**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2025 – NO. 136**

1. **Present:** Cllr Ray, Chairman**,** Cllr Shilvock, Cllr. Mahon,Cllr Boyes,

Cllr Nurser-Stephens, Cllr Hession and six members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Stewart who was out of the country - approved,

 Cllr. McMillan and Cllr Boyes absent.

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

No written requests received.

Cllr Mahon declared a non-pecuniary interest in land submitted for potential inclusion in the SWLP consultation.

Cllr Shilvock also declared a non-pecuniary interest in this subject but realised this may change as the plan progresses.

**4. To approve for signature the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th November 2024.**

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

**5. Public participation:**

The members of the public were all attending to express their concerns regarding item 11 on the agenda, the SWLP consultation and with agreement the Chairman brought that item forward.

Cllr Ray advised the he and the Chair of Bearley had communicated and our councillors had been asked to provide and circulate their individual views within the council. Cllr Ray and the Clerk attended the Bearley PC public meeting and the officers offered to assist us when we hold a public meeting.

A considerable discussion took place and many suggestions were put forward. Mrs. Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Simmons and Mr. & Mrs Vinning kindly offered to assist in any way possible. Initially to deliver flyers to every household once a meeting date has been arranged. Cllr. Hession offered to prepare a leaflet similar to the one Bearley PC created and the Clerk was asked to make printing arrangements. Details to be placed on the PC website, the PC Facebook page noticeboards and Cllr Hession suggested creating a Whats App Group would provide more communication. The Chairman thanked the residents for attending and their offers of assistance which were gratefully accepted.

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

 There was no District Councillor report available

 The latest County Councillor report for 15.01.25 is

 attached on page 4.

**7. Correspondence:**

 All correspondence received and circulated electronically is taken as read.

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

Anticipated draft figures for expenditure in 2025/2026 were provided to Cllrs for consideration prior to the meeting. After some discussion Cllr Hession proposed a 5% increase for this coming year be requested, a figure of £46,038.00. Seconded by by Cllr Ray and agreed by all Cllrs. present at the meeting.

**10. Barn construction at New House Farm Pathlow update:**

 The decision from the Planning Enforcement Officer is that

the development is permitted development under Part 6, Class A of the GPDO. This means that a breach of planning control has not occurred. The Officer will be closing the enforcement case on this basis.

**11. South Warwickshire Local Plan Consultation:**

Confirmation received from SWLP, SDC that the Preferred Options consultation is now live and the deadline for responses is 7th March 2025.

**12.** **Pathlow Park Traveller Site:**

 No response has been received from our District and County Councillors as to whether cameras had been installed at the entrance to the site to identify who is tipping the rubbish there again. The Clerk also asked if they could possibly pursue having the rubbish cleared away yet again.

**13. Subsidence adjacent to the railway bridge:**

 Cllr Nurser-Stephens is pleased to report that Network Rail

 has now installed a section of fencing/a barrier along the verge adjacent to the railway bridge for safety purposes.

**14. Community Speedwatch:**

Cllr Hession reported that two new volunteers have now come forward to join the team.

**15. New website domain name and Cllr. email addresses:**

The new domain name and .gov.uk email addresses have now been arranged and will be used going forward.

 **16. Willow Wood Play area:**

No report available.

**17. Mary Arden Inn:**

We are advised the Inn is now open again under new management. No obvious changes have been made yet.

 **18. Councillors reports on items not on the agenda:**

Cllr Hession advised that she is proposing to stand as County Councillor at the May elections.

**19. Items proposed for the agenda for the next meeting:**

Decision on which grant application/s will be successful.

 Traffic by the shop.

**20. Mary Arden’s Farm:**

 Cllr Hession requested the Council’s support in her efforts to get the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to re-open the premises to the public and tourists. It is currently being used as an educational facility for primary schools, with occasional times for members of the public to visit. Councillors were in agreement to support

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

 Annual Parish Assembly followed by ordinary parish council meeting.

No further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

County Cllr report 15.01.25

Drain Cleaning:

With the recent weather and localised flooding it has highlighted a number of drains which are blocked or haven’t been cleared. We produced a report last summer highlighting all the drains that were blocked and needed to be cleared and have consistently chased for these to be cleared. I will continue to chase but please email with details of any particularly bad ones that need attention.

Local Government Reforms:

At a public meeting on Friday 10th January, Izzi Seccombe, leader of Warwickshire County Council took the decision to respond to Government in respect of preparedness to move forward with local government reforms.

Izzie pointed out that it is in the long-term interests of Warwickshire that we are in a position to shape our future and so the country has signalled it is willing to be considered for delivery local government reorganisation and devolution in view of the Government’s ambitious timeframe. Because of this it may be necessary for the Government to postpone the May 2025 County Council elections.

While the Government has set out its ambitions, it is early days and very much business as usual as we continue to deliver for our residents and communities as we always have done. Regardless of whether Warwickshire is in the priority programme for Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, it is clear that the next few years will bring significant change.

Businesses should apply to The King’s Award for Enterprise:

As a business owner that has previously received this award I can highly recommend putting forward an application if your business should be recognised for business, overseas expansion or innovation. You get an opportunity to go to the Palace and meet the King along with use of the logo for five years following your appointment.

To help businesses make the application there is an event on 31st January from 9:30 am at the Advance Propulsion Centre UK in Coventry. Representatives from both the Warwickshire and West Midlands Lieutenancies will deliver an informative talk packed full of useful advice and guidance about what the application process involves, the benefits of the award, and how to submit a strong application.

The Lieutenancies will also be available to answer questions and speak with individuals about how they can support businesses with their applications before and during the official application round which is open from May to September 2025. To book your free place by Friday 24 January, visit: https://forms.office.com/e/dsGtpj1PkQ, or email office@wmlieutenancy.org.

The King's Awards for Enterprise recognise business excellence across four different categories - Innovation, International Trade, Promoting Opportunity and Sustainable Development - with

recipients permitted to fly the King's Awards flag at their main office and use the emblem on their marketing material for five years.

The Warwickshire Lieutenancy team has prepared a locally focused brochure on the benefits of these awards and the appropriate steps that can be followed to apply. The brochure is available online at https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1980322935-2072

For Warwickshire-based companies interested in applying for an award and would like more information, the Warwickshire Lieutenancy can be contacted at lieutenancy@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Road Closures:

Great to see the ‘bump’ in the road between Dunnington and Arrow has been repaired.

There are further road closures for repairs:

Sherwell Drive, Alcester on 20th January for five days to clear blockages

Wixford Road, Exhall on 23rd January for replacement of a manhole cover

St Marys Road, Kinwarton on 28th January for two days to sluice valve and rebuild chamber

Meeting Lane, Alcester on 5th February to renew boundary box

Allimore Lane, Alcester on 3rd February for two days to safely enable works for water pipe renewal

Police Surgeries:

Please see the dates below for the Police Surgeries based at Alcester Police Station Front Counter. You are welcome to pop by and say hello to your local team, raise any questions or concerns you may have.

15th January 1900hrs - 2000hrs

29th January 1900hrs-2000hrs

5th February 1900hrs-2000hrs.

They have shed, window and door alarms available for home security, free for you to take home.

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