**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2023 – NO. 128**

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

 Part meeting County Cllr. Holmes. Piers Daniell’s assistant.

 **2. Apologies:** Cllr Boyes who had work commitments and Cllr. Ray, Chairman, who was on holiday. Approved.

 County Cllr. Daniell.

 **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 19th July 2023.**

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

**5. Public participation:**

Ms. Everson expressed concerns about the Mary Arden Inn which is registered as an asset of community value. Many villagers share her concerns about the overall state of the fabric of the building and the tenant’s ability and/or apparent lack of willingness, not only to run a good pub that we all want to support, but also properly to carry out the repairs and maintenance it needs.

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

 The Chairman had been made aware of these concerns prior to going away and asked the Clerk to contact the Enforcement Officer to enquire whether there is anything SDC can do to enforce some action from Greene King to improve the condition of the building. The response was that SDC are aware of a number of listed buildings in the District in far worse condition and should be given their attention.

 Under these circumstances formal action is not justified to secure any improvements to the condition of the property/site and to let them know if the condition deteriorates further and they can reconsider whether to open an enforcement case.

 Councillors considered the response from the Enforcement Dept. was unsatisfactory and Cllr Shilvock proposed we respond to Mr. Kocon to that effect and agreed to draft a reply to be copied to Susan Juned, Leader of the Council, and District Councillor Holmes.

 Ms Everson has been in touch with the new Business Development Manager for Green King with a view to arranging a meeting and has also contacted CAMRA and WMCA who are looking to create a list of all pubs that might need protection. She will keep in close contact and notify us of any progress.

 Another item mentioned by Ms. Everson was concern about the village shop. It is looking in poor condition with the boarded up window and unfinished work at the front. The registration of the shop as a community asset expired 2022 and she wondered if we should apply to have it re-listed. Councillors all agreed it would be wise to do that and Ms Everson offered to complete a draft application form for approval.

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

 County Councillor’s full report is appended to the minutes. Cllr. Daniell is conscious of the fact that he hasn’t been able to attend many of our meetings and has arranged for his PA, Annabel, to attend on his behalf when necessary, in particular to note any items raised for his attention. On this occasion there were no issues relevant and Annabel was thanked for attending.

 District Cllr. Holmes provided a short report and agreed to send a copy to the Clerk. He briefly mentioned the National policy for caravans in connection with No. 4 Church Road.

 Cllr Shilvock asked if he could advise/check on the refuse collection rota for Pathlow. It doesn’t appear to entirely follow the information she has been provided with from SDC.

**7. Planning applications:**

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

 The following applications were then considered:

 Planning application No. 23/02354/TREE The Crofts, 5-7 Pear Tree Cottage, Church Road, Wilmcote. Fell two conifers. No objections were raised.

 Planning application No. 23/02391/FUL 27 Glebe Estate, Wilmcote. Single storey rear extension. No objections were raised.

**8. Correspondence:**

All correspondence received electronically is taken as read.

**9. Mary Arden Inn:**

 **See agenda item No. 5.**

**10.** **Willow Wood Play area:**

The latest inspection report raised several defects, none of them serious. The Multi Play timbers are deteriorating and splitting in places, similar problems with the Tractor Unit and missing bolt caps on the Zip Wire ramp.

 Cllr. McMillan put forward some suggestions for replacement items and asked Councillors to have a look at the Playdale Catalogue and bring some further suggestions to the next meeting.

 **11. Community Speedwatch:**

 No update yet regarding the cameras previously mentioned.

 The team will follow it up and, if unsuccessful, will look into other possible options.

 **12. Pathlow Park Traveller Site:**

County Cllr. Daniell has a meeting for the 16th October with the new Hub Manager, Jeff May, Jonathon Toy and Scott Tompkins. He had mailed Jeff regarding the fencing and was going to contact Mr. Chatterton direct.

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

Cllr Stewart reported that the public footpath running from The Stables towards Wilmcote is completely overgrown. The Clerk was asked to contact the owner and ask for it to be cleared.

**14. Date of next meeting:** 15th November 2023

No further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm

County Councillor report

 Wixford Bridge:

Unfortunately, the visit by Highways of Wixford bridge was delayed and hence the delay in sending out this update. The feedback we received from the Highways team is they spent time observing the traffic flow and drove the bridge a number of time themselves. They have organised for a Stage 3 Safety Audit (post construction) to be undertaken. Once they have the stage 3 complete they will respond to this in a formal document which will form the final appraisal of the site.

However, in the interim, they observed that the site was functioning well. Most traffic speeds seem reasonable for the 30 mph limit and as a result the priority give way system seems to operate well. They did note that that much of the traffic approaching from the west (which has to give way) slows as they come down the hill on the approach to the Give Way line, where visibility is better as they come down the hill. Therefore, the drivers decision to move forward over the bridge or give way is made at a point before the marked give way line. So they are considering it may be preferable to move the give way line back a few metres. However they will await the full safety audit to confirm.

RAAC in Warwickshire:

WCC maintained schools: of these, one school has been impacted - Outwoods Primary School in Atherstone. WWC invested £170k of WCC capital over the summer in mitigations and had agreed these with DfE but unfortunately, their advice changed this week, requiring parts of the school to be closed. Through close collaboration between the school and our teams, we have accelerated the additional mitigations required by DfE so that the school will reopen fully on Monday with some temporary mitigations. WWC have a confirmed position on the rest of the maintained school estate with no other schools affected.

Academy schools in the County: Myton and Aylesford Schools in Warwick have been affected. Other academies may be identified through ongoing DfE surveys, but WWC cannot advise on the progress of these as they are not overseen by WCC. Both academies have longer mitigation periods. WWC are offering all help and support to the schools, including potential temporary solutions.

Fire Service: in line with a Home Office request for information by Monday about RAAC in fire stations, surveys have been completed on all stations. Four stations (Leamington HQ, Fenny Compton, Rugby and Shipston) require more in-depth testing following the survey and laboratory results will be available early next week which will determine whether mitigations are required.

WCC Buildings and Estate: WWC monitor the condition of their estate through building condition surveys on a five-year cycle which informs mitigations and prioritisation of our maintenance activity. This includes monitoring of known RAAC systems in place. Officers are conducting an initial filtering exercise to rule out buildings and prioritise those requiring further and more intensive inspection/surveys. This is likely to drive a programme of prioritised survey work which could take several weeks. WWC will prioritise public facing buildings (e.g. libraries/museums) and those most heavily used by our staff.

Burton Farm Recycling Centre Closed:

Burton Farm Recycling Centre is now reopen for booked appointments after being forced to close last week. The damage to the bridge was not as severe as first thought and the work has now been completed and approved.

Helping pay utility bills:

The objective of the Government’s Household Support Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs, specifically food, energy and water bills. In recognition that an unexpected increase in costs can create real challenges for our residents who are experiencing financial hardship, another county wide utilities voucher campaign will launch in September 2023.

Short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment will be available to help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis.

Families and households in Warwickshire can apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of a bill. Residents are invited to contact the Local Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation. All applications for the payment must be made between 6th and 22nd September 2023.

Vulnerable residents in Warwickshire who are struggling financially can apply for support by contacting the Local Welfare Scheme directly on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182. For further information please visit: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/

The utilities campaign will be advertised via corporate social media channels already and you may also wish to do so via your own platforms.

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.