**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2022– NO. 123**

1. **Present:**  Cllr. Ray, Chairman, Cllr Shilvock, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr Mahon, Cllr. Stewart, Cllr Nurser-Stephens.
2. **Apologies:** County Cllr. Daniell who was in London and District Cllr. Shenton who was unwell.
3. **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 5th October2022.**

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

**5. Public Participation:**

There were no members of the public present.

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

 County Cllr. Daniell and District Cllr. Shenton had both provided reports in advance of the meeting and these are appended to the minutes.

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

 The status of current planning applications was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Application No. 22/03111/FUL Moat Orchard, Old School Lane, Wilmcote. Minor enlarging of existing garage.

 Cllr Ray declared an interest in this application prior to discussion.

 Having given due consideration to the application, and the letter of concern from a resident, Councillors agreed that this application should be granted. Proposed by Cllr Mahon, seconded by Cllr Nurser-Stephens and agreed by all.

 Application No. DISC/00481/22 Palmers Farmhouse, The Great Barn, Station Road, Wilmcote, CV37 9UN. Discharge of condition on proposed stone attached to application 20/00114/LBC.

 Cllr Ray is happy to propose, and all Councillors were in agreement,

 that Wilmcote Parish Council has every confidence in the Trust using suitable materials, providing the Conservation Officer is in

 agreement.

**8. Correspondence:**

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

 Other communications received after the agenda was issued.

 Chris Round, County Council Highways has been out and checked the gateway by Gypsy Hall Farm and failed to see a problem with it.

**9. Community Speedwatch:**

 The Team were out in Early October, but a fault with the speed gun required repair.  The gun was sent to the Road Safety Unit at request of Warks Police.  Unable to correct the fault Laser Tech are sending it to Ireland (head office) for repair - 2 to 3 weeks.  A slow process really.

 **10. Willow Wood Play Area:**

 No defects were raised as a result of the inspection carried out on the 18th November. The Annual inspection is due to be carried out in January 2023

 **11. Draft Precept:**

It was provisionally agreed that the Parish Council precept request should remain the same as it was for 2022/23. This will be finalised at the January meeting.

 **12. Wilmcote Parish Council Grant Fund applications:**

The Clerk to arrange for the notice to go in the December edition of the Vine with a deadline for applications being 30 January 2023

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

 Make further investigations into the possibility of a Warm Hub in Wilmcote

 **14. Date of next meeting:** 25th January 2023

No further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm

Alcester Division

Local updates

Sustainable Futures:

There are three new documents outlining the County strategy for the climate emergency on the

website at https://www.warwickshireclimateemergency.org.uk/.

A new survey has launched to support the release of the sustainable futures strategy. The survey is

open to all residents and stakeholders to complete and will close on the 15th January 2023. This

survey will capture vital information to determine how residents rate the relative importance of

objectives for each of our six key themes, any ideas on what else we should be doing, what residents

are doing or could do play a part and what we could do to help or encourage actions. Finally, there

are questions to determine what residents feel about our level of ambition, behaviours, funding,

communications and partnerships with one question seeking to establish if there are specific

organisations that we are not aware of that could partner with us to help deliver strategy actions.

The survey is here https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/ with links to the above three documents

included within the survey for easy reference. There is an agenda item covering this on Tuesday 22nd

November at the cross-party climate emergency group meeting as chaired by Cllr Heather Timms to

address any questions from members of the group – if you have feedback and would like that aired

please email piersdaniell@warwickshire.gov.uk.

As a separate exercise, we are now beginning to plan facilitated focus group sessions with a range of

representative stakeholder groups with the expectation that these will run to the end of February.

The results of both this survey and the focus group sessions will inform the development of a final

strategy to be taken to Cabinet in spring 2023.

Carers Rights Day:

Carers Rights Day is hosted every year by Carers UK. Every year Warwickshire County Council along

with their local partners recognises those with caring responsibilities and their rights.

Carers Rights Day is on the 24th November 2022 and the theme this year is Caring Costs. The aims of

Carers Rights Day 2022 are to:

• ensure carers are aware of their rights

• let carers know where to get help and support

• raise awareness of the needs of carers.

The new service, Caring Together Warwickshire, can be accessed via a new look website –

www.caringtogetherwarwickshire.org.uk managed by, Carers Trust Heart of England, the service is

able to offer the following:

• A listening ear to talk through your situation with information, support, and guidance

• Wellbeing support through our FREE planned short beaks and significant event cover

• Full Carers Assessments, support planning and reviews which help to identify any needs you

may have

• Peer to Peer support with access to groups, activities, and social gatherings

• Up-to-date information about local services and how to access them, including practical

support such as replacement care and respite

• Emergency Care and Emergency Card often giving carers piece of mind that their cared for

will be looked after if they aren’t able to

• Volunteer Befriending Service ‘Time for You’

• Access to discounted services and FREE training

• Regular E-Bulletins keeping you up to date with the latest carer news

• Carers Voice opportunities for carers to get involved and shape our services

Adult Community Learning:

Learners, councillors and staff from Warwickshire County Council are celebrating after maintaining

their ‘Good’ rating in its recent Ofsted inspection of Adult and Community Learning (ACL).

Warwickshire’s ACL Service provides a huge range of courses for adults across the County who want

to make a fresh start with learning, to return to learning or continue on their lifelong learning

journey.

The Ofsted inspectors noted that ‘learners, who come from a variety of social and ethnically diverse

backgrounds, learn in a respectful and supportive environment. They are challenged to do their best

by tutors who are sensitive to their needs. As a result, many learners develop their confidence and

resilience.’

Find out more about Adult and Community Learning in Warwickshire:

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/adult-community-learning-5

Further funding for Warwickshire residents in need of cost of living support:

The Government has extended its Household Support Fund for local authorities up to 31st March

2023, and Warwickshire County Council has been allocated around £3.47 million. This funding will

largely go towards providing food vouchers to benefits eligible families via the Local Welfare

Scheme, and some has been committed to enhancing the scheme as well as providing welfare grants

to community groups, homelessness charities and other suitable projects.

The Local Welfare Scheme provides emergency support for people in times of unavoidable crisis who

have no other means of help. The priority is to fund items necessary for day-to-day living, such as

food, water and energy. The extra funding will ensure more flexible support can be offered to help

individuals and communities who are struggling financially at this time.

In November and February, automatic awards will be provided to families with children eligible for

Free School Meals. Money is provided for food for each eligible child with an additional sum offered

per households towards the cost of household energy bills. Eligible families will be contacted this

week.

Via the Local Welfare Scheme, residents are also able to apply for emergency funds for food, fuel,

personal hygiene, warm clothing, water, broadband and wider essentials.

People can contact the Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme team on 01926 359182 or 0800

4081448 or visit the Local Welfare Scheme webpage. Families who have received vouchers but are

unsure how to redeem them can contact the scheme for support.

Updates:

Please be aware that Mark and Piers post regular updates to /AmazingAlcester/ – but we are also

keen to share good news. If you have any stories that you want us to share, please let us know.

www.facebook.com/amazingalcester/

www.twitter.com/amazingalcester/

www.instagram.com/amazingalcester/

District Councillors Report as at 23rd November 2022

• 123+ waste collection Page 1

• Wilmcote specific Page 1

• General information Page 1

• Covid-19 Page 2

• County Council/District Council Cost of living support Page 3

• Statistics about the District Page 3

I apologise for not attending tonight but I tested positive on Tuesday 15th for Covid and felt poorly.

Whilst most of the aches and pains have started receded, I am still coughing a lot and still showing

as positive, hence why I have been in self-isolation. In addition, on Monday of this week, despite the

best efforts of myself and my wife to be careful and avoid cross contamination she has now also

tested positive. In the circumstances I think it is better that I do not attend tonight.

123+ Waste collection

Th latest data shows that the 123+ waste collection system is working well and that residual waste has

fallen by around 20% and that recycling rates have gone up from around 60% to 66%. These are

provisional numbers but clearly illustrate that it is forcing change. At these sort of recycling rates, it will put

SDC near the top of the league table of recycling authorities elevating it from around 12th position.

Don’t forget if your bin is not emptied then use this link.

https://www.stratford.gov.uk/online-forms/missed-bin-report-form.cfm

If you don’t use or can’t access the internet then call 01789 260123 or call me and I will get in touch with

Streetscene for you.

Wilmcote Parish specific news

Local Issues

The Glebe Estate

Unfortunately, on the night, the Committee was totally different from the one a month earlier where a similar application had been heard. Had we seen the same composition I was convinced we would have won on the night although I do also feel that had it then gone to appeal, we would have lost. It did however continue to raise the issue of Orbit and that Parish Councils and councillors at all levels are concerned about the lack of and reduction of parking.

General information

Neighbourhood Watch Groups (if applicable)

Neighbourhood Watch groups. Applications are now open for the Autumn round of funding, closing on 30th of November. The Neighbourhood Watch organisation want to help you kickstart, improve or expand your community work as part of Neighbourhood Watch. For this round, 100% of available funds will go towards activities or one-off development projects that help your group or Association promote and support the work of Neighbourhood Watch. They’re also interested in funding events which address crime prevention and those that draw out some of our hard-to-reach communities, connecting them with neighbours in a social setting – it could be a street party, or a coffee morning – anything that helps address loneliness in your area. The size of grant you can apply for in the Autumn round is between £100 - £500. Applying couldn’t be easier – just visit ourwatch.org.uk/community grants read the guidance, download the application form, and budget form and return to fundraising@ourwatch.org.uk by 30 November 2022.

VAS signs

If you have any Vehicle activated signs, you need to be aware that if the data shows that the signs have not made any improvement to speeds and accidents generally County are advising that the cost for an

inspection to determine the fault will be £200 + VAT whilst new signs would be in the region of £3,500

which the Parish would have to fund.

Energy payments for park homes

I have pressed BEIS , Grant Shapps and Nadhim Zahawi (who has replied) for some clarity over this issue.

I have been informed that “Pass Through” regulations were approved on the 1st November that ensure that monies received by the Park Owner or Landlord of Houses of Multiple occupation etc, must pass through the proportion that relates to the tenant. This is where I have an issue and have sent a strongly worded challenge back because it would seem from my reading of the regulations that tenants of these properties may not get the full £400 promised earlier this year.

Unfortunately, whilst the Government department responsible seem to favour District Council’s

administering the scheme, they don’t seem to realise that we don’t know what type of residence is involved as we only know what bands dwellings are in. Whilst some park homes sites and houses of multiple occupation are self-contained and postcodes could be used the problem elsewhere is not so clear cut .

The issue, in my opinion, is a difficult one administratively and a simple solution of one size fits all may not be possible.

Asylum seekers

You may be aware from the local press that HM Government is using a hotel in Stratford to house up to

around 110 asylum seekers mainly families and children. If you want to help them, please get in touch with local charities, please don’t go the hotel as you will be turned away by the security tea due to vulnerability issues. It does appear that the Government now recognise that they should have consulted more widely with local authorities as so many are registering dismay with the lack of consultation plus some have taken the matter to the courts (unsuccessfully in the main). There is considerable pressure on healthcare and education because of the program but the agencies have responded well to the challenges.

Covid: The reality is that Warwickshire was

at around 2.8% in October but compare that with 7.5% in March

2022. There is, however, no room for complacency.

Across South Warwickshire Trust (SWFT) one bed is being

occupied in intensive care with Covid as the cause. Bed

occupancy in South Warwickshire is around 87%, having

increased steadily since August but fallen back in the last few

weeks.

Residents are being invited to come forward now for the next

phase of the Covid vaccine programme. The oldest and most

vulnerable will be the first to receive the booster. Please

encourage residents, friends, and neighbours to take up the

booster.

Cost of Living Support Package for Warwickshire residents:

Piers has probably already supplied you with this information so my apologies if I am repeating his

notes.

 The County Council’s Cabinet has agreed a package of measures to relieve the financial burden on

residents who may be struggling with rising living costs. Due to a range of factors including increasing

inflation and the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people around the country are finding it difficult to keep on top of their household bills such as food and energy. The Government recently introduced a support package, and Warwickshire County Council has announced additional local measures to provide further help to residents and local businesses.

Warwickshire County Council support includes:

• Allocation of the Government-funded Household Support Fund via the Local Welfare Scheme,

which provides £3.47m support for the most vulnerable residents

• Creation of an online Cost of Living Hub, a website offering practical and financial advice from

County, District and Borough Councils and other partners

• Accelerating the laptop lending programme, as part of digital inclusion work

• Establishing and extending partnerships with supermarkets and mobile apps that sell unwanted

supermarket stock

• Promotion of existing spaces, such as libraries and museums, as warm spaces

• Increasing the scope of the countywide partnership working to improve access to financial support

for people in need.

• Expanding criteria for the Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund to allow for investments in

business activities that reduce energy use • A communications campaign to promote available support

• Up to £1 million of additional County Council funding has been proposed, which would go towards

additional initiatives, such as the creation of a network of warm spaces, extension and support for

community supermarkets and food banks, and providing more activities in libraries.

• These measures are in addition to the support already available. More information can be found on

the Warwickshire Cost of Living pages - https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/costofliving

As always feel free to contact me at any time to discuss any issues that you

feel I can help with and I will do my very best to help.