**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2024 – NO. 134**

1. **Present:** Cllr Ray, Chairman, Cllr Hession, Cllr Shilvock,

Cllr Nurser-Stephens, Cllr. McMillan, Cllr Stewart and 15 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Mahon work related & approved, Cllr Boyes and County Cllr Daniell.

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

No requests received.

**4. Barn construction at New House Farm, Pathlow:**

Cllr Shilvock declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

Prior to the meeting Matthew Shilvock had provided the Clerk with a photocopy of a prior approval application for the barn submitted in person and stamped by the council front desk.

**5. Public participation:**

The members of the public attending were there to express their many concerns about the rather large barn being constructed at New House Farm in Pathlow as it does not appear to currently have planning permission. Two applications relating to a barn for storing/drying willow to be constructed behind the hedge adjacent to the A3400 had previously been refused. The current construction is being built on land to the rear of the existing properties on this site. Quite some discussion took place and the group were advised to all write to the management heads such as John Careford, Head of Development and David Buckland, Chief Executive. It was agreed the Clerk would also write to these officers on behalf of the parish council to support the residents concerns.

**6. To approve for signature the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th July 2024:**

The minutes, including several additions requested by Cllr Hession, and deletions of items 15 and 16 as not considered applicable, were approved and signed by Cllr Shilvock who was in the Chair for that meeting.

Cllr Shilvock did point out that minutes are not meant to be a precise record of a whole meeting, they should be short and concise and not normally noting comments from individual Cllrs.

**7. County and District Cllr. Reports:**

The County Cllr’s weekly report is appended at the end of the minutes

No District Cllr. Report was available.

**8. Correspondence:**

All correspondence received and circulated electronically is taken as

read.

Correspondence received after the agenda was circulated:

A signed External Audit report has been received.

Cllr. Juned was unable to attend the meeting this evening but hopes to be able to come to attend to the November one.

Details of proposed reforms to the NPPF: The following responses were made: a)Planning proposals are not defined enough to make meaningful comments and b) the Parish Council values Green Belt and wish to see it preserved.

Cllr Shilvock agreed to submit the above responses by the deadline of 24th September.

**9. Status of current Planning Applications:**

The current status of planning applications was circulated to

Cllrs prior to the meeting.

Application No. 24/02357/TREE 1 Swanfold, Wilmcote: reduce heights of Rowan and Holly tree was considered and no objections were raised.

**10.** **Willow Wood Play area:**

As Cllr Boyes was not able to attend the meeting no formal update was available. All the new equipment is now in place and the playground is open.

**11. Community Speedwatch:**

Not a lot of progress has been made with this yet. Cllr Hession had

suggested the purchase of a new speed device like the one demonstrated by Gary Strain, Warwickshire Police Road Safety Officer recently. Cllr Stewart proposed purchasing one, seconded by Cllr Hession and all Cllrs in favour. The Clerk will place an order.

**12. Pathlow Park Traveller Site:**

No progress to date regarding fencing completed and re-planting of a hedge along the boundary of Pathlow Paddocks Farm. No response received to complaint about the rubbish around the entrance drive to the site.

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

We understand Network Rail had some concerns about the embankment subsiding and have carried out some works to alleviate this. However it now appears that the works they have carried out may not have left it safe from the road verge. Cllr Nurser-Stephens is pursuing this matter.

Regarding the building on platform two that has developed a big crack, we understand that some funds for repairs have kindly been provided by Annabel King. There are no safety issues with this.

Cllr Shilvock thanked Cllr Nurser-Stephens for looking into the above matters.

**14. Hedge on boundary of Mary Arden Inn:**

Cllr Hession had received complaints about this hedge encroaching onto the footpath opposite Nos. 1 & 2 Swanfold and asked the Clerk if she could request that it be cut back.

**15. New Domain names and new Cllr and Clerk email addresses:**

Cllr Shilvock proposed that we should ask SDC to set up a new domain name i.e. Wilmcote Parish Council.gov.uk, so that we can take action arranging the new Clerk and Cllr email addresses. All were in agreement.

**16. Clerk Contract of Employment:**

Cllr Shilvock proposed that the contract of employment for clerks be reviewed. The current version is probably out of date and should be compared with a current version for future reference.

Cllr Hession and the Chairman agreed to carry out a review and all Cllrs were in agreement.

**13. Councillors reports and items for the agenda for the next meeting:**

Party in the Park

Update on embankment by railway bridge

Progress on new domain name etc.

Community Speedwatch update

Barn construction New House Farm update

Roundabout in playground – quote for repairs

Heads of Terms re new playground Lease

**14. Date of next meeting:** 20th November 2024.

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

County Councillor report

Weekly Update Warwickshire County Council  
Alcester Division  
Local updates  
Bidford Bridge Update:  
The bridge on the B4085 Honeybourne Rd was damaged in August when a car collided with the inner  
walls and became wedged, damaging the parapet and cutwater and compromising the structure. A  
final date for completion of work has been estimated as being the end of November, subject to  
weather and river levels, in line with the early estimates after the incident.  
The road is currently closed to vehicular crossings while engineers carry out the significant ‘behind  
the scenes’ work that, while unseen, is essential to the repair process. This includes instruction of  
specialist stonemasons, sourcing appropriate materials and design of scaffolding and access  
arrangements to carry out the work.  
The bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and applications for consent to the repair work have  
been made to Historic England and the Avon Navigation Trust, with the application to ANT still  
pending.  
To accommodate the diverted traffic, temporary traffic lights were put on Binton Bridge in Welford-  
on-Avon to control traffic making its way from the Evesham Rd. Remaining ongoing repairs to that  
bridge, and resurfacing of the road, have been suspended for the duration of the works to repair  
Bidford Bridge and Honeybourne Rd (B4805) can be reopened.  
Disruption will also be minimised with additional necessary maintenance to the bridge being carried  
out at the same time as the forthcoming repair. However, National Grid is starting works on Barton  
Road to install a new underground electricity cable associated with the adjacent housing  
development. Works will start on 23rd September under temporary traffic lights for one week,  
followed by a two week closure of Barton Road starting 30th September with a fresh diversion route  
to be put in place.  
Parking Scam – Be aware:  
Warwickshire County Council is warning drivers of a scam in which motorists are falsely being  
targeted via email with Penalty Charge Notices for parking offences.  
Warwickshire County Council does not send text messages regarding payment of Penalty Charge  
Notices (PCNs). PCNs are issued by affixing the notice to the vehicle's windscreen unless a Civil  
Enforcement Officer is prevented from issuing it, in which case the notice is sent by post.  
When a notice is issued, the council does not know whose vehicle it is.  
If the charge remains unpaid (or has not been successfully challenged) after 28 days following its  
issue, the council obtains details (name and address) of the registered keeper from the DVLA. Then  
a Notice to Owner is sent by post.  
The Council does not know the vehicle owner’s phone number or email address, unless they later  
contact us and provide such information.

When a PCN has been issued by Warwickshire County Council, the way to pay online is  
at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parking (as well by post or telephone), and this information is provided  
printed on the Notice or in the Notice sent by post.  
Road Closure:  
Please be aware Pelham Lane in Great Alne near to Haselor will be closed on 3rd October and will  
probably be closed until 16th October to lay a duct. It is quite a significant diversion:  
Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service – Community Risk Management Plan:  
You will be interested to note that next Tuesday 24th Full Council will be meeting to discuss the  
updated Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Community Risk Management Plan. This review came out of  
the consulation in regards to the plan to review how and where Fire resources are placed across the  
county.  
The review sought to address four main challenges –  
Challenge 1 - WFRS has more fire engines available at night than in the day even though activity  
(Prevention, Protection and Response) is highest during the day.  
Challenge 2 - On-Call availability, in its current form, is declining locally and nationally raising  
challenges around sustainability.  
Challenge 3 - Response time targets are not being achieved.  
Challenge 4 - The Day Crewed Plus (DCP) shift system is not considered by the representative bodies  
to be compatible with the Grey Book (firefighters’ terms and conditions of employment) and a  
similar system has been subject to legal challenge nationally.  
The outcomes of the comprehensive review informed proposals for a new operating model for WFRS  
aimed at addressing the four challenges above, ensuring that our resource provision is aligned most

effectively to the risks and demands in all parts of Warwickshire and ensuring that the delivery of  
WFRS’ statutory duties are carried out in an effective and sustainable way.  
To review the proposal further please look the report pack for the upcoming meeting:  
https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=275&MId=3859&Ver=4

Unfortunately, the visit by Highways of Wixford bridge was delayed and hence the delay in sending out this update. The feedback we received from the Highways team is they spent time observing the traffic flow and drove the bridge a number of time themselves. They have organised for a Stage 3 Safety Audit (post construction) to be undertaken. Once they have the stage 3 complete they will respond to this in a formal document which will form the final appraisal of the site.

However, in the interim, they observed that the site was functioning well. Most traffic speeds seem reasonable for the 30 mph limit and as a result the priority give way system seems to operate well. They did note that that much of the traffic approaching from the west (which has to give way) slows as they come down the hill on the approach to the Give Way line, where visibility is better as they come down the hill. Therefore, the drivers decision to move forward over the bridge or give way is made at a point before the marked give way line. So they are considering it may be preferable to move the give way line back a few metres. However they will await the full safety audit to confirm.

RAAC in Warwickshire:

WCC maintained schools: of these, one school has been impacted - Outwoods Primary School in Atherstone. WWC invested £170k of WCC capital over the summer in mitigations and had agreed these with DfE but unfortunately, their advice changed this week, requiring parts of the school to be closed. Through close collaboration between the school and our teams, we have accelerated the additional mitigations required by DfE so that the school will reopen fully on Monday with some temporary mitigations. WWC have a confirmed position on the rest of the maintained school estate with no other schools affected.

Academy schools in the County: Myton and Aylesford Schools in Warwick have been affected. Other academies may be identified through ongoing DfE surveys, but WWC cannot advise on the progress of these as they are not overseen by WCC. Both academies have longer mitigation periods. WWC are offering all help and support to the schools, including potential temporary solutions.

Fire Service: in line with a Home Office request for information by Monday about RAAC in fire stations, surveys have been completed on all stations. Four stations (Leamington HQ, Fenny Compton, Rugby and Shipston) require more in-depth testing following the survey and laboratory results will be available early next week which will determine whether mitigations are required.

WCC Buildings and Estate: WWC monitor the condition of their estate through building condition surveys on a five-year cycle which informs mitigations and prioritisation of our maintenance activity. This includes monitoring of known RAAC systems in place. Officers are conducting an initial filtering exercise to rule out buildings and prioritise those requiring further and more intensive inspection/surveys. This is likely to drive a programme of prioritised survey work which could take several weeks. WWC will prioritise public facing buildings (e.g. libraries/museums) and those most heavily used by our staff.

Burton Farm Recycling Centre Closed:

Burton Farm Recycling Centre is now reopen for booked appointments after being forced to close last week. The damage to the bridge was not as severe as first thought and the work has now been completed and approved.

Helping pay utility bills:

The objective of the Government’s Household Support Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs, specifically food, energy and water bills. In recognition that an unexpected increase in costs can create real challenges for our residents who are experiencing financial hardship, another county wide utilities voucher campaign will launch in September 2023.

Short-term financial assistance in the form of a one-off voucher payment will be available to help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills. This will supplement ongoing emergency support from the Local Welfare Scheme for residents in financial crisis.

Families and households in Warwickshire can apply whether they use pre-payment meters, pay by direct debit or on receipt of a bill. Residents are invited to contact the Local Welfare Scheme team for a confidential discussion about their situation. All applications for the payment must be made between 6th and 22nd September 2023.

Vulnerable residents in Warwickshire who are struggling financially can apply for support by contacting the Local Welfare Scheme directly on 0800 4081448 or 01926 359182. For further information please visit: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme https://www.costoflivingwarwickshire.co.uk/

The utilities campaign will be advertised via corporate social media channels already and you may also wish to do so via your own platforms.

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.

Highways faults that can be reported online include:

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

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.

effectively to the risks and demands in all parts of Warwickshire and ensuring that the delivery of  
WFRS’ statutory duties are carried out in an effective and sustainable way.  
To review the proposal further please look the report pack for the upcoming meeting:  
https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=275&MId=3859&Ver=4  
Next young poet:  
The search is on for Warwickshire's tenth Young Poet Laureate, who will succeed May Vaughan in the role for 2024/25. Warwickshire Libraries’ annual Young Poet Laureate competition is open to  
anyone aged between 13 and 17 who lives, and is educated, in Warwickshire and who would like to perform their own poetry to an audience.  
The Laureateship is a unique opportunity for the successful candidate to develop their writing skills  
and take part in events and activities across the county under the mentorship of a professional poet.  
Past Warwickshire Young Poet Laureates have performed on the radio, on film, at festivals and led  
their own poetry workshops.  
Applications are now welcome before the deadline of 6pm on Thursday 3rd October 2024. The judges  
will then get to work and shortlisted candidates will be notified by Thursday 24th October. They will  
then be invited to take part in a selection day which includes a workshop with a professional poet, a  
short individual interview with judges and a performance in front of an audience at a public event.  
This will take place at Rugby Library on Saturday 9th November 2024. Please ensure when applying  
that you are available on this date.  
Applicants need to:  
• Be 13-17 years old.  
• Live and be educated in Warwickshire  
• Fill in the Application Form (available in the weblink below)  
• Submit three poems. One should be inspired by Warwickshire; one should be about or  
inspired by libraries and the third can be of your own choosing.  
• Submit a personal statement and explain in 250 words:  
o Why you want to be Warwickshire Libraries’ Young Poet Laureate  
o How you would promote poetry to a diverse range of people  
To submit an application, or for help with any questions about the application process,  
visit www.warwickshire.gov.uk/youngpoetlaureate or email libraryevents@warwickshire.gov.uk.  
Community Orchards:  
The application window for community orchards and micro woods has been extended until the end  
of 2024. Applications for the 2024/25 planting season are now open. Applications for Community  
Orchards close at the end of 2024, with planting to be completed by March 2025.  
Anyone interested in creating a micro wood should contact Warwickshire County Council’s Natural  
Capital team. General enquiries regarding tree planting initiatives can be directed to the Natural  
Capital team at naturalcapital@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  
Updates:  
Please be aware that we post regular updates to /AmazingAlcester/ – but we are also keen to share  
good news. If you have any stories that you want us to share, please let us know.  
www.facebook.com/amazingalcester/  
www.twitter.com/amazingalcester/  
www.instagram.com/amazingalcester/