

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH 2014 AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr. Ray, Chairman, Cllr. Roberts, Cllr. Mander, Cllr. Clarke,  
Cllr. A. McMillan, Cllr. K. McMillan, Cllr. Ledger and three members of the public.

**Apologies:** District Cllr. Sir William Lawrence who was Chairing the West Area Planning Committee meeting.

## **Chairman's Report:**

The report, attached on page three, had been circulated to all Cllrs. prior to the meeting and was taken as read.

## **County and District Councillors' reports:**

No reports had been received.

## **Issues of particular local importance:**

Richard Maksymowicz, Chairman of Stratford Gliding Club, was invited to the meeting by the Chairman in order to give a brief insight into their proposals for the use of motorised gliders at the Club. He explained that these are essential for training purposes.

Permission was granted by SDC in 2012 and subsequently quashed by a High Court Judge on a technicality.

Cllr. Ray, Cllr. Clarke and the Clerk attended an open day at the Club which was very informative and provided the opportunity to experience a take-off and landing by a motorised glider. A flight was also arranged to specifically fly over Pathlow and Wilmcote to ascertain noise levels.

Bearley and Snitterfield are classed as no-fly zones in their club operational procedures. These procedures are strictly enforced, any violation by anyone using the airfield can be suspended. Although they don't generally fly over Wilmcote, Cllr. Ray asked if it could be included

as a no-fly zone for the comfort of residents. Mr. Maksymowicz agreed to arrange that.

The Club has recently signed a new 25 year Lease and conditions are imposed that no microlights or light aircraft can be used on the site. Mr. Maksymowicz also advised that a motorised glider would not at any time be used to launch a glider.

Cllr. Ray thanked Mr. Maksymowicz for his informative presentation and asked that he provide confirmation that Wilmcote has been added as a no-fly zone in their operational procedures.

### **Other Matters raised by an Elector of the Parish:**

Colin Lyne introduced himself as the local Champion for Pathlow to provide support and help residents get connected to Fibre Optic Broadband.

Pathlow is currently being by-passed even though cabinet P46 by the Armouries Arms is being upgraded in the first phase of the roll out commencing April 2014. Mr. Lyne will continue to press for Pathlow to be included in the upgrades and will keep the Parish Clerk informed.

Cllr. Ray thanked Mr. Lyne for attending the meeting.

Ms. McCann's interest is in the Willow Wood Play Area, an agenda item in the following ordinary meeting.

No further matters were raised and Cllr. Ray declared the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

## **Wilmcote Parish Council** **Annual Report 2013/2014**

### **Chairman's Statement**

#### **Reflections on 2013/2014**

This has been a significant year for Wilmcote Parish Council, planning issues continue to be the dominant challenge covering issues both within the Parish and in neighbouring Parishes.

One of the most important issues is the planning framework within which development decisions are made. Most notably are the Government's National Planning Policy Framework which is now central in the consideration of planning applications and the Stratford District Council's Draft Core Strategy which is still only a draft document and to which we have made extensive contributions. The other relevant document is the Localism Act provides the opportunity for a community to set development guidelines for their area.

#### **A Responsible Parish Council**

We have responded to the concerns of the Wilmcote community and encourage people to raise issues with us. I mention one topic to illustrate this and that is the concern of the speed limit on Featherbed Lane, this was pursued and the speed limit lowered to 50MPH. There may be further concerns over traffic management around the top end of Featherbed Lane and this will be monitored during the coming year. Other traffic issues will also be monitored during the coming year, most notably parking around the station and The Green.

The Parish Council also raise issues for the community to consider, one such case is the opportunity under the Localism Act I mentioned earlier to prepare its own development plan for the Parish. At a village meeting it was decided to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and we are now a designated Neighbourhood Plan area. A Parish Council committee has been established under the chairmanship of Alan Griffith to progress the preparation of the plan. The council thank Alan and all the Neighbourhood Plan Committee members for all their effort so far, the whole process is likely to take two years to complete.

Working with the local Police, Cllr. Alison McMillan held a village meeting to discuss a Neighbourhood Watch network and this is now established providing feedback to the community.

## **Effective Communication**

Effective communication within the community is important and a Parish website has now been established ([www.wilmcotepc.co.uk](http://www.wilmcotepc.co.uk)). A lot of work remains to be done in the coming year to populate the website, the webmaster is Peter Long and the council offer our thanks for his valuable contribution in developing the website and look forward to his continuing support. Agenda and Minutes of Parish Council meetings will be placed on the website, these will also continue to be displayed on the notice board opposite the village shop.

## **Effective Governance**

We have reviewed the operation of the Parish Council and each councillor now has an area of responsibility. This not only shares the work load but also provides effective use of the balance of skills, experience, knowledge and diversity of the councillors. This, together with strong teamwork, is important in establishing an effective Parish Council. I would like to particularly thank Cllr. Roberts for his commitment and energy that he contributes in dealing with planning issues, not only planning applications but also the Stratford District Council Draft Core Strategy which has involved very detailed analysis.

During the year our County Councillor Richard Hobbs resigned, he was in this role for many years and was instrumental in helping us deal with a number of challenges over that period; we wish him well in his new venture. There was a smooth transition to County Councillor John Horner who replaces Richard. We welcome John and look forward to working with him over future years. As part of the Council governance we have reviewed all the Standing Orders which set out how we operate. These now reflect the new structure of the Parish Council and the delegated powers are clear.

## **Looking Ahead**

We have a strong team of councillors well positioned to meet the challenges that may lie ahead. One significant change in the coming year will be the expansion of the Parish boundary that will take place in May 2015. A map showing the existing and new boundary will be placed on the website. I thank all the councillors for their contribution and commitment over the year.

## **Reviews from Lead Councillors:**

### **Planning – Cllr Roberts**

From the planning viewpoint 2013/2014 has been an important and busy year. The District Council are in the process of finalising its Proposed Submission Core Strategy which will cover development in the District up to 2031. This has involved a number of comprehensive consultation exercises of considerable importance to Wilmcote in particular:

- In August/September 2013 a consultation involving the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal Quarter Regeneration Zone and New Employment Sites. Detailed comments were submitted re two new employment land allocations SUA.2 and SUA.3, on the basis that the proposals were unsound.
- In February/March 2014 a consultation involving a Focussed Consultation covering the 2011-2031 Housing Requirement and Strategic Site Options for the Stratford District. Detailed comments were submitted re the range of options for meeting the increased housing requirement. Of particular importance was the option of dispersing over 2,500 houses in Local Service Villages one of which is Wilmcote. Stratford District was advised that this option was unsound due to lack of sustainability.
- In February/ March 2014 a consultation involving a Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan which will form part of the Proposed Submission Core Strategy. Detailed comments are being made. Of particular interest to Pathlow is that current policy states that in rural settings local planning authorities should ensure that the scale of gypsy and traveller sites should not dominate the nearest settled community. On that basis Wilmcote Parish Council is arguing that the 30 pitch Council owned site in Pathlow should not be extended.

The Stratford District Council will take on board comments made in these consultations and are expecting to submit the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination later this year.

During the year Wilmcote Parish Council has submitted recommendations to Stratford District covering 34 planning applications relating to Wilmcote and Pathlow.

### **Standing Orders – Cllr J Clarke**

Following previous amendments to the Standing Orders it was still felt some modification was required and this has now been done. Standing Orders have been rewritten to produce a more streamlined

document and recently circulated to all Councillors following the addition of several new items as follows: -

The need for the Clerk to keep an Audit Trail on our responses to Planning Applications.

The appointment of a lead councillor to deal with Planning Applications, and agreement for him to consult a Planning Consultant as and when he feels it is necessary.

Financial regulations have also been put in place regarding these consultations.

### **Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr J Clarke & Cllr E Mander**

Following the initial meeting in October 2013, a Neighbourhood Plan Committee has been formed under the very able Chairmanship of Alan Griffiths, and Treasurer Roger Harrison. Five sector leaders have been appointed to cover the following:

- a) Private Housing
- b) Social/Council Housing
- c) Infrastructure/Utilities
- d) Commercial/Industrial/Retail
- e) Public Areas & Amenities

These sector leaders with the help of other volunteers will each produce their findings to form the basis of a questionnaire which will go to all residents of the village.

Approval has been granted by SDC for our Neighbourhood Plan and the Treasurer will apply for a grant. In the meantime the Parish Council has advanced a small loan to help with the initial costs.

Publicity/Information is dealt with very efficiently by Lisa Plumb who has arranged updates on Facebook and now our new Website, together with The Village Vine. Hard copies of all information will also be available in the village shop and the church. Flyers have been circulated and will continue as and when necessary, together with proposed meetings in the village hall for all to attend.

All in all it has got off to a very good start but they are in desperate need of a Secretary.

### **Legal – Cllr N Ledger**

When Wilmcote Parish Council requires legal advice it is available from Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils (WALC). Using WALC helps to ensure that when legal advice is required the advice is provided as cost effectively as possible.

### **Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr A McMillan**

There are 30 households in the village signed up to receive information from the Neighbour Hood Watch scheme. Fortunately, over the last six months, there has been very little crime in Wilmcote - 1 house burglary, a few incidents of cars being entered and a small amount of anti-social behaviour. We have lost Ally Streatfield, our PCSO and have not, as yet been told of a replacement.

### **Willow Wood Play Area – Cllr K McMillan**

The playground on a whole has performed well, we have repaired and updated several pieces of apparatus.

The only issue at the moment is the fencing for which we are looking at a long term solution.