**

I’m aware of a pre app consultation on the possibility of converting the old Bearley Cross Pub into a two storey care home but at this stage I would say that the applicant has some way to go to make it acceptable in planning terms.

I have recently attended meetings on the Local Transport Plan and on the Stratford Parking Policy both led by the County. There are opportunities to feed into the discussions so if you’re interested in getting involved in the future of transport and parking around Stratford keep an “eye out” for details on the County website.

Markets will return to Stratford from Friday 16th April as lockdown rules will hopefully continue to be relaxed as more of the adult population is vaccinated. Currently 47% of the adult population has had a first dose.

The Youth Market will be coming back to Stratford for a third year in August and the Food Festival may take place in September.

I’m hoping that we may be able to get an ice rink and the big wheel by the river from October and that the Victorian Christmas Market will return in December but all this is dependent upon Government guidelines nearer the time.

**Feel free to contact me if you need further details.**

Remember “Hands….Face…Space”

&

“Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives”

**Cllr Ian Shenton**

**District Councillor for Wootton Wawen Ward (Wootton Wawen, Langley, Preston Bagot, Billesley, Bearley, & Wilmcote) – Tel 07971 343073 or 01564 795360**

**Lockdown rules from 8/3/2021 (with acknowledgment and thanks to The Times)**

**STEP ONE: March 8-29**

**Step 1A: March 8
Schools and universities**
All schools will reopen in two weeks’ time on March 8. At the same time after-school activities and sport will be allowed to commence. Secondary school pupils will be required to wear facemasks in classes for the first time.

Students on practical courses, such as medicine, will be allowed to return to campuses. The rest will have to wait until a review that is due to conclude before the end of the Easter holidays.

**Meeting up**
People will be allowed to meet one other person outdoors for a picnic or coffee on a park bench rather than just for exercise.

Care home residents will be allowed one regular visitor, as long as they follow coronavirus restrictions. However, the stay at home order will remain in place, only allowing people to leave for a very limited number of reasons.

**Step 1B: March 29**
**Outdoor socialising**
From March 29 an unlimited number of people from two households or groups of up to six people from three or more households will be able to meet outdoors in parks, gardens and other outside spaces.

**Sport**
On the same day organised adult and children’s sport can return as outdoor facilities such as tennis courts and local football pitches reopen. Outdoor swimming pools will also open at this point as will golf courses.

**Stay local**
At this point the stay at home order will end, and people will instead be told to stay local. The guidance will state that people should not travel to stay in second homes.

People will continue to be asked to work from home wherever possible, and overseas travel will be banned except for the current limited set of exemptions.

**STEP TWO: April 12
Shops, museums and hairdressers**
Non-essential shops, public buildings such as libraries and museums, and personal care services such as hairdressers and nail salons will all be allowed to reopen.

People from separate households will still not be allowed to meet indoors, however, so people will be asked not to visit a library or museum with people they do not live with. Driving lessons will begin again at the same time.

**Pubs and restaurants**
Pubs and restaurants will be allowed to offer table service outdoors. There will be no curfew and no requirement for pubs and bars to serve food alongside drinks, putting an end to the debate over whether a scotch egg constitutes a substantial enough meal.

**Gyms and leisure centres**
Indoor leisure facilities, including gyms, swimming pools and indoor tennis courts, will reopen but again people will not be allowed to visit them with those they don’t live with.

Outdoor attractions including zoos and theme parks will also be able to reopen their doors.

**Holidays**
There will be a limited return to domestic holidays for families, with campsites and holiday lets where indoor facilities are not shared with other households given the green light to reopen.

**Weddings and funerals**
Funerals will be allowed with up to 30 people, and the number of people permitted to attend weddings will go up from six to 15.

**Larger events**
At this point, the government plans to start piloting events with larger crowd sizes and reduced social distancing, using mass testing.

**STEP THREE: May 17**
**Social contact**
Outdoor social contract rules will be lifted so gatherings of up to 30 people will be allowed.

Inside, people will be able to meet subject to the rule of six or a larger group from two individual households.

**Pubs, restaurants and hotels**
Pubs and restaurants will also be able to reopen for indoor service. Cinemas, children’s play areas, hotels and B&Bs will also open.

**Theatres and larger venues**
Theatres, concert halls and other large venues will also be allowed to reopen with social distancing measures in place.

Larger indoor venues will be allowed to reopen with a maximum capacity of 1,000 or until they are half full, whichever figure is lower.

Outdoor venues will be allowed to open with a capacity of up to 4,000 people or half full, whichever is lower.

The largest outdoor seated venues, such as football stadiums, will be able to reopen with up to 10,000 people or until they are a quarter full, whichever is lower.

**Weddings and funerals**
Up to 30 people will be allowed to attend weddings, funerals, baptisms and bar mitzvahs.

**Foreign travel**
The government is to set up a review to see how foreign travel could be allowed to resume safely again; this is due to report in April. In the road map May 17 is the earliest date that foreign travel without self-isolation restrictions might be allowed but this could be pushed back further.

**STEP FOUR: June 21
Social contact**
All legal limits on social contact will be removed.

**Nightclubs and large events**
Nightclubs will be one of the final sectors of the economy to open and will come alongside an end to restrictions on the number of people who can attend large events such as festivals and concerts.

However, ministers warn that this will be dependent on the success of the vaccine programme in eliminating the vast majority of Covid-19 cases by this point.

**Weddings**
All limits will be removed.

**Working from home**
People will be advised to work from home until at least this date.

Member & Parish update 050321

We seem to have many conflicting messages about the vaccines. The argument in some countries that the Astra Zeneca vaccine is not as effective in over 65’s has now been well and truly smashed with protection rates very high and an 80% drop in hospital admissions in that age range.

Now we see blood clots in the headlines. The scientific evidence is that there is no increase in the number of blood clots occurring after having taken the vaccine. The numbers of people that do have blood clots is within statistical norms of around 3000 per month. To demonstrate how difficult it is to make any sense of the figures, in one study on people who had received the AZ vaccine, the saw a drop in the number of blood clots. My personal feeling is that after 24 million jabs, I am sure we would have seen evidence of issues with the vaccine.

**COVID UPDATE**. Positive progress on our rates of infection continues apace and are still heading in the right direction.

The figures (taken from the 14th March) have dropped across the district over the last seven days to 53.8/100k from 68.4 last week, still giving Stratford District the lowest rates in the West Midlands. (Please note that the latest government figures are showing an increase. This was predicted after children started going back to school and this may be the case here) n.b. School testing statistics go into the overall test results. This may therefore show as an increase in detections. The over 60’s day rate has dropped to 43.2/100k (52.8 last week) (with 18 cases over the last seven days). Compared to other districts in Warwickshire for all ages are:- Nuneaton & Bedworth 65.4/100k, North Warwickshire 91.9/100k (significantly down again), Warwick 36.2/100k and Rugby 70.7/100k. All areas in the County are seeing drops this week.

Our positivity rate (those being tested and showing Covid symptoms) is now down to 2.4% (2.9) and still dropping. Warwick are at 1.8% North Warwickshire at 3.5%, Nuneaton & Bedworth at 2.6% and Rugby at 2.6%. These are still some of the lowest rates in Coventry, Solihull & the West Midlands.

The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds has dropped a little with 11 (22) confirmed cases of COVID-19 but there is 1 (2) patients in ICU (figures in brackets are from last week).

The cumulative deaths across Stratford District from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) have sadly increased by a further 3 to 133 with 37 occurring in care homes, 87 in hospital, one in a hospice and 7 at home, out of a total of 797 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now risen to 599 (571) from last week with a total of 3191 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 298 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 1200.

The new locally led Lateral Flow Testing facility for people without coronavirus symptoms in Stratford at the Courtyard Theatre has now carried out 16,807 tests with 60 (54) positive results. Volunteers there are asking that as many people come to get tested as possible.

24,000,000 + have had the first jab! A brilliant result for all the effort that our NHS staff, GP practices and volunteers have put in is just incredible and my thanks go out to each and every person involved

**Census**. Finally, its census time and you should start to see the forms drop through the letterbox.

Stay safe & healthy

Best wishes

Mark

For information only

The following payments were made between meetings:

GeoXphere 42.00 BACS 29/01

E.on energy 166.87 DD 01/02

Information Commissioner 40.00 BACS 12/02

E.on energy 150.72 DD 16/03

Bluebird Graphics 382.06 BACS 25/03

Mrs E. Butterworth expenses 20/21 194.89 BACS 31/03

WILLOW WOOD PLAY AREA

D. Woodman 470.00 BACS 27/01

Playground Supplies 1,446.00 BACS 12/02

Playground Supplies 144.00 BACS 16/02

SDC 100.00 BACS 05/03

Playground Supplies 144.00 BACS 15/03