**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2019 NO 105**

**1. Present:**

Cllr. Ray, Cllr Shilvock, Cllr. Simmons, Cllr. E. Lee,

Cllr Stewart, Cllr. McMillan, and one member of the press.

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

**2. Apologies:** Cllr. J. Lee for medical reasons and Cllr. Fraser due to delays commuting from London.

**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 18th September 2019.**

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

**5. Public Participation:**

There were no members of the public present.

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

County Cllr. Cargill reported as follows:

He had requested an update on the boundary issues at the Pathlow Traveller Site and invited Paul Gibbs to attend this meeting. Paul Gibbs was not available to attend but advised the WCC are in close contact with Legal Services to discuss the best way forward and are in the process of gaining a full site survey to enable WCC to accurately determine site boundaries along with assets, plot sizes etc.. They are currently forty pitches short across the district.

The area of Billesley Road that is currently permanently under water is due to a blocked gully and this will have to be jetted as the recent gully cleansing process was not sufficient.

Cllr. Cargill reported on his recent trip to China which primarily was a cultural exchange visit but included potential trade and investment opportunities. He mentioned that David Buckland had been appointed as Chief Executive of Stratford District Council and advised that Tony Perks has been appointed as the Deputy Chief Executive.

Finally, he referred to the sexism allegations which had been made against two District Councillors and stated that such behaviour was entirely unacceptable and the harshest penalties possible had been imposed on them.

District Cllr. Shenton provided a copy of his full report and this is attached on page 6.

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

*Planning Application No. 19/01543/LDE* 22 Glebe Estate, Wilmcote: Use of land for the parking of up to 4 domestic vehicles (including caravans, campervans and other vehicles) in connection with the residential use of No. 22 Glebe Estate. Existing Lawful Development refused. Subsequent permission given for parking two domestic cars only.

*Planning Application No. 19/01864/VARY* 2 Stone Pits Meadow, Wilmcote: Variation of condition 4 of the application 18/03457/FUL to remove obscure glazing condition. Granted

*Planning Application No. 19/02163/FUL* 16A Aston Cantlow Road, Wilmcote: Construction of single storey and first floor side extensions. Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 19/02693/LDP* New House Farm, Birmingham Road, Pathlow: Change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house in accordance with the information, plans and drawings submitted in support of prior approval application reference 18/03573/COUQ made under Class Q. Proposed Lawful Development refused.

The following application was then considered:

*Planning Application No. 19/02554/FUL* 151A Aston Cantlow Road, Wilmcote: Conversion and re-roofing of existing garage and porch. Construction of covered side access. Loft conversion including hip-to- gable roof alteration. New entrance gates, wall and fence. Render exterior.

After some discussion Cllr. Simmons proposed the following response be submitted. Second by Cllr. Ray and all in agreement

“The Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that the proposals are contrary to Paragraph 145(c) of the NPPF, CS10 of the Core Strategy and WP11b (iv)(v) of the Wilmcote and Pathlow Neighbourhood Plan by virtue of the significant planned increase in height and volume.”

**8. Correspondence:**

- District & Parish Councillors Weekly information.

- SDC Training- Personal Safety for Councillors 7th November.

- Tesco Food Collection 21st-23rd November.

The following were received after the agenda was circulated:

- The Pensions Regulator: acknowledgement of re-declaration of

compliance.

- Notification of SDC member briefing: EU Settlement Status Training.

- Mary Arden’s Overflow car Park proposals: New documentation was

received from Abi Moore and Mark Ratcliffe on the day prior to the

meeting, too late to include on the agenda. It was agreed that the best

way forward at this time would be to arrange an exploratory meeting

with representatives of the Parish Council and Mary Arden’s Farm,

together with the residents group. No decisions would be taken and a

scribe would be appointed to take notes and present a report to the

Parish Council at their January meeting. **Clerk to action**

**9. Progress report:**

*Bank Mandate*: Confirmation received from HSBC that the new Mandate is now completed.

*Lime Tree on The Green:* As a result of the Clerk’s request to carry out an inspection on the tree some checks were carried out and, according to the Forestry Section at WCC, it has been confirmed in writing that they consider this tree to be growing on land that is part of the highway extent meaning that they are responsible for the care and maintenance of this tree. As such it will come under their 5 year cyclical inspection programme and any safety based maintenance work will be undertaken by them, funded by County Highways. The next inspection is due some time in 2021. However, if any changes or issues are noticed they should be reported to the Forestry Section. It was agreed that it should remain in the risk register and be monitored.

*Telephone Kiosk:* The door has been attended to by BT and can now be opened.

*Green Garden Waste Stakeholder Consultation*: The survey form was completed and returned to SDC with Councillors’ comments.

*Parking Bays at Glebe Estate:* District Cllr Shenton has been advised by

SDC Planners and Estates teams that these can’t be allocated just for disabled parking. Cllr. Shenton has notified the residents of this.

*No 22 Glebe Estate:* The Lawful Development Certificate application was refused. It was agreed, however, that two domestic cars can be parked on the land in question. Cllr. Shenton will keep this under review.

*Standing Orders*: Cllrs. Simmons and Shilvock are working on the wording relating to site visits for Cllrs. and when required.

**Cllrs. Simmons & Shilvock to action**

**10. Pathlow Traveller Site:**

As reported by County Cllr. Cargill in agenda item 6.

**11. Draft Precept:**

Cllr. Ray had prepared a draft Precept and this was circulated to all Cllrs. ahead of the meeting. In principle Cllrs. were in agreement with the draft. A final Precept figure to be agreed at the January meeting.

**12. The Masons Arms Public House**

A response dated 3rd September from Ei, addressed to the Chairman, Cllr. Ray, was received confirming they are considering their future plans for the site and are still very much in the ‘discussion’ stages of their review. Cllr. Ray confirmed that a second application has been submitted to SDC nominating the pub once again for community asset status. A response has yet to be received. Cllr. Shenton is awaiting an update from SDC in connection with the safety of the wall alongside the footpath.

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

The annual inspection is due to be carried out by the end of the month.

AlthoughCllr. J. Lee was not able to attend the meeting she did circulate a report for consideration. Hopefully equipment quotes will be received shortly and the subject can be discussed at the next meeting in January.

**14. Road Traffic Items:**

a)Traffic and Road Safety: in the area around the school, Church and shop. Cllr. Simmons provided a report from a preliminary working party meeting and this was circulated to all Cllrs. ahead of the meeting. The focus was on the area around the school, church and shop. Several useful ideas were forthcoming and various options are being looked into.

b) 20mph zone around the school and village shop: Cllr. Cargill was advised that the response was the same as in 2016 and again in April 2019.

c) Pavement along the road past the school on the opposite side where there is currently no footway: Cllr. Cargill was advised by the Safety Engineering Team and WCC that we would need to pay for an Engineer to do some designs, get costings for options to see what the cost would be. £3k as a starter for the Safety Engineering Team to have a look at it – delegated budgets cannot be used.

With the agreement of all Cllrs., Cllr Ray advised that the Parish Council wishes to fully assess the potential of installing a new footpath and would be willing to pay for an Engineers report providing it is fully costed.

d) Community Speedwatch update: Paul Yates reported that he and John Philps took over the responsibilities for this during last summer. Mr. Yates had the speed gun re- calibrated and has found it is easier to use the gun on a tripod. They had been out twice in the past week and five motorists were found to be travelling over the speed limit.

e) ANPR cameras: Cllr. McMillan had obtained some information which had been circulated to all Cllrs. ahead of the meeting. It was agreed that this is not as straightforward as it sounds and Cllr. McMillan will try and get someone to come to the next meeting to talk to us about the process. **Cllr. McMillan to action**

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

Willow Wood Play Area.

Agreement of final Precept request.

Report from exploratory meeting concerning Mary Arden’s Farm. overflow car park. **Cllr. Simmons to action**

Standing Orders update: wording re site visits for Cllrs. **Cllrs. Shilvock & Simmons to action**

ANPR Cameras.

**16. Date of next meeting:** 22nd January 2020

*No.*

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

**Wootton Wawen District Councillor report – as at 20/11/2019**

**Wilmcote**

The main issues in the month have been: -

* The Masons – Bowing wall
* The Masons – Community Asset
* Parking – Disabled bays near to Village Hall
* Parking on land in front of No 22 The Glebe
* Proposed application from No 145 Aston Cantlow Road
* Climate Emergency
* Appointment of Chief Executive
* Green Waste proposal
* Car Parking Charges proposal
* REFILL Scheme
* The General Election
* My Christmas Summary
* Car Parking – Boring? Definitely not!!! – (a light hearted look at the issues).

**The Masons**

I am awaiting further feedback from the structural engineers on this but given the fact that there appears to be no rush I’m assuming that they feel its not serious. I have asked today for a further update.

Having spoken to Tony Perks and Helen Smith about the possibility of the Mason’s being registered as Community asset ,they have been in touch with Liz and it is under consideration again which is welcome news. Again, I have asked for an update today.

**Disabled Bays near to 42 and 44 The Glebe**

The situation now is that the Planners and Estates teams are saying that these can’t be allocated just for disabled parking. I have notified the residents of this but said that I will investigate this further.

**No 22 The Glebe**

This parking appears to be in line with what has been agreed i.e. 2 cars only, no commercial vehicles but I will keep this under review.

**145 Aston Cantlow Rd**

A further application is likely to be received to add an additional storey to the back of the house or alternatively an extension on the side of the house utilising permitted development rights. You will be aware that permission was granted recently to increase the roof height so that additional bedrooms could be added so this represents a further stand-alone application to develop. I have a meeting arranged with planners next week to discuss this application specifically.

**Climate Emergency**

A report should be available early in the New Year outlining the OSC recommendations, but it is apparent that there is now collaboration between district councils within the county which will help avoid duplication of effort as this is such a big issue.

**Appointment of Chief Executive and a Deputy Chief Executive**

David Buckland has been appointed as Chief Executive and Tony Perks as his Deputy

**Green Waste Proposal**

The consultation period has now expired, and we will be reviewing the comments over the next couple of weeks and submitting a final proposal to the Cabinet in December, In brief it is proposed to charge £40 p.a. for green waste collection with a £5 discount in the first year for residents that subscribe during the month of April. The scheme, if approved, will commence on the 1st June 2020. As I have put together this proposal, I can explain the rationale behind it, or any questions associated with it. Feel free to ask me at any time for further details.

**Car Park Charges**

This is another one of my proposals which relates only to Town Centre Council owned car parks.

My proposal is two-fold

1. To increase charges by approx. 20%, in line with RPI since 2012 when they were last reviewed.
2. To review the cost of the over 65’s permit that current we charge 1 £10 administration fee for. There are approximately 2500 permits in circulation.

If you’d like further details at any point, then please contact me. I would add that this will be going to public consultation in the new year as the general election and purdah will delay this but the new charges, if approved, will be introduced from 1st April 2020

**REFILL Scheme**

This is another of my initiatives and I would ask you to spread the word and encourage any local businesses to join. For the public there is an app available for phones that shows where you can get your water bottle refilled with tap water for free. Companies such as Costa, Greggs, Premier Inn and host of smaller retail outlets have already signed up. They display a sticker at their entrance that indicates that they have joined the scheme.

For businesses the benefit is that it may bring increased footfall and selling opportunities.

The reason for the scheme is to reduce the number of single use bottles being presented as waste and impacting upon the environment. Again, if you would like further details, just ask me, look on the REFILL website or the SDC website, contact Angela Lloyd at SDC or download the free app.

**The General Election**

If you know of anyone that needs a postal vote but hasn’t got a form then let me know as I can always take one round, complete it whilst I’m there and take it back into SDC as time is running out to register for a postal vote. The form can also be downloaded directly from the internet.

**My Summary (as sent to a local magazine this week)**

As we come towards the end of the year, I’ve been thinking about my time since I decided to stand as district councillor.

I met a lot of interesting people when I was canvassing last April and this has continued since as I’ve got to know the ward better. I get a great deal of pleasure out of trying to improve residents lives by picking up the issues that are causing them to worry or they feel passionate about and whilst I can’t always get the desired outcome, I will always give my best and try my hardest to find a way through the issue, be it planning, roads, transport, disputes, unsociable behaviour and lots of other problems that confront myself and residents every day. I count myself very lucky to be a Councillor.

Some of the other people that I’ve met include Ministers, MP’s, local business owners, Will Wilson (of Bob Wilson Funfairs) and his wife, market traders, charities, housing associations, officers from government departments, a very skilled artist (Rob Turner) who created 5 mosaics (for the walk from the Stratford railway station up to Arden Street) amongst many others.

By the time you read this the General election will probably have happened and a new government formed. We can only hope that one way or another we can all move on from Brexit as there are so many other important issues to tackle.

Not least amongst all of these is climate change and back in July we (the District Council) declared that we aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. This means that many things that we take for granted now may have to change. As a Council we are talking to other Councils to create a common approach to a very difficult issue. We are trying effectively to reverse or slow down the effects of 250 plus years of burning fossil fuels and wasting the Earth’s resources, so that our children, their children and their children’s children can enjoy our planet’s natural beauty. I, like everyone else, must do so much more to ensure that our legacy is a stable world where the natural resources are reused repeatedly, minimising waste and pollution.

Whilst I really enjoy what I do one thing I try never to forget is that the family matters and always comes first. Like many people, I sometimes forget this and then look back and regret the lack of time I’ve given to them.

So, at this time of year I hope that you can spend time with your loved ones and enjoy the Christmas festivities and from the bottom of my heart I wish you a very Happy Christmas.

**Ian Shenton**

**Car Parking – Boring? Definitely not!!!**

As Portfolio holder for operations Car parks come within my remit so I thought I’d give you an insight into some of the issues faced by the Council’ teams and myself.

Car parking is always an issue so I thought first I’d go to Henley where there are an abundance (relatively) of surface car park which will get fuller (as will possibly the surrounding streets) as the train stations charge to park. On the day in question I drive into the car park, which is free to park but usually always full. On this day I found a space and then the second issue…. is it wide enough for my vehicle. I make a mental note to lose a little weight as I struggle to get out of the car due to how near the next car is to the line. As I walk across the car park I wonder what lurks beneath as it is surrounded by shops and houses. Power cables, sewage pipes, water, gas all possibly under there and at some point in time could present a problem. Then the surface, the pounding it gets will mean at some point it needs resurfacing. All this is free, in that there are no car parking charges but they still have to be maintained. I see a car with windows misted, engine running and the occupant looks to be unconscious, my Henley Community First Responder Training kicks in and I bang on the side window and the windscreen, no response, I look away for something to use the break the glass if needed and as I do the window has been wound down and the occupant says “ what’s **your** problem mate”, I make some kind of apology and as I walk away with a smile on my face I hear the words “idiot” ringing out behind me. Time to go.

Passing through Wootton Wawen I am reminded that there have been a number of questions raised about providing a car park for rail users who currently have to park on the road. A similar issue exists in Wilmcote as I see many cars parked on the road leading from the station. There are probably as many residents that don’t want as do want – haven’t we been here before with Brexit? The problem lies in finding suitable land close enough to the stations, the search continues generally via the Parish Council.

Next stop the multi storey car park at Bridgeway in Stratford Town centre. As I drive in I know that its ANPR controlled, no need to get a ticket at this one as it records your reg. number and then you’ve only got to do battle with the computer on the way out if you’ve been there for more than an hour (first hour is free).

I’m now thinking of the 3 Wee’ds , weeds growing in places they shouldn’t, Weed being smoked in places it shouldn’t and the final Wee’d , well that’s definitely in places it shouldn’t be.

Maintenance of car parks is essential to keep them looking smart, safe and, as far as you can make them, inviting.

The latter two Wee’ds are particular problems in multi storey car parks, you can smell cannabis as you walk down the street sometimes but in a car parking area it is very strong and pungent at times. Anti social behaviour such as the stairways being used as toilets, drug users using and discarding paraphernalia plus homelessness & sleeping rough, beggars and occasionally groups of youngsters using the places as meeting places. All in a days work for the team at the district council and the cleaning company. Homelessness and rough sleepers are encouraged to seek the Council’s help and “signposted” to where they can get help either from the Council or from the voluntary sector but some people don’t want to sleep in a hostel or have a place of their own for a variety of reasons but the sight of someone sleeping in a stairwell with lots of blankets over them can be intimidating for some people. It’s a quandry and whilst you can encourage them to seek help you know that they’ll be back later. It’s a problem for many authorities as you want to discourage rough sleeping but don’t want to appear “heavy handed” in any way.

Other problems include the number of disabled bays, have we got enough and the increasing demand for recharging points for electric vehicles which are forecast to grow rapidly nationally in the space of a few short years? The problem is, how many electric vehicles are there in Stratford at various times of the day, what type of charging, slow for cars not moving for say 10 hours, medium for commuters into town, fast for shoppers who will only be around for say a couple of hours or ultra fast – generally only for motorways? Western Power are confident that the system is resilient enough and capacity isn’t an issue so we just need to decide on the types of connections and chargers and a company to manage them.

Leaving the car park can be a challenge for some, which way do I go to get down. In Stratford they are well signposted so not usually a problem but in some you feel you need an A-Z (for those old enough to remember such things ) or a satnav (if only it would receive a signal). But first lets tackle the computer or the Pay Station as its usually signposted. I type in my reg. ….as I do its giving me options on vehicles until I finish typing and only my vehicle is left. Have I been here for more than hour? Yes the computer says, that’ll be £2. Now the next issue….the machine has to cater for cash, card, contactless and as there are moving parts in it, it will at some point get jammed as someone puts foreign currency in or something that isn’t even currency (remember we have 2.9m foreign visitors a year so it easy to understand how this happens).

Don’t even get me started on graffiti….

So when someone says to me… Car parks ..that’s not exactly glamourous is it……how boring …I want to shout…”**You don’t know the half of it….trust me….boring it isn’t”.**

For information only

The following payments were made between meetings:

G. Compton (grass cutting The Green) 150.00 BACS

E.on energy 163.26 BACS

PKF Littlejohn (audit) 200.00 BACS

HMRC 377.60 BACS

E.on Energy 158.00 BACS

E.on Maintenance 101.34 BACS

Wilmcote Village Hall (S137 grant) 300.00 BACS

1st Wilmcote Scouts (S137 grant) 300.00 BACS

WILLOW WOOD PLAY AREA

G. Compton 1,260.00 BACS

Playground Supplies (Inv 5803) 144.00 BACS

David Woodman (repairs) 150.00 BACS

Playground Supplies (Inv 5812) 144.00 BACS