**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JANUARY 2016 – NO. 80**

1. **Present:**  Cllr. Ray, Chairman, Cllr. Stewart, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr Shilvock, Cllr. Lowis and one member of the press.

 **Part meeting**: District Cllr. Lawton

1. **Apologies:** County Cllr. Horner was abroad.
2. **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.

1. **Declarations of dispensations granted for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

**already in the register of Members’ Interests:**

Cllr. Ray – Pecuniary interest in land identified in the NDP

Cllr. McMillan – Potential pecuniary interest in possible development of land identified in the NDP.

1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2015 and the Special Parish Council meeting held on 16th December 2015:**

Both sets of minutes were approved by all members and signed by the Chairman.

1. **Public participation:**

There were no members of the public present.

1. **County & District Councillor’s reports:**

 County Cllr. Horner had provided a January report prior to the meeting and this is attached on page 8.

 District Cllr. Lawton reported that although Council Tax has been frozen for the past three years it is likely that it will have to go up by 2% this year and possibly a further 1.9% to cover social care.

 Government cuts mean that a saving of £7,000.00 has to be made in the new financial year. 88% of respondents were agreeable to a 1.9% addition to the Police precept.

 The Inspector has concluded his examination on the modifications of the Core Strategy and Cllr. Lawton is fairly confident it will be approved in June or July this year. A five year housing plan has been calculated and identifies a requirement of 14,500 new houses between 2011 and 2031.

 The submission draft plan for Gypsy and Traveller sites is still being finalised ad Cllr. Lawton will be attending a meeting shortly to discuss/agree possible sites. He is aware of the current problems at the Pathlow site and asked that we provide him with details of the history of the site and how the residents are affected. Cllr. Stewart and the Clerk will provide the information.

 A decision made last year when the Council voted against joining the West Midlands Combined Authority has been overturned. At the Council meeting on Monday Cllrs. voted by 22 to 11 to accept the offer of being a non-constituent (non-voting) member at a cost of £10,000.00. SDC Sovereignty will not be affected.

 Cllr. Lawton offered to assist the Parish Council at the next West Area Committee meeting when two applications in our parish will be considered.

1. **Road Traffic Items:**

Cllr. Stewart reported that she has not progressed the community road safety awareness group as she feels it will be prudent to leave this until the weather improves.

 The traffic flow details had been received from WCC indicating that there is a fair amount of speeding or larger vehicles in the early morning but the 85 percentile speed is not overall excessive.

 Parking is still of concern in Station Road and Aston Cantlow Road, in particular outside the 18’s some of which is believed to be due to changes in ownership and current residents having more than one vehicle. Without photographic evidence/registration number details of persistent parking there is little more the Parish Council can do.

 **9. Appointment of Lead Councillor for planning matters:**

The chairman had spoken to Cllr. Lowis prior to the meeting asking if he would be prepared to take on this role, which includes keeping up to date with the progress of the Stratford Core Strategy. Cllr. Lowis indicated the he would be happy to take this on as it is an area he is very interested in.

**10. Planning Applications: update on current status of applications:**

*Application No. 15/01222/FUL* 165 Aston Cantlow Road: Construction of five dwellings with new shared surface access road, closure of existing vehicular access and construction of new access on to Aston Cantlow Road. Awaiting Appeal decision.

*Planning Application No. 15/03733/FUL* Lime House, Church Road, Wilmcote: Redevelopment of existing dwelling to increase first floor area and re-planning of ground floor. Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 15/02889/FUL* 22B Aston Cantlow Road, Wilmcote: Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of replacement single storey rear extension. Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 15/03795/FUL* Units 4 & 5 Pathlow Farm, Featherbed Lane, Pathlow: Change of use of Unit 4 from offices (use class B1a) to dance studio (use class D2) to be used in association with Unit 5. Pending consideration.

*Planning Application No. 15/04107/FUL* 1 Swanfold, Wilmcote: Front Porch. Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 15/04192/OUT* Arden View, The Orchard, Wilmcote: Outline application (all matters reserved except for access) for the erection of up to 4 residential dwellings and associated works including demolition of part of single storey garage forming part of Arden View (No 2 The Orchard). Application withdrawn.

 Mr. Whitfield had contacted Cllr. Ray to provide an explanation of why the application has been withdrawn. It would appear that Mr. Whitfield’s Agent had been in contact with the case officer who openly agreed that even SDC have been using an overly restrictive definition of what constitutes "Limited Infilling" and parties can decide for themselves what constitutes "Limited Infilling" taking into account their own local circumstances. As the target date for determination of this application had expired, Mr Whitfield was advised to withdraw his application and re-submit it in view of this latest information. Cllr. Ray suggested Mr. Whitfield obtains this advice in writing from them and advised that the Parish Council would consider the application again once they receive a formal consultation notification.

*Planning Application No. 15/04373/REM* 2 Glebe Estate, Wilmcote: Application for approval of reserved matters relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for one dwelling pursuant to outline planning permission 14/03036/OUT. Approval of reserved matters.

*Planning Application No. 15/04308/FUL* St. Andrews Church, Wilmocte: Replacement timber shed with hardstanding and an access footpath. Pending consideration.

*Planning Application No. 15/03895/FUL* Little Longfields, 133 Aston Cantlow Road, Wilmcote: Proposed extensions and alterations to include two storey gable extension to front of property, single storey rear and side extension and construction of chimney on side elevation. Pending consideration.

 The following notification was received as a neighbouring parish:

 Planning Application No. 15/04499/OUT Land to The North and West of Bishopton Lane, Stratford on Avon: Outline planning application with means of site access from Bishopton Lane and The Ridgeway for the erection of up to 500 dwellings safeguarding land for a single form entry Primary School, public open space and all other necessary ancillary and enabling works.

 Whilst this application does not directly affect Wilmcote Parish it was agreed that the following comment should be made:

 Wilmcote Parish Council considers that the infrastructure is not suitable to support significant extra traffic from such a development in view of potential problems with the narrow bridge over the canal and difficulties already with the busy congested roads,  A46 and A3400, approaching the town centre.

 **11. Progress reports:**

Gypsy & Traveller Site: Mr. Leahy, WCC assured the Clerk that the public footpath adjacent to the site will be cleared in the next couple of weeks. A skip is to be delivered shortly and he will be asking the residents to load it with the rubbish currently dumped at the entrance to the site.

No documents received as yet from Mr. Russell or Mr. Chatterton relating to their complaints about the behaviour of the youths on the site.

Station Road: The clerk had arranged for the gully to be jetted on the corner by Mary Arden’s House. That actually appeared to be flowing satisfactorily but the crew had discovered a blockage between there and Old School Lane and this will be put in a report to the Highways Officer in due course.

HSBC questionnaire completed and returned.

**12. Correspondence:**

 - Keep Britain Tidy event - Clean for the Queen 4th - 6th March 2016

 - HM the Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons and Street Parties

 - Interactive Community Rights usage map.

 - Temporary Road Closure - A3400 Stratford Road & A4189. Dates changed to 15th – 21st February.

 - Revised Model Financial Regulations 21.11.2015.

 - NALC Legal Briefing: Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

 - Notification that HSBC Studley Branch will be closing on 15th April.

 After the agenda had been circulated an invitation to renew our contract for the footway lights was received from E.on Energy. Twelve, twenty four and thirty six month electricity prices were provided and circulated to the Cllrs. prior to the meeting.

 Cllr Ray proposed that we accept the quote for thirty six months.

 Cllr. Lowis seconded the proposal and all were in agreement.

**13. Parish Council Standing Orders:**

Cllr. Shilvock had made suggested alterations to the Standing Orders and these had been circulated to Cllrs. for consideration.

 One or two additions/further alterations were suggested and Cllr. Shilvock will make the necessary changes and circulate the document for final approval.

**14. Consultation: New Settlement Proposal at Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath:**

The details of this consultation are only available online and

 not all Cllrs. had an opportunity to access them prior to the meeting. It was agreed they would consider it in the next week and provide the Clerk with any representations they feel are necessary.

**15. Precept:**

Cllr. Ray proposed that our Precept requirement for 2016/17 should be £27,680.00.Cllr. Shilvock seconded this proposal and all were in full agreement.

 Confirmation has been received from SDC that a Council Tax Reduction Grant will be paid to Town and Parish Councils along with the Precept payment. The grant figure for Wilmcote Parish Council is £890.00, making the actual Precept submission £26,790.00.

 It was also agreed that the ring fenced reserves would be as follows:

Footway Lighting £2000.00

 Neighbourhood Plan £2000.00

 Consultant fees £2000.00

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

 Playground Supplies Ltd. have inspected the platform on the roundabout and report that a replacement platform would have to be obtained from the manufacturer or through a company called Kompan. The cost of supplying and fitting just a new platform would be £1,560.00. They also dug out around the centre post of the swing bay and consider that filling with concrete would not be a long term remedy. They recommend either obtaining two new uprights from the manufacturers, their opinion is that it is a design fault, or replacing the item, possibly with two separate pieces of equipment to avoid so much stress on a centre post. A follow up inspection report confirms that the equipment is currently safe for use.

 Cllr. McMillan was asked to obtain prices for three styles of wooden and three styles of metal swings, plus three styles of roundabouts, guarantees information and expected lifetime, to enable a final decision to be made on the way forward at the next meeting.

**17. Neighbourhood Plan Update:**

Cllr. Ray reported that he has now received comments from Matthew Neal on the draft plan and passed them to our consultant asking him to draft the next version based on this information. Cllr. Ray would like to move this to completion now and believes this can be done once we have the revised draft for consideration at the next NPG meeting early in February.

 **18**. **Stratford on Avon Draft Core Strategy:**

As reported on by District Cllr. Lawton in agenda item 7.

 **19. Bank Mandate:**

 The Mandate was completed by all members and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

**20. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

E.on (repair) £ 46.80 (100510)

Information Commissioner 35.00 (100511)

David Holmes Planning Ltd 190.00 (100512)

 Wilmcote C of E Primary School 300.00 (100513)

 1st Wilmcote Scout Group 300.00 (100514)

 St. Andrews Church 300.00 (100515)

WILLOW WOOD PLAY AREA

G. Compton 370.00 (100061) SDC Lease 100.00 (100062)

 Playground Supplies 72.00 (100063)

**21. Councillors’ reports and items for the agenda for the next**

 **meeting:**

 Items for the next agenda to include:

 Standing Orders

 Willow Wood Play Area

 Neighbourhood Plan

 Road Traffic items

**22. Date of next meeting:** 23rd March 2016. Annual Parish Meeting followed by ordinary Parish Council meeting.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m.

**County Councillor Report - January**

The Government’s **financial settlement** for next year contained two surprises. Firstly it was on time and secondly it was not the “give away budget” trumpeted in the press. The Government assumes that over the next four years WCC will raise council tax each year by 4%, and will receive an additional £10 million from the Better Care Fund in 2019/20. The grant from Government will reduce from £56 million this year to £37 million next year with further reductions in later years. With additional duties that have been imposed on counties this amounts to a cut of 39% in the year.

London and the metropolitan boroughs like Birmingham and Wolverhampton have done much better with reductions of only 20%. District Councils are facing an average of 37% reduction and so the two tier councils, almost entirely Conservative controlled, have suffered most. Much has been said about councils retaining business rates but it is now understood that this will be top sliced to help the disadvantaged metropolitan areas. In other words central Government will still control the destination of business rate monies. The new homes bonus has been made less generous and is still in the gift of the District Councils. It is hoped that grants for specific tasks will be made available in the future by the Government.

**Electric vehicle grants for Rural SME are available** and sixteen rural businesses in Warwickshire have received grants for leasing electric vehicles. The Rural Growth Network is among five pilot projects across England and has been created to support small firms in rural areas as part of a major initiative to boost the rural economy. For more information about the Warwickshire rural electric vehicle project (WREV) [http://bit.ly/1N4m0Uj](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cDovL2JpdC5seS8xTjRtMFVq&r=5555970071&d=1413505&p=1&t=h&h=74aacd6a71946789dcb67cf0dd8cc273)

**Remember sale goods are also fully covered by consumer rights.** The new Consumer Rights Act has strengthened and extended a consumer's shopping rights. Consumers can obtain more help and advice from Trading Standards via their consumer advisors at the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506.

**A car dealer pleaded guilty to fraud** after an investigation and prosecution by Warwickshire County Trading Standards. Complaints from buyers led Warwickshire Trading Standards to look in to Connan Harvey’s second hand Audi business. Trading Standards Officers received numerous complaints concerning Harvey’s business practices between November 2012 and February 2014. The three year investigation shows how long it takes to bring criminals to justice.

**JOHN HORNER**

For information only.

The following payments were made at the Special Parish Council Meeting on 16th December 2015:

Wilmcote Village Hall £ 49.00 (100504)

Citizens Advice Bureau 120.00 (100505)

E.on maintenance 137.44 (100506)

Colemans Office Supplies 44.91 (100507)

HMRC 306.60 (100508)

David Holmes Planning Ltd. 190.00 (100509)

WILLOW WOOD PLAY AREA

Playground Supplies 72.00 (100060)