**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD USING ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING ON TUESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2020.**

 **NO 110**

 **1. Present:** Cllr. Ray, Cllr. Simmons, Cllr. E. Lee, Cllr. J. Lee, Cllr. Stewart, Cllr. Shilvock and one member of the public.

 Absent: Cllr. McMillan.

 Part meeting: District Cllr. Shenton and County Cllr. Cargill.

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

 **3. Councillor resignation:**

Cllr Kate Fraser tendered her resignation on 2nd November due to work and family commitments.

 The District Council has been advised and the vacancy will be advertised in due course.

**4. 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.

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

 **held on 30th September 2020.**

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

 **6. Public Participation:**

Stephen Coffey, from Heart of England Forest had been invited to give a presentation on their proposals to create a new native broadleaf forest in the Bearley and Pathlow area. He presented a map which showed the land they had acquired for this purpose and talked us through their plans. The Parish Council strongly supported this initiative. Attached to these minutes is a letter to residents of Pathlow which describes these proposals.

 **7. Correspondence:**

 All Correspondence circulated electronically to date was taken as read.

 It was reported to the Clerk after the agenda was circulated that the litter bin by the church has rotted and is no longer fit for purpose. The Clerk is in contact with SDC about a replacement.

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

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

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

**9. Planning Applications:**

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

The following application notifications were then considered:

Proposed Balcony to the rear of a dwelling (retrospective) at Field House, 8 Manor Drive, Wilmcote, CV37 9XA

T1 - pine - Crown lift to 4metres to clear driveway traffic,

T2 - maple - Crown lift to 4metres to match pine at 89 Aston Cantlow Road, Wilmcote, CV37 9XW.

 **10. Draft Precept for consideration:**

 Cllr. Ray presented the draft precept for the financial year 2021/22, this had previously been circulated to all Cllrs. for their consideration prior to this meeting. Subsequent to preparing the draft precept HMRC notified the Council that we would now be subject to Employers National Insurance payments and this will be reflected in the final draft precept for formal adoption at the next meeting on 27th January 2021. Cllr. Ray proposed that we should conduct a review of the financial regulations in the standing orders and that a small team comprising himself, Cllr. E. Lee and Cllr. K. Shilvock be established and report their proposals to the next meeting.

 **11. S137 grant applications:**

Three grant applications were received as below:

1. Keep fit/Tia Chi class - a very worthy club within the parish particularly when we emerge from lockdown and are able to mix again. £100 was requested, but £200 was proposed to show our recognition of the good work they do and our support.
2. Minnows – every parish needs something like this and again has a role in our parish once we emerge from lockdown. £250 was requested.
3. Scouts- this is a group again of high importance as we come out of any restrictions. £275 was requested.

 These were each considered and agreed by all Cllrs.

**12. Memorial bench:**

The County Council were asked for their view on the siting of this bench at the end of Glebe Estate. They were very supportive and their views were as follows:

In principle the County Council has no objection to the bench being sited on the highway verge as long as it does not impair the good visibility currently at this junction for all road users. (highlighted in red below)

Once you confirm the exact position and subject to the Parish Council confirming in writing the following:-

(1) The Parish Council accepts all future maintenance responsibilities

(2) The Parish Council holds public liability insurance with at least £5m cover and indemnifies the County Council from any future claims arising.

(3) The installation of the bench will be undertaken by a competent person with due regard for underground services. (Your public liability insurance will also cover the installation process and operative undertaking the works / indemnify the County Council against claims arising)

Once the Parish confirms the bench's position & points 1 to 3 above permission should be given.

 **13. Road Traffic items**

1. **Church Road safety**

Still waiting to hear on road safety and estimate for Church Road scheme.

1. **Area between train station and canal**

Area between train station and canal entrance remains in hand.

 **14. Willow Wood playground**

Waiting for a quote for repairs to zipwire and multiplay. Noted that there is a shortage of timber generally. Cllr. J. Lee suggested that she, Cllr. McMillan and the Clerk look at the shackles on the scale swings that had been listed as medium risk at the last inspection.

The original wooden play equipment is now approaching the end of its life and the guarantee is no longer valid.  The latest safety inspection has identified a safety risk with the zip wire and the scale swings and they will be taped off and must not be used. Anyone using this equipment does so at their own risk and Wilmcote Parish Council takes no responsibility.

 **15. Items for the agenda for the January meeting:**

Review Parish Emergency Plan

Review of Financial Regulations

Training in use of defibrillator

Environmental initiatives

Final Precept request for submission

 **16. Date of next meeting:** 27th January 2021.

No further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07 p.m.

**Wootton Wawen District Councillor’s report as at 18/11/2020**

**GTAA SPD**

The paper was due to be presented at the Cabinet Meeting and was withdrawn due to the prospect of a more appropriate site. I have continued to make representations on this to the Portfolio holder and have indicated my opposition to the inclusion of the private site on the corner of Gospel Oak Lane.

I have indicated that this has social issues and will not sit easily with the residents of the Parish.

I have also indicated that the existing main site is already larger than recommendations and there is no indication from the family than own the private site that they would be prepared for any other family to pitch up there.

I note that it is due to be discussed at next Monday’s Cabinet Forum which is not a public meeting. Officers and members meet to discuss any proposals before they go to Cabinet and this site is still in the draft agenda so I will be making very strong representations at the meeting. At the end of the day it may well be that it is pushed forward again but I will be trying to get this taken out of the proposal and will sue the additional information you gave me on whether the family would even want other families on the site.

It is important for me to just check that the Parish Council’ position is. I am assuming at this stage that it is still opposed to expansion of the private site but please let me know if I have misjudged this.

**Unitary**

Cllr. Cargill will be able to fill you in on what is happening at the County side but my view remains that until such time that the Government issues guidelines which will probably not before May next year, that we should not be panicked by what County are doing. I am aware that MHCLG have written to County and expressed a willingness to look at the proposal once it is clear what the District’s and residents views are. We need to take the ensuing time to build upon the Deloittes report and possibly start the communication program with our residents. I say possibly because of the uncertainty around what the Government guidelines will be next year. If it is purely a financial exercise then a large unitary would win most times on paper, but we all know that mergers rarely go according to plan and perceived benefits can disappear as fast as they were identified. As the Deloittes report indicates that the financial savings are not significant it does raise the issue of whether they will actually ever materialise.

We are continuing to work closer with Warwick District Council and share resources. Indication of this is in the Operations portfolio (my portfolio) and the IT portfolio (Mark’s portfolio) where we have joint Heads of Service over the two local authorities. As far as operations are concerned we have joined together on the proposed Material Recycling Facility at Coventry and the proposed 123+ waste collection system (which has cross party support) plus WDC will be looking at whether the time is right to be involved in charging for green waste.

Mark can explain more about the IT collaboration.

**Planning papers**

It remains to be seen what the Government’s response will be to the two consultations but it is fair to say that at SDC we have raised a number of issues over whether it weakens the position of the local authority, residents and Neighbourhood Development plans to control what happens in their planning areas.

I wonder whether there will a second consultation as it is clear that the proposals do not have unanimous support particularly as the “Shires” are likely to bear the brunt of additional housing, further reducing and weakening the green belt.

**Community Speedwatch**

I will mention that whilst I have offered to help I haven’t heard from your team to date. I can’t promise to be there at the drop of a hat due to personal and council demands but I will help out when I can as I believe initiatives like this are a clear sign to motorists that we care about speeding in and through our villages.

**Covid-19**

Our 7 day average ay 153 is falling, slowly, but is well below any of the other districts that make up our County. N. Warks 7 day average is the highest at 409 with Warwick being the nearest to us geographically and in terms of the rate at 246 per 100,000.

**Fly tipping**

This continues to be an issue but I haven’t seen any incidents recorded in the Wilmcote or Pathlow areas but please let me know if this nit the case and I will investigate.

**The following was distributed on the 12/11/2020 but I have included it as an aide memoire**

At last, I say at last but it has only been around 10 months since all our lives started to change because of Covid-19, there appears to be at least one and maybe more vaccines that may be ready for use soon. This is very welcome news at a point when we are part way through the latest lockdown but many of us will have to wait until the New Year for the vaccine as it is essential that the vulnerable, NHS staff and Care workers receive the vaccine first. The incredible dedication of NHS

staff and Care workers has been amazing and inspiring and I could never thank them enough for everything they have done, putting themselves at risk at times to keep us all safe.

**Green Bin Charge is due to come into effect from 1st April 2020**

The Green bin charge was due to come in on the 1st June 2020 but due to the pandemic we put this back to 1st April next year. As a Council we are facing difficult choices as central funding decreases and costs of services rise. There are no real choices here as the only other choice would be to discontinue the service as there is no legal requirement on councils to offer a green waste collection service. The fairest way, in my opinion, is to charge for the service, something that over 75% of all councils that offer the service, already do, with charges up to £90 per annum. Our charge will be set at £40 but if you sign up between 11th January 2021 and 28th February 2021 it will be discounted to £35. The charge is per bin and if you don’t use the whole bin why not think about sharing a bin with a neighbour. We will be issuing a sticker to subscribers to the service that will indicate that the bin can be collected.

**Remember, if you haven’t subscribed to the service your green bin will not be emptied as from 1st April 2021.**

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

**Waste 123+ collection service**

As from 1st August 2022 I have proposed a change in the way that we collect waste which has environmental benefits mainly but also has some financial benefits as well.

Waste collection is the only service that affects every household in the district and whilst we as a district are very good at recycling (we currently sit at joint 10th place on around 60% when compared to all collection authorities in England) we need to do more. Last year I had a selection of our grey (residual waste) bins analysed and the result was that around 30% of what was in the bin should have been in the Blue (recycling) bin or the green (green waste) bin. Food waste should go into the green bin at present but is often thrown into one of the other two bins. Waste in the grey bin either goes to landfill or to the incinerator (known as an energy from waste plant as it is burnt and the heat is captured to create electricity). The waste that goes to landfill rots in the ground and gives off methane gas which is up to 35 times worse for the atmosphere than Co2 emissions and other greenhouse gases. You can probably see that we can all play our part in reducing greenhouse gases.

With all of the above in mind my aim, which has general cross party support (but is due to be voted on December at the full Council meeting), is to introduce the following from August 2022 (at the point of writing this is 21 months hence).

* Weekly food waste collections – new caddies will be supplied
* Two weekly recyclate (blue bin) and green bin (for those who subscribe to it) collections
* Three weekly grey (residual waste) bin Collections

**Between now and then we will be issuing advice on how to increase recycling.**

The intention is that the food waste will go to an anaerobic digester (similar to what the water industry already use) where the methane gas is extracted and used and microbes effectively eat the food and the waste that is left is safe and contains nothing harmful. I have to say the process is a little more complicated than that but hopefully you get the general idea of what happens. This will reduce emissions into the atmosphere. The next step is to have zero waste to landfill, something I’m working on with the County. The cost of waste disposal is increasing all the time and recyclate must be as clean as possible to get the best price for it so by taking the food out of the bins and into a separate caddy (a small bin) and recycling more we will reduce greenhouse gases and mitigate the inevitable increase in waste disposal costs. We will be issuing household with a small caddy (for inside the house) and a larger caddy (for outside the house) specifically for food waste. The Government, in any case, will mandate this over the next few years so we are aiming to do it sooner and be ahead of any government mandate.

**There will lots of information coming out in the New Year but feel free to ask me any questions on this as it is a big change.**

**COVID-19 Update**

The number of infections in our District per 100,000 has remained fairly steady of late and whilst we are not on any watch list at the moment it is clear that we need to take extra care to reduce the potential spread of Covid-19. In my last report I mentioned that there was a concern that death rates nationally would reach 200 per day by November, a concern that has unfortunately become reality. We won’t see the benefits of the current lockdown straight away due to the lag between infection and symptoms occurs so it is vitally important that all take note of the guidelines and remember ……....

**“Hands, Face, Space”**

**AND Finally**

**Just in case I don’t get chance to say this before then, can I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

**Cllr Ian Shenton**

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

**12th November 2020**

**County Councillors Report – Cllr. Cargill**

**Member & Parish Briefing 13/11/20**

We are a short time into our second lockdown and C19 cases are still stubbornly high. Stratford’s cases have flattened slightly but are currently sitting at 161/100k population. As before, the majority of the cases are in the 16-59 age range. In this context, Stratford is in the middle of the Districts and Boroughs in

Warwickshire. Overall though Stratford has the least cases. Warwickshire is doing well in comparison to other Counties overall.

The next phase of Test and Trace is about to be launched. This is called Lateral Flow Testing and delivers a result in 20 minutes. This has been described as a game changer by the Health Secretary and local

authorities are being asked to implement it. The intention is to test all of the population of an area regularly. The accuracy of the tests is very high at 99%. Obviously, this cannot happen all at once and we are expecting a first batch soon for 10% of the population of Warwickshire. I would anticipate care homes

being prioritised for the first testing. The standard PCR tests which are administered by the NHS, take 2-3 days to return a result so it is evident that LFT can pretty much trace the spread of the virus in real time.

Cases with the students at the University of Warwick are reducing however they will still need a test before being allowed to go home for Christmas. The departure from our universities will be staggered.

The question was asked today, what happens after December 2nd? We anticipate that we (the whole country) will return to the three-tier system. Depending which tier you go into depends on the trajectory of

the number of cases, the actual number of cases and how many over 60’s (the most vulnerable section of society) there are in the population. We do not have a feel yet which tier we will go into or if it will be Warwickshire wide.

All but two Warwickshire schools are open with 85% of pupils attending. There are 5234 staff and pupils currently self-isolating but that number changes daily.

Support to business:

The Council has received a £2.7m Government grant to allocate to businesses which have been forced to close during the national lockdown. To implement these grants, we have just received the new software allowing us to make the payments. This is very similar to the scheme implemented during the first

lockdown. Grants under this scheme will be up to 3000 pounds for the four weeks lockdown whereas in the first lockdown the maximum payment made was £25,000.

In addition, the Council has received a further £2.6m to use as a discretionary scheme to support business who are not covered by the main scheme. This amount however is meant for the whole of 2020/21 and 21/22. Proposals on how best to use this fund being worked up.

Following a review, the Stratford Leisure Centre car park has been chosen as the site for the new testing station, subject to a final check. It is hoped that construction of the facility will be undertaken on the 21st and 22nd of November.

Alcester Town and Alcester & Rural have a cumulative total of 101 cases giving a total of 1308 cases per 100,000 population. This seems high but the current rolling average is 38 cases giving a total of 492 cases per 100,000 population. 3292 people were tested from the 16th October to the 5th November with 398

testing positive giving a positivity rate of 7.1%, equal lowest with Rugby in Warwickshire.

Friday the 13th was national Kindness day. I hope that you all were kind to one another but especially to yourselves.

Stay safe & Healthy

Mark

**The Heart of England Forest consultation letter**

4 September 2020

Dear Neighbour

The Heart of England Forest recently acquired an area of land in the vicinity of your home (please see map below). We would like to work closely with you and all our neighbours to achieve our aim of creating and nurturing England’s largest new native broadleaf forest.
 **What is the Heart of England Forest?**
The Heart of England Forest is a registered charity set up to plant, protect and preserve a 30,000 acre native broadleaf forest for people and wildlife. The Forest stretches along the Warwickshire/Worcestershire border from south Birmingham, across the Ancient Forests of Arden and Feckenham, to the north Cotswolds.

In time this national asset will provide a lung for the Midlands and the mosaic of forest habitats and farming will increase biodiversity, providing a vital haven for wildlife and light airy glades and shady canopies for health and relaxation. For more information about the charity and its work, please visit www.heartofenglandforest.com.

**Growing the Forest in Bearley and Pathlow**

We are at the very beginning of the process of creating part of the Forest on the land in Bearley and Pathlow, and we would like to incorporate your suggestions into the plans.

It can take anywhere from a year to over three years from acquiring a piece of land to planting trees and shaping the Forest on the ground. In addition to consulting with neighbours and local communities, we undertake biodiversity surveys and an environmental impact assessment before designing our forest plans. These plans then go through various government bodies before we eventually obtain permission to plant trees.

The woodland is always designed to fit into the landscape, and we work with the opportunities that the land gives us. For example, much of the site has a wooded past, with Hawk Wood likely to be an area of Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW).

We know that people can be worried about the thought of a forest coming right up to their boundary and blocking their light. We are very sensitive to these concerns and work closely with our immediate neighbours to make sure that trees are not planted right up to the edge of properties. We also leave wide, airy woodland rides along your viewpoints.

 **Invitation to take part in an online consultation**Usually we would invite you to an informal consultation on the land, but unfortunately this is not possible currently due to the pandemic. It is important for us to hear your thoughts and answer any questions you may have, so we hope that you will be able to spare a few minutes to complete an online survey instead. Visit [**https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HOEF**](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HOEF) to complete the survey by 25th September 2020.

The local community is at the heart of everything we do. We want to do everything we can to inform our friends and neighbours about our plans, create opportunities to engage and work with each other and ensure the Forest benefits everyone in the community. Everyone at the Heart of England Forest is looking forward to working with you and the community in and around Bearley and Pathlow.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Coffey

Head Forester, Heart of England Forest



For information only

The following payments were made between meetings:

HMRC 393.00 BACS

Zoom Pro annual 115.10 BACS

E.on energy 161.48 DD

Tranter Training –Defib 630.00 BACS

E.on energy 166.87 DD

WILLOW WOOD PLAY AREA

Playground Supplies October 144.00 BACS

Playground Supplies November Annual inspection 234.00 BACS