**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2021.**

 **NO 116**

**1. Present:** Cllr. Ray, Cllr. Shilvock, Cllr. Stewart, Cllr. J. Lee, Cllr. E. Lee, District Cllr. Shenton and twelve members of the public.

 Part meeting: County Cllr. Daniell

 **2. Absent:** CllrMcMillan - unapproved.

**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 21st July 2021.**

 These were agreed by all members and signed by the Chairman.

 **5. & 6. Nic Allen, Avon Estates had requested an opportunity to provide an update on Edkins Park mobile home site.**

Cllr Ray welcomed Mr. Allen who explained that he has purchased the Edkins Site and wished to introduce himself to the Parish Council to make us aware, out of courtesy, that he will be submitting planning applications for the purpose of expanding this site.

 Cllr Ray explained that the Parish Council could not make any comments or decisions until we have full details and receive official notifications from the District Council.

 The twelve members of the public in attendance all had an interest in the mobile home site and were invited by the Chairman to explain any concerns and/or ask questions, some of which had already been made known to the Council.

 One of the main concerns is the access drive to and from the site, which is too narrow for vehicles to pass each other, the additional amount of traffic to and from the site and safety entering and exiting from Aston Cantlow Road. When Mr. Allen was asked how many mobile homes he was intending to put on the plot he replied that it is early days yet and they haven’t finalised plans. When pressed he did say possibly 30. Cllr Ray thanked Mr. Allen for providing advance warning of is proposals.

 The members of the public were also thanked by the Chairman for attending and invited to stay as observers if they wished.

**7. Correspondence:**

 All Correspondence circulated electronically to date was taken as read.

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

 District Cllr. Shenton and County Cllr. Daniell provided reports and these are appended to the minutes.

 Cllr Shenton strongly recommended that the Councillors make comments to the two consultations in agenda item 13.

**9. Planning Applications:**

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

 Application No. 21/03028/TREE Brookfield, 9 Church Road. Notification was received yesterday and Cllrs. agreed that they would have no objection to the proposed work to the trees.

 **10. Lone Worker Policy:**

Cllr. Shilvock proposed that we should try and work together. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Lee and Cllr. Stewart agreed to draft a suitable policy to that effect.

**11. Willow Wood Play Area:**

Cllr. J. Lee recommended that as there have been three anti-social events recently at the play area it would be advisable to consider installing cameras. County Cllr. Daniell reported that Alcester Police South SNT has cameras available and it may be possible for them to supply one or two. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

 Once installation of the new equipment was completed

 Wicksteed provided a copy of their handover manual and this included guarantee details and inspection and maintenance guides. The Clerk was asked to check with them if it was essential to have weekly inspections, as we do have monthly ones carried out by qualified inspectors, and would it be detrimental to the guarantee conditions if we didn’t carry out weekly inspections.

 Cllr. J. Lee also recommend that having had shared

 responsibility for the play area getting on for three years now it is perhaps time for a change of rolls within the Council.

**12. Application requesting the Mary Arden Inn to be added to the**

 **District Council list of Community Assets:**

The decision on this application is due to be made tomorrow.

 Cllr. Ray advised that invitations had been sent to both Greene King and the lessee to attend this meeting with a view to discussing their intentions for the future of the Mary Arden and both declined. However, Asa Charlton, Business Development Manager of Green King has offered to attend an informal meeting and this has been arranged with Richard Hoskins and Ingrid Everson. Cllr. Ray will take a

 step back and Mr. Hoskins will provide a report.

 **13. Road Safety items:**

A meeting on The Green in Wilmcote has been arranged on the 30th September at 2.00pm with Graham Stanley and all interested parties have been informed. The purpose of the meeting is to consider an alternative location and VAS to slow motorists approaching Wilmcote School.

 Assuming there is agreement on a suitable replacement location and sign, this will need to be formally ratified by the parish councillors before any further action can be taken.

 In the meantime the Clerk had received a call from Mr. Brookes of Gypsy Hall Farm expressing concern that visibility has been compromised at the entrance to his premises due to the recently installed gateway on the verge. Mr. Stanley has been advised and will go and have a look after the above meeting.

 **14. Consultations:**

 Proposed merger of SDC & WDC – deadline for comments 24th October

 Draft recommendations for new ward boundaries across Stratford-on-Avon

 Deadline for comments on new ward boundaries is 8th November.

 **15. E.on footway lighting update:**

Deferred to next meeting

 **16. Public participation at Parish Council meetings:**

In view of the number of meetings involving the public Cllr E. Lee proposed the published good guide for the conduct of the public participating at parish council meetings be included in the Parish Council standing orders. In particular the points regarding putting pressure on parish councillors and being rude to individuals. Seconded by Cllr. Shilvock.

 It was however pointed out that there is already guidance in the Orders and it was suggested that Cllr Lee checks that his proposal doesn’t conflict with the existing guidance before taking this further.

 Draft recommendation appended to these minutes.

 **17. Pathlow Park Traveller Site update:**

There are still ASB issues with the youths damaging Mr. Russell’s barns. The police have been on site to meet with the managers of the site and issue general warnings to parents of the youths in the absence of positive identification.

 **18. ZOOM subscription due to expire in October:**

It was agreed not to renew this now that we are able to hold meetings in the village hall again.

  **19**. **External Audit:**

Notice of conclusion and certificate of satisfactory Audit for 2020/2021 received.

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

 E.on footway lighting

 Standing Orders – Public participation

 Mary Arden Inn update

 Masons Arms site update

 Edkins Park update

 S137 Grants for 2021/22

 **21. Date of next meeting:** 17th November 2021

No further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

**Wootton Wawen Ward - District Councillor’s report as at 20/09/2021**

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**Garden Waste subscription**

**Just as a reminder, if you haven’t subscribed and are not displaying a permit on your green bin, it won’t be emptied.**

**As at 19/09/2021 48,650 permits had been purchased and over 75% of dwellings with a garden have at least one permit**

**General**

Much of the focus over recent weeks has been centred on the fire at Ettington, the proposed merger with Warwick District Council plus the proposed boundary changes.

I’ve spent a fair bit of my time dealing with the waste contract procurement process, the Climate Change agenda as I’m Chair of the SDC Climate Change Panel plus setting up a Community Speed watch Team in Wootton Wawen.

I am grateful to the coordinator of your Community Speedwatch Group for allowing us to share your speed device. I do wonder whether we can be more flexible with the teams that we have in Henley, Wootton Wawen and your team and maybe have a pool of volunteers. This is something I want to talk to the Police about plus some other ideas on this.

The last few weeks have seen an influx of visitors into Stratford Town Centre with the result that over the last 8 weeks the number of vehicles in our car parks was higher than at the equivalent point in 2019. Whilst most are domestic visitors we saw over the Food Festival weekend evidence of more foreign tourists as restrictions are being lifted.

**Garden waste subscription scheme**

As at Monday 19/09/2021 we had 48,650 subscriptions raising around £1.8m. This is a substantially better result than even I had hoped for and shows the value of the service to residents.

**Blue bins and the fire at Ettington**

As you’ll know July was a memorable month, I went on holiday on the Saturday and the facility was a blaze on the Monday, I watched over developments from the Yorkshire Moors. The fire was allowed to burn itself out so that the minimum amount of water was put on the fire to avoid contamination of the surrounding land and watercourses. The good news is that whilst there were 31 people on site no one was injured, the bad news is that they have lost their jobs.

The recyclate (the rubbish that goes into your blue bin) has had to be sent to Worcester and London. 1/3rd goes to Worcester at a cost of £65 per tonne to process (gate fee) whilst the remaining 2/3rds goes to London at a gate fee of around £90 per tonne. Contrast this with our normal gate fee of £28 per tonne. The temporary contracts we have take us to the end of October and in the meantime we are actively looking for somewhere cheaper to place our recyclate but this is not an easy task as there aren’t that many MRF’s (Material Recycling Centres) that are not operating at full capacity already. Of those that have capacity at present there isn’t one that could take all of our tonnage and of those some don’t take co-mingled (unsorted) waste, like we have. They have us over a barrel at the moment but the problem will also impact Warwick from July next year until our new MRF is completed in late 2023. As you can imagine this is placing a strain on our finances and it’s probably just as well that we have been able to raise so much from the green waste charge. Budgeting will be interesting over the next few months.

**Proposal to merge with Warwick DC**

The 13/12/2021 is a key date as that is when the decision will be made in full Council whether to merge or just continue to share services.

In the meantime the consultation on this commenced 6th September and runs until Sunday 24th October, 2021. Everyone has an opportunity to have their say. I would be very interested to hear what Parish Councillors and residents think about this whether directly or via the consultation process as it will obviously have some bearing on everyone’s thinking on the day.

All service heads are now being shared across the two district councils and the next part is to merge the teams and hopefully make the savings we think should be there as we become more efficient and rationalised.

Further changes on sharing services will emerge and this is running independently of any decision on whether the two district councils should merge.

I will update the meeting verbally on further progress on sharing services at the PC meeting.

**Boundary changes**

The boundary commission have submitted their proposals and these can be found at [Stratford on Avon Draft Recommendations Report.pdf](https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/Stratford%20on%20Avon%20Draft%20Recommendations%20Report.pdf).

Again you can make comments on this and I would encourage you to do so. The closing date for comments is the 8th November 2021.

SDC in their submission suggested that Langley should become part of Snitterfield along with Preston Bagot, whilst Billesley would go to Kinwarton. The Boundary Commission disagreed and have said that Wilmcote should go to Kinwarton, Billesley to Salford Priors, and Bearley to Claverdon whilst all the small villages from the edge of Mappleborough Green to Wootton Wawen including Spernal, plus Ullenhall should be included in the Wootton Wawen Ward. Langley and Preston Bagot would therefore stay in my ward. As the aim is to increase the number of District Councillors to 41 from 36 currently there was a need to redraw boundaries to create this average as the number of wards is being reduced by 1 to 35. 6 of the new wards will therefore have 2 Councillors. The average of 2799 electors per ward forecast for 2027 will be a reduction from the 3188 currently.

As we may merge with Warwick DC and/or be subsumed by Warwick County Council any changes are likely to have to be revisited well before the above changes, due to be ready in in time for the April 2023 elections and in my opinion will not happen until April 2024 after revising the boundaries again.

The aim is to get to an average number of electors in each ward allowing for population growth.

**Covid – 19**

As you will see from the table below whilst the case rate is falling again, it is still high, higher than this time last year, with hospital cases nationally higher than this time last year and the death rate remaining generally at over a 100 again higher than this time last year. As we move indoors during autumn and winter we will need to keep a close watch on the numbers but the feeling is that another lockdown will not happen, it wouldn’t be effective or complied with so maybe we are at the point where we just have to learn to live with this and take what precautions we feel personally are appropriate. Pressure on hospital beds will increase possibly because of flu/pneumonia and the desire to make inroads into the backlog of hospital cases.

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**Other Matters**

* South Warwickshire Plan – there have been over 3,000 responses and 400 potential sites under the call for sites.
* A new Gypsy and Traveller SPD has been approved by Cabinet, the implications on Pathlow are minimal but may allow for some expansion of smaller sites other than the main site at Pathlow.
* UBUS usage I showing a steady increase and I’d remind everyone that anyone can use the service, it is not restricted to any age group.
* Afghan refugees are being housed within the district and the response from not only the County Council and District Councils but also residents in donations of equipment and learning materials has been incredible. If you want to know more and who to contact to offer any help or donations just let me know.

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**County Cllr report – Alcester Division 19/09/21**

Warwickshire County Council has approved a Safe Accommodation Strategy, which provides safe accommodation and support for women, men and children who are at risk of or have experienced domestic abuse.

Find out more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2403/new-strategy-to-support-victims-of-domestic-abuse-is-approved

Group Commander retires after 30 years:

Warwickshire's Group Commander, Steve Langhor, hung-up his boots for the last time on Monday 13 September after serving Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) and the communities of Warwickshire for 34 years.

Read more: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2404/warwickshire-s-group-commander-retires-after-three-decades-in-the-fire-and-rescue-service

Also considering the recent increase in fires we have had across the county can we please remind residents to get their chimneys swept to avoid any potential household fires?

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2410/risk-of-chimney-fires-reminder-for-warwickshire-residents-before-colder-weather-draws-in

Ten Acres Road Closure:

Piers has been working to resolve draining issues at Ten Acres and after being promised works in August a road closure notice has just been submitted for 16th and 17th October. It will be advertised on 30th September and 14th October to remind residents:

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

Meetings of the Parish Council are not public meetings but members of the public have a statutory right to attend meetings of the council as observers. They have no legal right to speak unless the Parish Council Chairman authorises them to do so. However, as part of its community engagement, Parish Council’s can set out a time for public participation at an agreed time when members of the public are invited to speak. Members of the public should not be involved in the decision-making of the Council. The Council should not make any instant decisions at the behest of members of the public on items that are not included in the agenda. As a matter of best practice the public forum will be kept separate from the debate of the councillors. If matters raised are not on the agenda for the meeting these can be used to form part of the agenda for a future meeting at the discretion of the Council. Members of the public are welcome to stay for the Council meeting after the public session as observers, but will not be able to join in the discussion unless invited to do so by the Chairman. Members of the public may be excluded by a resolution of the meeting for specific items which need to be discussed in confidence (e.g. staffing matters, tenders for contracts, some legal issues).

RULES  This session will be limited to a maximum time as set by Council.

 The time for each member of the public to speak is limited to 5 minutes.

 If more than one member of the public wishes to speak on the same topic then they should nominate one person to speak on their behalf. This will avoid duplication and make the best use of the public participation period.

 Written statements must be received by the Clerk at least 3 days prior to the meeting.

 Public Forum is an opportunity for members of the public to (a) make representations, (b) answer questions or (c) give evidence relating to the business to be transacted.

 The Chairman has the right to say that any question or statement is inappropriate and will not be accepted.

 Neither Councillors nor the Clerk should be put under pressure to respond immediately to comments made under public participation. Members of the public do not have a right to force items onto the council agenda nor to insist on how matters are recorded in the minutes.

 A question raised by a member of the public during a public speaking session shall not require a response and there should be no debate or discussion between the Council and the public.

 A brief record of topics raised at public participation will be included in the minutes of that meeting. But libellous, offensive and discriminatory comments will not be minuted.

 If the issue is on the agenda then it will be discussed under the appropriate item. Members of the public are therefore requested to leave their contact details with the Clerk before leaving the Council meeting if they wish to receive a reply to their query.

 All persons present will act respectfully towards every other person present and will not act in a manner that demeans, insults, threatens or intimidates him or her. All statements, questions and responses, challenges to statements, complaints or criticisms must be made politely.

 All statements, questions and responses must be related to the facts of the matter and not be personal in nature. There should be no reference to personal views on any person.

 **Please note that offensive or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated. If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings of any meeting the Council reserves the right to curtail the contribution of that person and exclude a disorderly person.**