**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD USING ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING ON TUESDAY 27th JANUARY 2021.**

 **NO 111**

**1. Present:** Cllr. Ray, Cllr. E. Lee, Cllr. J. Lee, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr. Shilvock, Cllr. Simmons, Cllr. Stewart and two members of the public.

 Part meeting: County Cllr. Cargill.

 **2. Apologies:** District Cllr. Shenton.

**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 18th November 2020.**

 These were agreed by all members for signature by the Chairman.

 **5. Public Participation:**

PC Rob Davis, the Neighbourhood Police Constable, attended at our invitation. Cllr. Ray attended a discussion with our Police Commissioner before Christmas and said that the Neighbourhood Police Constable would be willing to attend WPC meetings. PC Rob Davis explained his role and that if any incidents arise in the Parish they should be reported immediately and without delay either through 101 or 999 if an emergency. He confirmed that he would be happy to attend maybe alternate WPC meetings.

 **6. Correspondence:**

 All Correspondence circulated electronically to date was taken as read.

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

 Cllr. Shenton provided a report, and this is attached at the end of the minutes.

 Cllr. Cargill provided a report, and this is attached at the end of the minutes. He explained that he is moving to other duties and he introduced Piers Daniel who will be standing in the County Council elections in May.

**8. Planning Applications:**

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

The following application notifications were then considered:

 Application No.20/02670/FUL Hill House, Birmingham Road, Pathlow. Amendment notification.

 The recommendation was that whilst Cllrs were in favour of the hedgerow planting they would still prefer to see the close boarded fencing replaced by a more suitable treatment in this rural location.

 Application No. 20/02899/FUL Field House, 8 Manor Drive, Wilmcote. Amendment notification.

 The consensus of opinion was that while the amendment mitigates overlooking of one neighbour the application would still lead to a lack of privacy for the occupants of The Manor House and does not overcome the Parish Council’s objection to the materials and design.

 Application No. 20/03733/COUQ Bishopton Hill House, Birmingham Road, Pathlow. As this application was only received the day before the meeting it was agreed that all Cllrs. should have further time to consider it before a final recommendation is agreed.

 **9. Final Precept for consideration:**

A draft precept was considered at the previous November meeting, a few minor changes were made and the final Precept was circulated to all Cllrs ahead of the meeting. The v.7 of the general precept and the v.4 of the Willow Wood Precept was proposed by Cllr Stewart for acceptance, seconded by Cllr Shilvock and agreed by all.

It had been suggested by Cllr. Simmons that we renew the subscription for Parish Online and this had been added to the proposed Precept figures. It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Lee, Shilvock and Simmons would be responsible for using the facility and Cllr. Simmons would prepare a report indicating how it could be used for PC initiatives for approval at the March meeting.

**10. S137 Grant Applications:**

Cllr. Shilvock had circulated before the meeting a few minor changes to the Grant Application Procedure. These changes were agreed and will be incorporated into the Standing Orders.

**11. Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpeople sites –Consultation:**

Cllr Simmons circulated before the meeting a draft of our WPC contribution to this consultation. This was agreed.

 **12. Road Traffic items**

1. **Church Road safety**

The signage changes to be made are agreed with the County Highways and we are awaiting their costs before we can proceed. Cllr Cargill said he would chase the response from the County so this work can be progressed.

1. **Area between train station and canal**

No activity.

 **13. Willow Wood playground**

Cllr J. Lee reported that having had the two items removed because of identified safety concerns she has been exploring replacement items.

 **14. Items for the agenda for the March meeting:**

Review Parish Emergency Plan )

 Review Financial Regulations ) Items deferred due to

 Training in use of defibrillator ) technical issues

Environmental initiatives )

Review whole of Standing Orders

Auditor to Review Financial Regulations in Standing Orders

Review Lead Councillor list

Receive Report from Working Group on Parish Online

 **15. Date of next meeting:** 17th March 2021.

No further business, Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

**Wootton Wawen Ward - District Councillor’s report as at 27/01/2021**

**This is the first chance I’ve had to be able to say to readers, Happy New Year and let’s look forward to the time when we might be able to see loved ones and friends once again and go to pubs, restaurants, shops, cinemas and gyms.**

**Covid-19 (with thanks to Cllr. Anne Parry and updated by me)**

Some positive news for you all in so much as Lockdown 3 is having an impact of our rates of infection (Friday’s figures), which has dropped across **the district over the last seven days to 284/100,000 from 344 last week, as at Monday 25/01/2021 the rate fell to 254 and has fallen further as at Wednesday 27/01/2021 to 223**.

This is a welcome improvement and demonstrates that we must keep up our resolve and momentum in fighting this virus.  In addition, as at Friday last week, the over 60’s day rate was down to 218/100,000 (271 prev. week) (with 91 cases over the last seven days), which when compared to other districts in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 417/100,000, North Warwickshire 403/100,000, Warwick 292/100,000 and Rugby 403/100,000.  So Stratford and Warwick Districts have the lowest case rates.

The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds improved slightly with 114 (130) confirmed cases of COVID-19 but there are 7 (4) patients in ICU (figures in brackets are from 15 Jan).  The capacity remains the same at 10% and there are 44% of beds occupied by non-Covid patients.

The cumulative deaths across Stratford District from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) have sadly increased by a further 20 to 72 with 20 occurring in care homes, 47 in hospital and five at home, out of a total of 526 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now jumped to 306 from 245 within a total of 2359 all cause deaths.  The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 240 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 906; over the same period there have been 5809 non Covid-19 related deaths in Warwickshire.

The new locally led Lateral Flow Testing facility for people without coronavirus symptoms in Stratford at the Courtyard Theatre has now has carried out 3219 tests with 11 positive results.

The vaccine rollout continues to gear up and gain momentum and is being delivered in the main from Studley Village Hall around my village and Henley in Arden. WCC is also involved with the setting up of a mass vaccination site which will be located in Stoneleigh in due course and will complement the vaccination facility in Birmingham at Millennium Point.

Roving teams are carrying out vaccinations in care homes amongst staff and residents and it is anticipated to have all care homes in Warwickshire vaccinated by the end of the month, as this is a priority area.

**Parish on line**

I have asked around about this software and had a close look at it myself. One of the members of Bearley Parish Council has been very helpful to me as I checked out the video recording of the last presentation of this software and saw that he was there. He tells me that he really liked thesoftware and wanted to ask the Parish Council to consider it because not only does it have the mapping on there but you can create your own layers to show street lamps, trees, features, mowing will take place, graves, play equipment, benches, assets etc etc. The possibilities are endless.

There are one or two alternative products available whish I’ve discovered by asking other parish clerks around the Stratford District.

Having said all of this, the decision as to whether you would find it useful and get enough out of it would need to be your call. Personally from what I have seen, it is easy to use and it is very simple to see the detail and located assets etc. as they are all in one place.

A word of warning though, the suppliers say that they get data from Stratford District Council but I can’t verify this, no one seems to think we do (that is not to say we don’t). The reference to mowing schedules is more than likely coming from Idverde who are our contractor and SDC say that the mowing schedules are on Idverde own website but may not be up to date.

**Community Speedwatch**

I am the coordinator for this in Wootton Wawen and whilst I now have a team of 6 volunteers, training is not going to happen any time soon but once it does happen I’d like to explore whether your team would lend me their “gun” occasionally to avoid us having to get our own and it possibly lying idle for large amounts of time.

**Community Volunteers**

I am the coordinator for this in Wootton Wawen and I have a team of 26 volunteers and therefore I am well aware of how well your team has performed over the last year. I am grateful to the Wilmcote volunteers who stepped forward at a very difficult time for many residents as, like my volunteers, I know that they were committed and always cheerful, even when it was pouring down with rain.

**Training in use of Defibrillator (item on your agenda)**

As I used to be part of the Henley Community First Responder Team and am still responsible for looking after the defibrillator in Wootton Wawen if I can be of any help then let me know. I am always keen to help out at these sessions as well, as a lot of people are worried about using a “defibb” and we need to dispel any myths. I am very keen that as many people as possible realise just how simple it is to use as these can save lives and buy precious time until the ambulance crew or paramedic arrives on scene.

**I thought that this month I’d give you an update on the budgets, fly tipping and a reminder about the green waste charge**

**Budget 2021/2022**

At an extraordinary Cabinet meeting we agreed to endorse the various recommendations and allow it go out for scrutiny. Amongst those involved in scrutinising the budget are businesses and residents. Central to the budget is that council tax rates for a Band D property will rise by £5 for the coming financial year. At this stage we have not taken away or reduced any council services and by releasing other reserves, cutting back on capital projects, increasing car parking charges from £1 per hour to £1.20 per hour, scrapping the over 65’s £10 parking permit, introducing green bin charges, some redundancies, not filling vacant posts plus other cost cutting measures, we have managed to create a balanced budget that preserves services. As we don’t know what central funding will be like beyond 2021/2022 we have had to make some assumptions which will hopefully understate the level of central funding. There are difficult decisions that have had to be made and the result of these can be painful for employees, residents and businesses alike but they are necessary to preserve the services that currently offer.

**Fly-Tipping**

There have been a few incidents of fly tipping in laybys of late, especially at the Bearely A3400 layby and if we get continuing problems there I will ask for a CCTV camera to be installed so that we can hopefully catch the culprits. Unfortunately there aren’t many instances where the perpetrators leave identifying evidence and in most cases it is simply a case of having to clear the fly tip away as fast as we can. If anyone witnesses fly tipping report it as soon as possible and don’t under any circumstances put yourself at risk. The streetscene team at SDC (streetscene @stratford-dc.gov.uk) will arrange for it to be cleared away.

The chart below shows the scale of the problem across the district with fly tipping well ahead of the levels we saw last year but there is a glimmer of hope as we are seeing the current rate falling slowly.



**Green Bin Charge is due to come into effect from 1st April 2020**

The Green bin charge was due to come in on the 1st June 2020 but due to the pandemic we put this back to 1st April this year. As a Council we are facing difficult choices as central funding decreases and costs of services rise. There are no real choices here as the only other choice would be to discontinue the service as there is no legal requirement on councils to offer a green waste collection service. The fairest way, in my opinion, is to charge for the service, something that over 75% of all councils that offer the service, already do, with charges up to £90 per annum. Our charge will be set at £40 but if you sign up between 11th January 2021 and 28th February 2021 it will be discounted to £35. The charge is per bin and if you don’t use the whole bin why not think about sharing a bin with a neighbour. We will be issuing a sticker to subscribers to the service that will indicate that the bin can be collected.

I have also released to all Parish Councils in Stratford the artwork, FAQ’s and a covering letter asking Parish Councils and their members to remind residents that they can take advantage of the “early bird” rate of £35. In addition I have asked that the artwork and FAQ’s be posted on notice boards as I want as many residents as possible to take advantage of the discount. In the first two weeks of the scheme opening over 11,000 permits have been purchased.

A note of caution, **beware of scammers** who will offer you a permit for a lot less than £35, the permits will not match the lists and in cab technology that we are employing, your bin will not be emptied and you will have wasted your money. You can only subscribe to the service via SDC, nowhere else.

**Remember, if you haven’t subscribed to the service your green bin will not be emptied as from 1st April 2021.**

**Feel free to contact me if you need further details.**

**County Councillors Report – Cllr. Cargill**

**Member & Parish Briefing 24/01/2021**

Infection rates have somewhat stabilised since my last update and figures released this morning show that for the SDC area the seven day rate is now 284/100k and the over 60’s day rate is 218/100k (with 91 cases over the last seven days), which when compared to other districts in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 417/100k, North Warwickshire 403/100k, Warwick 292/100k and Rugby 403/100k. (I note that the data I get from WCC is slightly different from the Government stats. This is confusing but is likely due to the different reporting periods)

The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds has increased with 114 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 7 patients in ICU. However, the capacity has increased slightly to 10% from 9% last week which also reflects the increase of ‘open’ beds which is currently 363.

The cumulative all cause deaths across Stratford District from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) have sadly increased by 72, with 20 occurring in care homes, 47 in hospital and 5 at home, out of a total of 526 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now tragically jumped to 850 for a total of 2359 all cause deaths.

Vaccinations across the country are ramping up and according to the news this morning over 140 jabs are being given per minute. The UK has hit over 5 ½ million doses and although there are supply challenges, we do seem to be on course to achieve the goal of 14 million jabs being offered by Mid-Feb. Lateral flow testing at the Stratford centre (The Other Place) is going well with a walk-in facility as well as being able to book on line. If you are a frontline worker then you are being encouraged to be tested weekly. Stratford have now lateral flow tested 3236 people. Positivity tests are 9.7%

We are starting to see rates drop but not very quickly. Let’s hope that this will accelerate soon.

For information only

The following payments were made between meetings:

G. Compton 150.00 BACS 06/12

PKF Littlejohn 240.00 BACS 06/12

1st Wilmcote Scouts 275.00 BACS 06/12

E.on energy 161.48 DD 16/12

WWPA donation 750.00 TRANS 23/12

E.on maintenance 116.72 BACS 30/12

HMRC 518.77 BACS 05/01

E.on energy 166.87 DD 16/01

WILLOW WOOD PLAY AREA

G. Compton 570.00 BACS 06/12

G. Compton Playground clean 30.00 BACS 06/12

Playground Supplies 144.00BACS 22/12