**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15th MAY 2024– NO. 132**

**Present:**  Cllr. Ray, Chairman, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Nurser-Stephens, Cllr. Mahon, Cllr Hession

**Apologies:** Cllr Shilvock who was abroad – approved, Cllr McMillan unapproved.

1. **To receive written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary interests in items on the agenda:**

There were no requests.

 **2. To approve for signature the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and ordinary meeting held on 20th March 2024**

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

 **3. Public participation:**

There were no members of the public present.

**4 County & District Councillor’s reports**

County Cllr Daniell’s latest report is appended at the end of these minutes**.**

There was no District Cllr. report available.

Councillors expressed concern that there is a noticeable lack of support and reports from District Cllr. Holmes. Cllr. Hession suggested that a letter from the Chairman to the leader of the Council might be beneficial. All Cllrs agreed and Cllr Hession offered to draft a suitable letter for approval.

**5. Annual Accounts of Wilmcote Parish Council for 2023/2024.**

 a) The Annual Governance Statement was considered and it was agreed by all that boxes 1 to 8 be ticked. This was then signed by the Chairman.

 b) The Income & Expenditure account had been circulated

 prior to the meeting. This was approved by all and signed by

 the Chairman, Cllr. Ray, and the Responsible Financial Officer.

 The Accounting Statement was then signed by the Chairman.

**6. Planning Applications.**

The current status of planning applications was circulated to

 Cllrs prior to the meeting.

 Consideration was then given to an application for a Street Trading Consent in the Stratford on Avon area zone 3. No objections were raised.

**7. Correspondence:**

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

**8. Willow Wood Play Area:**

At the second meeting with Danielle, and her colleague, from Playdale Playgrounds she provided the Chairman and Clerk with plans and costings to replace all the equipment that is now reaching the end of its life in two phases. All information and pictures were forwarded to Cllrs to the meeting for consideration.

 Having considered the above Cllr Ray suggested that it would be beneficial, and save costs, for all the changes to be made at the same time as we have sufficient funds ringfenced for this purpose.

 This proposal was seconded by Cllr Mahon and all were in agreement that this would be the sensible way forward.

 As Cllr. Boyes is the Lead Cllr. for playground matters he was asked to take this forward. He agreed and all the relevant documents/

 contact details were handed over to him by the Clerk.

**9. Footway Lighting update:**

Cllr McMillan had been asked by the Clerk, whilst looking into the matter for his own business, if he would investigate the possibility of a contract for the footway lights in the village as none of the main suppliers were offering contracts to small businesses. No update is currently available.

**10. Wilmcote Parish Council Grant Fund Applications:**

As Cllr.Shilvock is the Lead Councillor for this item it was deferred to the next meeting.

**11. Pathlow Park Traveller site:**

 County Cllr. Daniell provided the following report:

Letters went out in November. Fencing has been returned on pitches 1-4 and 8-14. 5,6 have now capitulated following the threat of legal action and so fencing will continue in the next two weeks.

Site 7 is the final site and they are working on it with the tenant and will serve legal notice if not complete by the two week eta as their mobile home is too large for the pitch

There is a new site manager and will serve a breach notice now for any issue. People aspire to live there and eviction notices are a strong deterrent in their belief against a repeat of these issues in the future.

With reference to the fly tipping at the site entrance, WCC have now put in a request to Stratford to put up some cameras to identify the culprits, as WCC is sure it is not residents of the site.

 **12. WRCC proposed Housing survey update:**

Survey documents have now been posted out to all Wilmcote

 residents, Cllr. Stewart will deliver copies to Pathlow residents

 and copies were handed to Cllrs. at the meeting.

**13. Wilmcote Parish Council Facebook page:**

 Cllr. Hession launched this on 10th April. There are 69 followers since the launch. The page promoted a random speed survey and the local police team will be publishing the results.

**14. WALC items a) New model Financial Regulations:** Details were circulated to all Cllrs and Cllr. Hession was asked to amend the Standing Orders accordingly, subject to any comments being forthcoming.

 **b) PC Domain names and new email addresses:** Notification that in the not too distant future Cllrs. will be required to provide new email addresses and the Parish Council domain name will have to be revised.

**15. Councillors reports and items for the agenda for the next meeting**

**16. Date of next meeting:** 17 July 2024

No further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm

 County Councillor report 13th May 2024

 **Local updates**

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections 2024:

Congratulations to Phillip Seccombe who was re-elected for a third term.

Hopkins Precinct:

Please note the Hopkins Precinct will be closed to traffic on 2nd June for resurfacing and the creation of some new parking bays. This work will take about £15,000 of Piers’ delegated budgets from the 2023/24 year and has been about a year in the works, so hopefully, it is worthwhile.

New Community Shed coming to Alcester:

Congratulations to Cllr Mark Cargill and his team on securing a grant from the County Council on the Social Fabric Fund to support the installation of solar and battery storage for the new Community Shed, which will replace the derelict squash courts.

The main driver has been the Men’s Sheds organisation who support men, often retired after an active life who have little to occupy themselves. The Community Shed scheme aims to overcome that.

The shed has been completely renovated, including a new roof, new doors, new electrics, fully insulated, accessible toilets, and much more. The next phase is to fit it out.

One of the goals is to make the shed as energy-efficient as possible. To that end they are delighted to have been awarded a grant from WCC for the installation of solar panels and a battery storage system. This will ensure the lowest possible running costs and, hopefully, they may be able to export energy as well. Given that, they should be able to offer low subscription rates ensuring it is available to all.

This is an exciting scheme nearing its conclusion. The ethos is ‘open to all’ and we hope that it will be fully utilised in the future.

Road Closure Notice:

Please note there will be a road closure from 4th July to 5th July on Seggs Lane in Alcester to enable boundary box installation.

Wixford Bridge Update:

In addition to reviewing the Stage 3 Safety Audit of the Wixford Bridge pedestrian scheme and conducting additional site visits, some with local residents, the Council intends to amend the scheme.

The scheme's object was to highlight the presence of pedestrians who use the bridge to cross the river at this point. They intend to maintain the signs and pedestrian markings on the road to indicate this, but will remove the solid white line marking so that vehicles have the full width of the bridge to negotiate traffic and pedestrians.

The order for the works will be placed soon, but making the change will require specialist line marking removal equipment, for which they do not currently have a program. It is hoped the line marking will be removed before the summer months.

Councillor Grant Fund launches 20th May:

The Warwickshire County Council Councillors’ Grant Fund is a revenue grant aimed at community and voluntary organisations. The Fund provides each of the County’s 57 Councillors with a pot of £8000 to support small-scale projects within their division that support the following outcomes:

All applications should aim to build community capacity and improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Warwickshire.

* Improve community assets and their sustainability
* Improve access to services
* Improve financial capability
* Reduce loneliness and social isolation
* Improve physical and/or mental health and wellbeing
* Promote equalities and inclusivity
* Improve the local area to support the ambition of becoming a Net Zero county by 2050

Details will be provided from 20th May.

Moorefield Site in Alcester:

There has been some speculation about the site and what is being done with it. Piers has organised a meeting with the commissioning manager and his manager to discuss the options and what is being considered. An update will be provided following this meeting. Please be assured that it is not earmarked for a supermarket, and no proposal has been made to the County.

Photography Competition:

The Warwickshire Country Parks Photography Competition, an opportunity for photographers at all levels to show off their favourite shots, is now open and will run until Friday, September 6th.

Participants are invited to submit their best pictures capturing the theme of ‘Nature through the seasons’. Images must have been taken at one of our ten country parks, greenways and nature reserves in the past three years.

Up for grabs is the opportunity to feature in the new Warwickshire Country Parks Calendar! Twelve winning photos will be picked to represent each month of the year, with one overall winner to also

feature on the front cover. All winners will receive a copy of the calendar, and the overall winner will be offered a special tailored VIP park experience with their close family or loved ones.

To submit your entry, please email your photo to parksphotography@warwickshire.gov.uk and complete the participant consent form (https://forms.office.com/e/2jpzhkSbbY). A parent or guardian must sign this for participants who are under 18.

Speed Watch:

Again if Parishes would like to start Speed Watch activities again there is a WhatsApp group that Piers has and would be delighted to add any volunteers to run sessions within the various authorised sites around the villages and town. If you would like to get involved please email piersdaniell@warwickshire.gov.uk

Don’t forget to report highway issues:

Warwickshire County Council is urging residents to report any Highways faults that they encounter while driving or walking in the county via its website. This includes flooding issues such as blocked drains.

Highways faults that can be reported online include:

* Potholes;
* Street light problems;
* Rights of way problems;
* Faulty traffic lights; and
* Roadwork problems
* Blocked drains

By reporting these issues, residents can help ensure that Warwickshire’s roads, footpaths, rights of way and cycleways remain safe and well-maintained for everyone. This encouragement comes as Warwickshire moves into periods of warmer weather which allow for more remedial road improvements, particularly the repair of potholes, to take place. Also it has a further £2.87M of funding from Government to spend.

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