**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2020 NO 106**

**1. Present:** Cllr. Ray, Cllr. Simmons, Cllr. E. Lee, Cllr. J. Lee, three members of the public and one member of the press.

Part meeting: County Cllr Cargill.

Absent: Cllr. McMillan

**2. Apologies:** Cllr. G. Stewart, Cllr. K. Fraser, Cllr. K. Shilvock, District Cllr. Shenton.

**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 20th November 2019.**

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

**5. Public Participation:**

Mr. Mander, Mrs. Harman and Mr. Massey were attending in relation to the car park proposals for Mary Arden’s House car park proposals.

At this point Cllrs. Simmons and Ray both declared non- pecuniary interests in this item.

Cllr. Simmons had circulated file notes of a meeting held at Mary Arden’s House on the 11th December 2019 attended by a sub-group of the Parish Council and District Cllr. Shenton.

Following the meeting on 11th December Mr. Massey had called a meeting of the resident’s group on the 15th January and had provided a report of that for Councillors. Mr. Massey ran through his report briefly and comments were received from both Mrs. Harman and Mr. Mander.

Cllr. Ray felt that a meeting of the Parish Council sub-group with Abi Moore, Mark Ratcliffe and Cllr. Shenton should now take place to ascertain whether the Trust wish to proceed with their proposals and have a discussion to consider the most appropriate way forward.

Mr. Massey also reported that another issue was raised in that it was considered a separate working party was probably appropriate to look at the wider issue of traffic issues around the village - to cover both speeding and parking and that this was something which the Parish Council could/should coordinate. Cllr. Ray thought that two or three people could possibly join the current working party and could Mr. Massey recommend anyone to the Clerk.

Cllr. Ray thanked Mr. Massey, Mr. Mander and Mrs. Harman for attending and they retired from the meeting.

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

County Cllr. Cargill reported as follows:

Cllr. Cargill had been in touch with Graham Stanley, Principal Engineer, Traffic and Road Safety, WCC, who has agreed to meet with the Traffic Working Group to discuss a 20mph zone around the school and village shop and the possibility of a pavement along the road past the school, amongst other safety issues. **Clerk to action**

SDC Budget 2020: Less grant money will be available from Government over the coming period. To compensate SDC needs to both save money and generate an income to off-set the upcoming deficit. SDC can only increase Council Tax by either £5 for a Band D property or a maximum of 2%/year. SDC reserves are being used to fund the gap but they must retain a minimum of approximately £2.5m in reserves. The recently introduced green bin charge has been introduced to try and generate a surplus.

The Greig Hall is due to be handed over to SDC by the end of the month.

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

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

*Planning Application No. 19/03165/LDP* 18 Aston Cantlow Road,

Wilmcote: Proposed conversion of existing garage and workshop to kitchen/dayroom plus other internal and structural alterations. Proposed Lawful Development Permitted.

The following were 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.

Amendments/further information received for consideration.

Cllr. Simmons proposed recommending approval with a request from the Parish Council that the description of the proposed work be updated to make it clear that the amended plans are for ground floor alterations only with no loft conversion. Cllr. Ray seconded the proposal and all were in agreement.

*Planning Application No. 19/03557/FUL* 77 Aston Cantlow Road, Wilmcote: Proposed two storey rear extension.

Cllr. Simmons recommended refusal as the proposed extension will result in a disproportionate addition over and above the size of the original building and would therefore be inappropriate development within the Green Belt for the purposes of the NPPF and Core Strategy.

Cllr. J. Lee supported this recommendation and all were in agreement.

*Planning Application No. 19/03056/FUL* Loughrigg, Hardwick Rise, Birmingham Road, Pathlow: Proposed new porch to side elevation,

proposed single storey lounge extension to rear elevation.

Cllr. Simmons proposed refusal of this application considering that the proposed extensions, when added to the earlier additions, would amount to a disproportionate increase in size of the building over and above the original and would therefore be inappropriate development within the Green Belt for the purposes of the NPPF and Core Strategy. Cllr. Ray seconded the proposal and all were in agreement.

*Planning Application No. 20/00114/LBC* Palmers Farmhouse, The Great Barn, Station Road, Wilmcote: Demolition and the like for like rebuilding of an external wall to the stable building. Works include the trying of the new wall to existing adjacent walls. Cllr. Simmons proposed a response of No objection, seconded by Cllr. Ray and approved by all.

Notification only: 20/00026/DESOP Pathlow Park, Birmingham Road Pathlow. Erection of fencing in excess of 1m in height adjacent to a highway.

**8. Correspondence:**

- Developing Stroke Services in Coventry & Warwickshire.

- Police Precept Consultation.

- SDC Notice of Proposed New Bylaw.

- Details of Severn Trent Community Fund.

- WALC Newsletter – Training Special

The following were received after the agenda was circulated:

- WALC Training on Planning and historic buildings 4th February. Cllr Simmons is registered for this session.

- Development Requirements Supplementary Planning Document: Part V Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. It was agreed that members should make their own comments to this public consultation.

**9. Progress report:**

All progress is reported in relevant agenda items.

**10. Formal approval of Precept request for 2020/2021:**

No alterations were recommended to the draft Precept figures tabled at the previous meeting and Cllr. Ray proposed that our Precept request for 2020/21 should be £42,423.00 remaining the same as for the current financial year. £8,000.00 is included in this figure for maintenance of the Willow Wood Play area. Cllr. E. Lee seconded the proposal and all were in agreement. **Clerk to action**

**11. Mary Arden’s Farm overflow car park proposals:**

As discussed in agenda item 5.

**12. The Masons Arms Public House update:**

Cllr. Ray reported that the second application submitted to SDC nominating the pub once again for community asset status has been refused. It was pointed out that there are two other licensed premises in the village.

It was also noted that the premises are up for sale by the current owners at a Freehold asking price of £395,000 plus VAT. There are plans for a group of residents to get together to consider what might be possible to secure the future of the Masons Arms.

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

DecemberInspection report: Minor defects were reported as well as an issue with one of the scale swings that was noted as High risk level and removed without delay.

Cllr. J. Lee had drafted an equipment report and five-year financial forecast. The Parish Council currently has £10,000.00 ringfenced for asset maintenance/repair but as the equipment ages the costs will inevitably increase and items may need replacing. Cllr Lee estimates a 5% increase per annum on current expenditure. The 5-year financial forecast document was adopted – proposed by Cllr. Ray and seconded by Cllr Simmons.

**14. Road Traffic Items:**

a)Traffic Working Group: Cllr. Ray, Cllr. Simmons and Cllr. J. Lee agreed to meet fairly quickly to walk the area in order to prepare a list of items they wish to discuss with Mr. Stanley.

b) 20mph zone around the school and village shop: Referred to Graham Stanley, WCC

c) Pavement along the road past the school on the opposite side where there is currently no footway: Referred to Graham Stanley, WCC

d) Community Speedwatch update: No update currently available.

e) ANPR cameras: No further information available at this time.

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

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

Report from sub-group meeting with Abi Moore and Mark Ratcliffe re car park proposals.

**16. Date of next meeting:** 18th March 2020.

*No.*

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

**Wootton Wawen District Councillor report – as at 21/01/2019**

.

Since the last meeting there has been a lot of activity surrounding the budget and the report from the Task & Finish group on Climate Change have presented their report plus further concerns from Stratford BID on the economic state of the Town Centre.

**Budgets**

The Council have put out for consultation, the budget for the year 2020/2021. The papers are on the SDC website

A number of people have contacted me regarding their concerns over the new charge for the Green Waste Collection.

I will try and explain the reasons for this charge.

Stratford District Council only keeps a fraction of the Council Tax it collects.

**This is where it all goes:**

* **Parish Councils 3.4%**
* **Stratford District Council 7.8%**
* **Police and Crime Commissioner 11.5%**
* **Warwickshire County Council 77.3%**

If Stratford District Council does not generate more money locally over the next 3 years, as the Local Government Peer Review in 2019 advocated it should, it will still be required to balance its budget over succeeding years, predominantly by reducing the level of discretionary services it is currently able to provide. Some residents will lose services as a result. Central Government has already, and it will continue, to reduce the amount of money it will provide to Stratford District Council. For example, in 2020/21 the Council will receive £5.3m from the New Homes Bonus. In 3 years’ time this will have been reduced to nothing from this source.

This is why the intention is to increase the amount of the Stratford District Council element of the Council Tax for 2020/21 by £5 per household, as well as introducing a “Green Waste Charge” of £40 per year. This equates to 80p per week for the collection of the green bin waste for those residents who want to continue to use this service. This will come into operation on 1st of June. Residents will need to “opt in” by getting in touch with Stratford District Council rather than opting out but details will be sent to each household advising how this can be done

.I have been asked, “Why can’t Stratford District Council increase the Council Tax for this service”. Unfortunately, under governmental rules, we are not allowed to do that.

Other District/Borough Councils do charge for Green Waste Collection. For example, local Councils such as Rugby Borough Council, Nuneaton Borough Council and Redditch Borough Council already charge £40.00 per year and Wychavon District Council charges £53.00 per year.

Further afield, The Isle of Wight Borough Council charge £60.00 per year while Harlow Council charge £96.00 per year for green waste collection.

Stratford District Council is asking residents to pay more, not because it likes doing so, but to protect services it currently provides and because it believes this is the responsible course of action to take in the long term interests of all the residents of the District.

The Council from time to time has to make difficult decisions but if we do not act now we could jeopardise our essential services.

In addition to the above there are proposals to increase Car Parking charges by 20% from £1 per hour to £1.20 per hour (first hour is free at Bridgeway) and the over 65’s permit from £10 to £25.

**There are various commitments such as the new Material Recycling Facility that will be built in partnership with 6 other councils ( we will have a 14% stake in this), £500k for Climate emergency initiatives, provision for reviewing the Core strategy, additional provision for Hostile Vehicle Mitigation to protect the public on market days. There are other initiatives within the budget (which is on the SDC website) and if there is a particular issue you wish to raise with me then call me anytime.**

**Electric Vehicles**

Over the last few years we have seen the rise of the electric vehicle and the data I have shows that there are over 1200 plug in vehicles (this includes hybrids) around the district but this still represents a small number of the total number of vehicles in the area. I am currently looking at the issue of charging points and will keep you updated on progress.

If you have ever been interested or are interested in what types of vehicles are available then come to the **Electric Car Festival in August** which will be held in the Leisure Centre car park. It will feature new and second hand vehicles, racing and club car variants with major manufacturers (hopefully) being present. It will be fascinating to see what you can get for your money and the many different types of cars from the small hatch back to the weird and wonderful. **And the best bit of this is that it is completely free** so I’m really hoping that this is the first of many annual festivals as we continue to move away from purely petrol and diesel cars to more sustainable methods of transport. This is a private organised event being supported by the District Council and in future months I’ll give you some more details as the final format is confirmed. There should be many different vehicles to see that will interest not just the enthusiast, so put it on your calendar for August.

**Climate Change**

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 future generations 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. A couple of interesting facts though. In this country each individual has carbon footprint of around 10 tonnes, in the USA it is around 20 tonnes. Trees can absorb around 21kg of Carbon each year which means that it takes around 450 mature trees to offset each persons carbon footprint in this country. A staggering number. Clearly planting trees has a part to play in reducing one of the causes of climate change but equally clearly is that planting trees is only a part of the solution. Using public transport more and the petrol or diesel car less is important, although in a rural setting such as ours that is not as easy as it sounds as many people need their cars to keep in touch, shop, work etc. This is the quandry that we face as we have become so reliant on personal transport.

**The Task & Finish Group on Climate Emergency has finished its report and it will be considered by the Cabinet as it is essential that we assess the proposals and implications first and act quickly on the back of that.**

As soon as I can I will update you on progress.

District Councillor Ian Shenton

For information only

The following payments were made between meetings:

E.on energy 171.42 BACS

G. Compton (mowing The Green) 125.00 BACS

E.on Energy 165.90 BACS

Parish Online 42.00 BACS

Colemans Office Supplies 59.22 BACS

E.on maintenance 121.61 BACS

HMRC 377.60 BACS

Wilmcote Village Hall 72.00 BACS

Information Commissioner 40.00 BACS

E.on energy 171.42 BACS

WILLOW WOOD PLAY AREA

G. Compton 345.00 BACS

Playground Supplies (Inv 5825) 210.00 BACS

M & P Building (emergency call out) 102.00 BACS

Playground Supplies (Inv 5835) 144.00 BACS