**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 24th JANUARY 2024 – NO. 130**

1. **Present:** Cllr Ray, Chairman**,** Cllr Shilvock, Cllr. Nurser-Stephens, Cllr. Mahon, Cllr. Boyes**,** Cllr. McMillan.

 Part meeting: Cllr Holmes.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Stewart who was out of the country. Approved

 **3. Written requests for disclosable pecuniary interests in items on the agenda:**

No requests received.

**4. To approve for signature the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th November 2023.**

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

**5. Public participation:**

One member of the public who was attending as an observer.

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

 Reports from both County Cllr. Daniell and District Cllr. Holmes are appended at the end of the minutes.

**7. To agree Precept figure for 2024/2025:**

 Cllr Ray proposed a figure of £43,846.00 be requested. Seconded by Cllr Mahon and agreed by all Cllrs. present at the meeting.

**8. Planning applications:**

The current status of applications had been provided to Cllrs. prior to the meeting and only two recent tree applications were still pending.

**9. Correspondence:**

 All correspondence received and circulated electronically is taken as read.

**10. Mary Arden Inn:**

Since our meeting last November we understand there is a new full time manager who is working hard to make improvements and the developments are looking positive at present. There are still concerns about the condition of the building and worry that SDC Enforcement Dept does not think the property is bad enough to require any action from them to keep it in good order despite it being a listed building.

 District Cllr Holmes was asked to enquire how poor the condition of the building would have to be to get assistance from SDC to maintain it in good condition.

 It was agreed we will continue to monitor the situation.

 **11. Willow Wood Play area:**

The recent inspections have identified a number of items requiring attention, all shown as low risk. Cllr Ray circulated a document with several proposals for dealing with these and proposed we move forward by having one manufacturer for the whole site. Cllr Ray proposed we arrange for Playdale, who have provided equipment previously, to visit the site and advise on replacement equipment to fit within our budget. They would also carry out repairs and inspections should those items be required.

 Cllr Shilvock seconded the proposal for a representative from Playdale to visit the site and offer advice, and also to provide costings for a supply and maintenance contract.

 With a show of hands all Cllrs in attendance were in agreement. The Clerk was asked to make an appointment for the initial visit.

**12. Sarah Brooke-Taylor, WRCC Rural Housing Enabler:**

As the data from the 2025 survey is no longer relevant

 Ms. Brooke-Taylor is asking if the parish council would like

 to have a new survey carried out. Councillors agreed they would like some more information and Cllr Ray proposed she be invited to our March meeting.

 **13. Warwickshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan survey:**

 With agreement from all members, Cllr Ray offered to complete this survey and it was also agreed he would ask Cllr Stewart to assist on his return from holiday.

 **14. Request from History Society for a notice board at the junction of**

 **Bearley Road and Glebe Estate:**

 Councillors’ were in agreement that we would not wish to provide a notice board at this location but we would be happy to support the Society if they wish to provide one themselves, subject to obtaining planning permission from SDC.

 **15. Community Speedwatch Update:**

There was no update available.

 **16. Parish Council Grant Fund:**

Cllr Shilvock reminded us that it is time to advertise

 the annual grant scheme and the Clerk was asked to

 place a notification in the parish magazine for the March issue.

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

Mr. Chatterton has had a meeting with our MP, Nadhim Zahawe about his claim for compensation over the areas of his land taken over by the tenants on this site. A personal issue.

 A message from County Cllr Daniell to Mr. Chatterton indicates that work to fit the new fencing back on the original boundary was due to begin on 8th January for the first stage and the s second stage is expected to start on 5th February.

 District Cllr. Holmes was asked if he would please make contact with Mr.Chatterton who has been trying to make contact with him for some time.

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

 Mahon had attended a planning training session online arranged by WALC and reported that he found it very useful and informative.

Items for the next agenda:

Mary Arden Inn update

 Willow Wood play area update

**19. Date of next meeting:** 20th March 2024.

 Annual Parish Council meeting followed by an ordinary parish council meeting.

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

**County Councillor report**

 **Local updates**

Measles Alert:

There has been an increase in measles cases across the country, with the highest proportional increase across the West Midlands, initially affecting Birmingham, Solihull, and Coventry. Over the recent festive period, Warwickshire has experienced its first cases.

UKHSA have declared a National Standard Incident Response, which means they can draw down additional resources to strengthen the national and local response.

Since the increase in cases begun in November last year, Birmingham and Solihull have seen 121 confirmed cases, Coventry have 22 confirmed cases and Warwickshire 2 confirmed cases. This brings the total number of confirmed measles cases across Coventry and Warwickshire to 24 (since November 2023 to 11th January 2024).

Whilst Warwickshire did not have its first confirmed case until the middle of December 2023, we did support several individuals residing at the Dunchurch Park hotel in Rugby, who had been in contact with confirmed cases in a Healthcare setting in Coventry.

Most confirmed cases across Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire are in patients who have not received the MMR vaccine. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) and the NHS are encouraging people to check that they and their children have had two doses of the MMR vaccine. MMR offers the greatest level of protection to individuals from Measles.

Police Cadets are recruiting:

Warwickshire Police cadets is for young people who wish to engage in a programme that offers them an opportunity to gain a practical understanding of policing, develop their spirit of adventure and good citizenship, while supporting their local policing priorities through volunteering, working with partner agencies and positive participation in their communities.

To become a Warwickshire Police cadet you must live or go to school in Warwickshire and be aged 13 to 16 years old on September 1st 2024. The unit in Leek Wootton covers South Warwickshire.

They have a Junior scheme for Cadets aged 13 to 16 years still at secondary school and a senior scheme for cadets aged 16 to 18 years. The final date for applications to be submitted will be February 29th 2024.

Application form: https://forms.microsoft.com/e/eHceTpUHXA

Future Apprentices Fund:

If you are an SME based in Warwickshire, you can now apply for three different funds to either recruit

new talent or upskill your existing staff through an apprenticeship.

Delegated Budgets:

Many thanks for everyone who sent in requests for delegated budgets. Piers has arranged a meeting with the council officers to discuss this and get the items agreed budgeted and actioned. Please note this is not a quick process and some items can take a few years to sort… The new pedestrian signs on the A435 were requested in 2021 and have just been installed.

Fire and Rescue Resourcing to Risk Consultation Opens:

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue (WFRS) is inviting feedback on a proposed change to its service delivery model as part of its Resourcing to Risk approach. Complete the consultation survey today: https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/wfrs-r2r/

The public consultation period launched on Monday with Warwickshire residents, businesses, community groups and public sector partners invited to have their say on the way that WFRS manage their resources. Resourcing to Risk aims to have the right resource, in the right place and at the right time, to keep people safe in Warwickshire.

The Service wants to hear views and feedback on this proposal, which optimises the distribution of fire appliances, firefighters and supporting resources so that they better align to risk and demand across the county.

I would like to point out having sat on the Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the past few years and that the need to meet our resource to activity levels is an important change. The proposals will have fewer appliances available at night and instead more available between 8 am and 10 pm which is when 89% of life and property incidents occur.

**District Councillor Report**

**Cllr Thorn Holmes**

**Flooding:**

Following the recent flooding in our local area as well as around the district, Liberal

Democrat Councillors are working on a motion about planning and flooding, and flood

defences, and I will update you at the next meeting.

If your home flooded during Storm Henk (2-5 Jan), please report it now. Reporting flooding

may help us secure Government flood funding to support you, and help planning future

flood prevention measures. Report flooding in your home:

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding

The flood risks in the district are well recognised. The wetter winters will only make this

worse and we must make sure that our planning policies locally address this. Information

below helps when there is a threat of flooding:

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You can check which rivers have flood alerts or flood warnings in place by visiting

https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings

**If you are affected by floodwater from:**

• the road - please contact Warwickshire County Council Highways Team on 01926

412982

• a main river - please contact The Environment Agency on 0345 9881188

• a public sewer or burst water main - please contact Severn Trent on 0800 7834444

You should also call the Environment Agency Floodline on 0345 988 1188 if you see flooding

from collapsed or badly damaged riverbanks, or unusual changes in river flow. Main rivers

may also be blocked by a vehicle or fallen trees and increase the risk of flooding.

If you see animals trapped in flooded fields, please call 999 and report this to Warwickshire

Fire and Rescue Service.

Please call Severn Trent Water on 0800 783 4444 if you see flooding from sewers and burst

water mains.

If there is a risk to life dial 999.

**Budget cycle**

We are now in the first budget cycle of the new administration, with the proposed budget

going for public consultation this month (January). Stratford-on-Avon District Council is

required to set its budget annually; this is normally approved by Council at the meeting at

the end of February each year. The Council sets out its spending plans for both revenue and

capital for the year ahead, along with reviewing the position for the following four years.

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There are huge pressures on local government finances across the country. The Local

Government Association has identified an estimate £4 billion funding gap in the next two

years for councils to maintain their current service levels. This gap has been significantly

impacted by the lack of additional funding in the recent Autumn Statement from the

government.

Since 2010, central government funding for local authorities has been cut by 50%. This

means that in the 2024/2025 budget-setting process there will be some difficult choices.

Despite these challenges, and in contrast to the government's current agenda, the new Lib

Dem administration is focused on achieving a balanced budget and maintaining sufficient

reserves to protect the council against future uncertainty. Further, the council is ensuring

we spend resources on good quality public services that meet the needs of our residents, in

particular the most vulnerable. The budget proposals include support for the cost-of-living

crisis, help for the rural communities and vulnerable residents, support to address the

Climate Emergency and resources to implement the new Council Plan agreed in December

2023.

**Budget proposals include:**

**Rural communities and vulnerable residents**

• £28,000 for Rural Crime Advisors, working with Community Safety Team, to improve

response to rising rural crime.

• £85,000 to maintain support for the UBUS service, to protect the vital connection

between isolated communities and public services.

• £5,500 for a new pilot scheme in Southam and Alcester for Customer Access

Terminals in rural communities to enable face-to-face communication with the

District Council.

**Staying healthy and active**

• £25,000 for a new Leisure Community Instructor to provide targeted support for

people with long term health conditions.

• Reduction in hire fees for use of public playing pitches in Stratford-upon-Avon to

incentivise more sporting activity.

**Cost of Living Crisis support**

• £250,000 to continue to protect residents from the ongoing cost of living crisis,

providing grants for those most in need of support with energy bills.

**Climate change emergency:**

• £500,000 extra funding to enable the Council to achieve its carbon reduction targets.

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• £250,000 to change the current refuse collection vehicles to the use of HVO

(hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel to reduce harmful emissions by nearly 100%.

**Council Plan and Change Programme:**

• £2million to implement the new Council Plan, benefitting residents within six areas

of focus, including delivering better homes, boosting the local economy, increasing

green spaces, encouraging alternative modes of transport, supporting Town and

Parish Councils and their local communities, and improving the overall effectiveness

of the Council.

The draft budget also proposes an increase to Council Tax of £5.00 for 2024/25 and 2025/26

and 2.99% thereafter, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per

month to the District Council next year.

**Community Climate Change Fund**

A new Community Climate Change Fund is being launched this month which will encourage

Parish Councils and constituted community groups to carry out actions that support the

Council's climate change goals.

**Green waste bin subscription**

Subscriptions for the Garden Waste Service April to Match 2024 opened on the 16th of

January. The annual charge is £46 per green bin.

https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-service.cfm

For further information, you can contact the District Council on streetscene@stratforddc.

gov.uk or 01789 260628

**Podback coffee pods recycling**

Residents will be able to recycle their plastic or aluminium coffee pods at home by signing

up for free on the Podback website. They will be sent two rolls of Podback recycling bags (26

bags or six months' supply) along with instructions on how to use the service. Filled bags of

used coffee pods can then be put out alongside or on top (not inside) of the waste,

recycling, or garden waste container(s), on the scheduled collection day. Residents living in

flats can participate by using the Podback Drop Off service.

For more information, please visit: www.stratford.gov.uk/podback

To find out more about signing up for the new Podback service please

visit: www.podback.org

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**Sherborne Material Recycling facility**

The state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Coventry, which is a project by

eight local authorities including Stratford District Council is now fully operational. Its

technologies achieve high purity rates and tackle a wider range of waste materials, including

single use plastics. The most advanced MRF of its kind in the UK, the plant utilises specialist

Al technology to process dry mixed residential kerbside recycling in the most sustainable

and efficient way possible. More information will be coming in the next issue on what

further material we can out in our recycling (blue lid) bins.

**Fire & Rescue services consultation**

As you might be aware, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) which carries out fire

and rescue functions on behalf of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority,

Warwickshire County Council (WCC), is consulting on a proposed change to its service

delivery model as part of its Resourcing to Risk approach. It is a radical change to current

operations. They are proposing to close Bidford, Fenny Compton, Henley, Shipston,

Polesworth, Kenilworth, Wellesbourne and Gaydon as on-call fire stations into surge

stations.

I urge residents to engage with the consultation: https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insightsservice/

wfrs-r2r/

If you have any queries or need any help or advice about the consultation, please

email wfrsr2r@warwickshire.gov.uk or telephone Warwickshire County Council Customer

Service Centre on 01926 410410.