**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH 2023– NO. 125**

1. **Present:**  Cllr. Ray, Chairman, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr Shilvock, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Nurser-Stephens, Cllr. Mahon, District Cllr. Shenton and nineteen members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** There were no apologies.
2. **To receive written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary interests in items on the agenda:**

There were no requests.

**4. To approve for signature the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th January 2023 and extraordinary meeting held on 15th February 2023.**

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

**5. Public Participation:**

The majority of the public were attending out of interest in agenda item No. 7, with three or four having an interest in other agenda items.

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

 County Cllr. Daniell and District Cllr. Shenton’s reports are appended to the minutes.

 Cllr Shilvock proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Shenton for his assistance during his term of office. Seconded by Cllr Stewart and all in agreement.

**7. Draft proposal in connection with land submitted to SDC’s Call for Sites:**

 Mr. Crook was seeking some guidance from the Parish Council to take forward a proposal he is considering to provide a car park at the rear of the Church and playing facilities for the school. The planning of some residential development with this would be required to alleviate the costs. Architects have already been engaged to put together an initial plan and it was agreed by Councillors that more detailed information was required before any meaningful comments could be made. It was agreed that once this is available the Parish Council would arrange a public meeting to discuss the proposal fully and gain the opinions of the residents.

 The members of the public present were invited to ask questions or make comments but none were forthcoming. The Chairman thanked Mr. Crook for attending and asked him to contact the Clerk once he has a more detailed proposal to present.

**8. Community Speedwatch:**

Mr. Yates advised that there is still a problem with some vehicles being driven at speeds in excess of 30mph in the village. Warwickshire Police have confirmed that appropriate action has been taken in all cases reported to them by the team.

 As the team has only three volunteer members it does restrict the number of sessions they can undertake. They have advertised in the Vine two or three times for additional volunteers without success. In the meantime Mr. Yates will look into Community Auto Speedwatch which automatically records speeding vehicles as an aid to Community Speedwatch. He will keep us informed.

**9. Correspondence:**

All correspondence received and previously circulated electronically was taken as read.

Mrs. Lorimer contacted the Clerk, after the agenda had been circulated, to advise that a Community Lunch is now being arranged on Sunday 7th May after the King’s Coronation on the 6th.

 They would like to do a leaflet drop to all properties in Wilmcote, Pathlow and Billesley and buy some Coronation specific bunting for up to £50.00. The printing costs would be £85.00. They wondered if the Parish Council would donate towards either or both.

 Mr. Boyes, JNB Gymnastics Academy, very kindly offered to promote the Community Lunch and is happy to cover the printing costs. The Clerk will pass Mrs. Lorimer’s contact detail to him.

**10. Planning Applications** – status of current planning applications:

 The current status was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Mr. Boyes had remained at the meeting for this item.

Planning application No. 23/00228/FUL 113 Aston Cantlow Road, Wilmcote:

 The Planning Officer, Ryan O’Keefe, made contact after the agenda had been circulated asking if we would re-consider our concerns and change the objection to one of support. He explained that doing a cumulative calculation based on the supplied calculations, that is around 82% and the Permitted Development fallback is 81%. The Officer suggests that as there is only a difference of 1%

 this would result in a more cohesive scheme.

 After discussion Cllr. Shilvock proposed changing our original decision from object to support subject to confirmation from the Planning Officer that the minimum distance from the neighbour’s boundary is 2.2m. Cllr Mahon seconded that proposal and all were in agreement. Mr Boyes confirmed that the distance from the boundary is over 2m.

**11.** **Footway lighting:**

A quotation of £2,419.00, plus VAT, was received for 27 replacement part night LED cells and was agreed electronically by Cllrs. prior to the meeting. The Clerk will now place the order and it is expected to take approximately 4 weeks for delivery of the new cells to E.on.

 **12. Willow Wood Play Area:**

Wicksteed agreed for an engineer to come and check out the aerial runway as a result of the annual inspection report as it is still within the two year guarantee period. He is due to come tomorrow around lunchtime and felt it would be useful to meet a member of the council to explain what general maintenance is expected by us under the terms of the guarantee. Cllr. McMillan agreed to go along and the Clerk agreed to provide his phone number to the Engineer to confirm more precise times.

 Another item raised was the door on the bin unit being open and rubbish overflowing. This has been the case for some time so the clerk enquired with SDC if it could be replaced. A member of Streetscene kindly went and had a look at it and found that the catch was not quite lined up properly. The Clerk asked Mr. Woodman if he could re-align it, which he managed to do.

 Cllr McMillan suggested that a five year plan should be put in place for the play area and offered to take that on. All Cllrs felt that was a good idea and thanked Cllr McMillan for his offer.

 **13. Defibrillators and Defibrillator awareness session:**

Both defibrillators are now back in place and fully up to date.

 The Clerk advised that a defibrillator awareness session with Henley 1st Responders has been arranged and advertised for the 12th April in Wilmcote Village Hall for anyone interested.

**14. Gypsy and Traveller Ste Pathlow:**

There has recently been an issue at the site entrance with a large amount of fly tipping building up again. This was raised with WCC by the Clerk and Cllr Shenton.

 WCC representative, Jonathon Toy, advised that as this land to the left of the driveway is privately owned, and there is no evidence that the fly tipping relates to the residents on their site, it is not their responsibility but that of the landowner to have it cleared. WCC are are now talking to Enforcement at SDC.

 As a one off gesture of good will the Gypsy & Traveller team cleared and bagged the rubbish and arranged for SDC to remove it. If fly tipping occurs again we are advised to contact SDC who have responsibility for such issues under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

**15. Wilmcote School Trust Fund**

Cllr Ray has been in discussion recently with Roger Harrison and legal advice is now awaited to confirm if the remaining funds can be passed to the school. Cllr Ray has now passed this issue to Cllr. Shilvock as the representative on the Trust for the Parish Council.

**16. Lead Councillors’ responsibilities update:**

 Deferred to the May meeting

**17. Quadrennial Parish elections:**

Election packs were handed to all Cllrs. with a reminder that completed nomination forms must be handed in to SDC by 4.00pm on 4th April latest.

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

Lead Councillors update

**Date of next meeting:** 24th May 2023 Annual Parish Council meeting followed by ordinary Parish Council meeting.

No further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 pm

District Councillors Report 22.03.23.

**Wilmcote Specific**

**G & T Site at Pathlow**

The County Council are now arranging with SDC the clear up of the fly tipping at the entrance to the site and are also negotiating with Planning Enforcement with regards to the ongoing issue there. My belief is that this is still a County Council issue to resolve and the private landowners should not be held responsible for fly tipping on their land when on the balance of probabilities, the fly tip is being caused by residents of the site themselves. As we do not have a problem elsewhere in that vicinity it would seem unlikely, but not impossible, that the issue is a resident or residents of the site. The County Council are saying that the camera they installed is not powerful enough to capture images further down the drive but the CCTV camera that was installed was specifically for this task. In addition, my feeling is that we will need to set up a meeting with the landowners again to find out what progress has been made over the last year on the installation of the fence and the reinstatement of their land or compensation due to encroachment by the G & T community , as this does not appear to have resolved

**Budgets**

The District Council budget has now been approved by Council (all others had been approved). The Band D council tax position for 2023/2023 is as follows

**Whilst the table shows the average Parish Precept, the actual precept for Wilmcote was £87.32 (£94.74 2022/2023) meaning that the band D charge for this year will be £2176.72 (£2102.50 2022/2023) an increase of £74.22 (approx.).**

The reserves position for the District Council over the next 5 years shows that they are likely to fall close to the minimum level of £3m but, as we have seen over the last few years this is very heavily influenced by the Government settlement which have been more generous than expected.

You can see from this chart what percentage of the total council tax each authority represents in WW case. Page **2** of **6**

**Council Tax Elsewhere in Warwickshire**

The levels of Council Tax to be charged by the other Borough/District Councils in the county for a Band D property in 2023/24 are:

2022/23 2023/24 Increase %

North Warwickshire £222.30 £228.86 £6.56 2.95

Nuneaton and Bedworth £248.51 £255.94 £7.43 2.99

Rugby £204.72 £210.84 £6.12 2.99

Stratford £154.12 £159.12 £5.00 3.24

Warwick £176.86 £176.86 Nil Nil

Other than Warwick DC, all district and borough councils chose to increase their Council Tax rates by the maximum permitted without triggering a referendum. Despite WDC not increasing its Council Tax, **SDC remains the district in Warwickshire with the lowest level of Council Tax.**

**General Information**

**Bus Service**

Warwickshire residents are encouraged to choose cheaper bus travel this year as a new scheme to save money on fares launches and has welcomed news, released by the Government, that bus fares will continue to be capped at £2 for a further 3 months (scheme now ends 30/06/2023)

Read more: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/3964/-2-bus-fare-cap-to-be-extended-in-warwickshire

In Warwickshire, the following operators are signed up to the scheme:

* • Stagecoach
* • Arriva
* • National Express Coventry
* • National Express West Midlands
* • Pulhams
* • A&M Group - Flexibus (Service 9 only)
* • IndieGo PLUS Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)

**South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)**

**The consultation ran until 6th March 2022.** Page **3** of **6**

The consultation is based on a desktop study and nothing has been decided. The maps in the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) show how the Parish **could be expanded**, not how it will be expanded. It is important to stress that the SA is only one piece of information and evidence that will help to narrow down potential locations. Many questions about the SWLP can be answered by looking at the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) on the website at South Warwickshire Local Plan or by sending an email to swlp@stratford-dc.gov.uk

**It is key to understand that nothing has been decided yet, no decisions have been taken on where and how much development might be encouraged in any village or Parish. You can influence the decision by engaging with the process and submitting your views.**

**Energy payments for park homes and houses of multiple occupation**

Residents have been invited to register on a Government website to receive the £400 payment that the rest of us are already receiving. The registration opened on the 27th February. Copy the link below into your browser to go to the Government website

https://www.gov.uk/apply-energy-bill-support-if-not-automatic

This scheme is for those households that have not received any of the £400 EBSS payment. Typically, this will be residents who live in park homes, care homes, houses of multiple occupation. Go to the website for full details

The exact detail on this have not been made available to me or the District Council but I am telling Parishes that I will run surgeries in those Parishes where there are residents who do not have internet access, do not use the internet or cannot register by phone, to ensure that they are registered.as quickly as possible.

**This is important for all Park home residents, residents of canal boats, care homes, homes of multiple occupation etc., who should register either using the on-line form or by telephone. If you do have any problems registering then please contact myself as soon as possible.**

**Alternative Fuel Payment**

If residents use tank or bottled gas, liquid petroleum gas (LPG),oil, wood or solid fuel because they are not connected to mains gas, they may be eligible for a £200 Alternative Fuels Payment (AFP) if both the following are true:

* • the household is not connected to the mains gas grid
* • they use alternative fuels as the main form of heating

This should be paid automatically via your electricity supplier bill from February onwards but if it isn’t you may have to apply for this payment through the AFP Alternative Fund if you do not get it automatically - for example, because you do not have a contract with an electricity supplier. Paste this link into your browser:https://www.gov.uk/apply-alternative-fuel-bill-support-if-not-automatic

If you cannot apply online, call the helpline. Telephone: 0808 175 3943 Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

**Wellesbourne Airfield**

This project is moving rapidly to a point where a new runway and employment site to support the adjacent University of Warwick’s Innovation Campus Stratford will become a reality. Stowford has been selected as the development partner. With a following wind (pardon the aviation pun), there could be a planning application in by the end of the summer. This site could create 4-5,000 highly skilled jobs over the next 5-7 years which would be a great result for the District as a whole.

**Warwickshire Police**

Warwickshire Police has carried out a reorganisation of the way the service is delivered across Warwickshire.

The County has now been divided up into three areas of which SDC, along with WDC, fall into the South Warwickshire area. Each team will have access to its own support network ensuring that when local officers Page **4** of **6**

need that support, it will be delivered from within the area rather than competing with other calls from across Warwickshire.

The South Warwickshire team is being led by Chief Inspector Faz Chishty. This will result in a more focused delivery of policing across South Warwickshire, considering the differing crime profiles seen in the more rural south to those in the east and north of the County.

**Pest Control**

The decision has been made to withdraw from directly delivering the pest control service. Pest control has been a challenging service to deliver over the past twelve months, especially with only one member of staff and has consumed considerable resources. Our pest control officer is, however, continuing to service the existing commercial contracts, all of which will end by 1 April 2023.

**Planning**

The latest performance figures show that applications are being dealt with well within the National guidelines as can be seen below (the figures relate to January 2023).

Target Actual No. of apps

Major applications 60% within 13 wks. 100.0% 3

Minor applications 70% within 8 wks. 81.8% 33

Householder apps 70% within 8 wks. 79.7% 74

Other applications 70% within 8 wks. 78.6% 98

Looking at the current fiscal year we see the following:

Target Actual No. of apps

Major applications 60% within 13 wks. 91.2% 57

Minor applications 70% within 8 wks. 82.0% 372

Householder apps 70% within 8 wks. 79.70 754

Other applications 70% within 8 wks. 78.2% 1,027

Stratford District has one of the busiest planning departments in England. Whichever set of numbers you look at, the performance is good. There is always an opportunity to do better but that should not detract from what is a particularly good set of performance figures for this year.

**Customer Services**

We are still the only Warwickshire council to be fully open to our residents. We observe ever longer queues when we go into Elizabeth House – need is increasing.

**Other News**

**Child Friendly Warwickshire competition**

Win £2,500 from Child Friendly Warwickshire for your school or college to spend on activities or projects to support children and young people to be happy, healthy, heard, safe and skilled. Get involved today at http://bit.ly/CFWcomp2023

**Local updates – County Council**

The Coronation of The King and The Queen Consort will take place on Saturday 6 May 2023:

To mark this momentous occasion, residents across Warwickshire are being invited to get involved in a weekend of celebrations from Saturday 6th to Monday 8th May 2023.

The Coronation, 6th May

The Coronation ceremony, which will see The King crowned alongside The Queen Consort, is centred around a solemn religious ceremony and has remained largely unchanged for over a thousand years. For the last 900 years, the ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey in London and is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Download the free Coronation Toolkit which features some fun activities, recipes, and music playlist ideas to help you with your Coronation celebrations.

The Big Lunch, 6th to 8th May

A Big Lunch can be anything from a small gathering in a garden or park to a larger party with trestle tables down the middle of your street. The idea is that by starting simple, and bringing people together to share friendship, food and fun with a Big Lunch, all sorts of ideas and projects can follow. It can lead to people doing more within their community and together tackling the issues that matter to them most. You can also add your Big Lunch event onto the Eden Project Communities’ Big Lunch map.

The Big Help Out, 8th May

Community volunteering is an important part of the UK’s story, from Air Raid Wardens during the Second World War to over 12 million of us who stepped forward during the pandemic. Now thousands of organisations – big and small – are getting together to mark The King’s Coronation by giving everybody the chance to try volunteering for themselves and make a difference in their local community.

If you are an organisation with volunteers and would like to get involved in The Big Help Out, please complete The Big Help Out’s short form

Nominate your local hero:

Warwickshire County Council is encouraging residents to nominate their local voluntary heroes for the Coronation Champions Awards.

To celebrate King Charles III’s Coronation in May, Warwickshire County Council is encouraging residents to nominate their local voluntary heroes for the Coronation Champions Awards, an official Coronation project launched this year by Royal Voluntary Service in partnership with The Queen Consort.

The purpose of the Awards is to celebrate a diverse group of exceptional volunteers from across the country who have contributed their time and good nature to help local communities and causes.

Nominees for the Awards must be over 14 years old and have overcome adversity or discovered creative ways to make a significant contribution to their local communities within the last five years.

Volunteers can be nominated in one of nine categories: supporting older people, supporting young people and children, crisis and welfare, community, sports, culture and heritage, health and care, sustainability and the environment, and animal welfare.

Anyone can nominate a volunteer hero who they believe deserves recognition, and the deadline to submit nominations is **Sunday 2 April 2023**.

Five hundred volunteers will be chosen as Coronation Champions and will receive a specially designed, official Coronation Champions pin and a signed certificate from The Queen Consort.

https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/volunteering/coronation-champions-awards/

Report Potholes and Verges to ReportIt:

Following the news of the Chancellor’s Spring Budget announcement that Warwickshire is set to receive an additional £2.874 Million to repair potholes around the county. In total it is £500M across the UK. So if you see a pothole or damage to the road in our part of Warwickshire please stop and Report It using the www.warwickshire.gov.uk/reportit link where you can log the location of the issue and upload a photo to get it repaired

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