

<b>Meeting Type</b>	Ordinary
<b>Date</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Time</b>	19.30
<b>Venue</b>	Ashorne Village Hall
<b>Councillors Present</b>	Stephen Bolton (Vice Chairman), Krys Pietrecki, Roger Wright, Thomas Hiorns.
<b>In Attendance</b>	DC Anne Parry, CC Penny-Anne O'Donnell (arrived 7:44), Locum Clerk Eleanor Choudry
<b>Members of the Public</b>	1

**1) WELCOME and APOLOGIES**

Cllr Bolton wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the Locum Clerk for attending. No apologies had been received.

**2) DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Agenda item 9C - Matthew Bates from Herb and Grow is employed by Cllr Hiorns.

**3) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Cllrs received and agreed the minutes from the ordinary meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 as a true and accurate record.

**Proposed** Cllr Wright

**Seconded** Cllr Pietrecki

**All in Favour**

**4) CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR**

Recently retired resident George Struthers attended to express his interest in becoming a Cllr. Mr Struthers explained that he was brought up in Bristol and attended Cambridge University gaining a degree in Pathology. As a trained physician in rheumatology, he worked across the south-west, London, Birmingham and Coventry. He left as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Territorial Army after eight years. A long-term resident and having attended functions in the parish Mr Struthers feels that he would like to contribute and offer his services by becoming a Parish Councillor.

**Proposed** Cllr Bolton

**Seconded** Cllr Pietrecki

**All in Favour**

**5) PUBLIC FORUM**

None present.

**6) UPDATE FROM WARD MEMBERS**

a) Penny-Ann O'Donnell, County Councillor

Patch Byrnes (WCC Community Officer) is retiring. Jeoffrey Hobday (The new Locality Officer) **for Transport & Highways at WCC.** to come back to discuss the flooding outside the Village Hall. Cllr Bolton has the bins ready for installation. Information for the newsletter is to be sent to Cllr Bolton by 15<sup>th</sup> January. During October to December there were 200,000 Covid cases. Warwick hospital currently has 38 patients with Covid with 89% occupancy for non-Covid patients. Provision in WCC SEN autism is taking priority. Over 4000 children are on the waiting list for up to 2 years. Some of these children will not have autism. The Education Autism Project is to help upskill teaching staff and assess children differently in an attempt to cut the waiting times and encourage inclusion in mainstream schools to reduce the need for alternative provisions. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service are helping to ensure discharged hospital patients arrive home safely. A student from Rugby has created 'Sign Up' which will link alongside any TV program with a person shown doing sign language. Cllr O'Donnell to provide a weekly report on Covid statistics that can be distributed to residents.

Phase 2 of the Cllr Grant Fund is open but has all been spent. Claims need to be received early in the process to be considered.

b) Anne Parry, District Councillor

Council budgets are being agreed and precept requests being received. The 7-day Covid rate for SDC is 1551 cases per 100,000 of the population which has increased within a month by 534 cases. SDC has the lowest rate of cases within Warwickshire, Nuneaton has the highest rate at 2721 cases per 100,000. 80% of the population within SDC have received their booster vaccination. One off grants of up to £6k are available and Cllr Parry will send the details to Cllr Bolton. There have been 555 sites proposed for housing in the South Warwickshire Local Plan. No sites are proposed in Ashorne or Newbold Pacey. A number of sites are proposed in Wellesbourne. Not all of the proposed sites will be acceptable. Appropriate sites will go out for consultation.

c) District Council merger – Cllr Ann Parry

The full council vote approved the merger between WDC and SDC. The process is at the strategic stage and will need to be approved by Michael Gove, Secretary of State. Ward areas are to be redefined with the Boundary Commission. Local elections in 2023 may be deferred until 2024. SDC and WDC have a joint waste contract with waste collections following the 1,2,3 process.

## 7) CORRESPONDENCE

a. **Village Hall Grant towards the cost of the platinum jubilee street party.** The Village Hall Committee are organising a street party in June to celebrate both the platinum jubilee and also the 100 year anniversary of a Village Hall being in Ashorne Village. Cllr Bolton to contact Jim and Chris Thornton, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, to confirm the details.

The celebration in June will involve closing the road through the village and this will increase the insurance premium of the Village Hall by approximately £200. The Parish Council insurance is to be checked whether a road closure would be covered and whether this should be added to the Village Hall Grant.

b. **Elm Farm** – Cllr Bolton to invite the Solar Farm developers to attend the next Parish Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March to deliver a presentation to residents outlining their proposals. The Parish Council could leaflet drop residents to notify them of the presentation.

c. **Email from William Heynes re flooding** – The blocked drain creating a puddle outside of resident Alison Heynes property is in the workflow to be cleared by WCC Highways.

d. **20's Plenty for Warwickshire** – A free presentation is available on 11<sup>th</sup> January. Wellesbourne village now has the request for 20mph in place. Cllr O'Donnell to send details to Cllr Bolton on how to apply for a request for 20mph speed limit through Ashorne Village.

e. **NALC and virtual meetings** – information distributed.

f. **WALC Climate Action Day** – Cllr Bolton and Cllr Struthers will attend on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Hiorns to confirm attendance.

## 8) FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. Cllrs received and approved the Finance Report for November/December 2021 – Cllr Pietrecki apologised for the Finance Pack not yet being completed. An interim pack will be distributed when available.
- b. Cllrs to receive and approve payments that the RFO to progress –  
Cllr Pietrecki noted she had received reimbursement for the website domain and payment for maintenance of the defibrillator. Payment for the Climate Change Action Day to be approved. Payment for McAfee Security on parish laptop to be deferred until a replacement Clerk and RFO has been appointed. The laptop is not currently used. Cllr Pietrecki to confirm Village Hall bookings have been made for Parish council meetings up to May 2023 and make payment. It was noted that £780 had been received from the Cllr Grant Fund for the new door on the phone box in Newbold Pacey.

**Proposed** Cllr Hiorns

**Seconded** Cllr Wright

**All in Favour**

- c. Bank statements for the period have been received.
- d. Due to Clerk/RFO vacancy the Bank Reconciliation for the period is yet to be done.
- e. Audit of accounts – Options to be discussed and agreed at the March meeting.
- f. Set Precept 2022/23 – The precept request has increased by 6.9% for 2022/23 to £7580 from £7090 in 2021/22.

**Proposed** Cllr Bolton

**Seconded** Cllr Wright

**All in Favour**

- g. Lengthsman review of costings – The Lengthsman Scheme was discussed. Cllrs to contact Jim Wilson directly to arrange the notice board and bench treatment instead of using the Lengthsmans Scheme. Cllr Pietrecki is to provide an outturn report to confirm remaining balance.
- h. Website payments and update – Ashorne PC paid the fee for the 'Walks around Wellesbourne website. Wellesbourne Clerk, Linda Scrivens has no record of the agreement for Wellesbourne to pay for the website. Cllr Bolton to send D Cllr Parry details of the payment and she will contact Wellesbourne PC.
- i. Payment for Locum Clerk – The Locum Clerk had received payment for the Novembers meeting and will invoice meetings as they occur.

## 9) AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a. **Village Hall** no update

b. **Church**

i) The Grant Application form has not yet been received from the PCC.

ii) The church war memorial is in need of total refurbishment, the coating has come off the lettering. The memorial is sited in the churchyard. Cllr Wright to chase quote from Pullins and Cliffords. Cllr Wright to contact Michael Pain regarding support for the memorial.

c. **Allotments** Update on Allotments – There is two-thirds of a plot that remains untenanted. One tenant is in arrears. Tenancy agreement letters will be sent out in March. Cllr Hiorns received quotes for FBT agreement from Andrew Goldby, Margetts at a cost of £250 + VAT for a 2-year agreement. Jeff Wilson, Godfrey Payton quoted £120 + VAT for the same agreement. It was agreed that Cllr Hiorns organise the FTB agreement with Godfrey Payton and this is rolled over on an annual basis. Cllr Bolton proposed a small increase to £370 per annum for the upper part of the allotments from 1/4/22.

**Proposed** Cllr Bolton

**Seconded** Cllr Pietrecki

**All in Favour**

- d. **Emergency Plan** Unfortunately the Emergency Plan has not progressed due to the lack of Clerk/Chair. This is ongoing.
- e. **Village Hut News** to include the co-option of Cllr Stuthers.
- f. **Infrastructure including Footpaths and Village Maintenance**
  - i. **Village Hall Flooding** As per 18a, Patch Byrnes is retiring. Jeoffrey Hobday to come back to discuss the flooding outside the Village Hall
  - ii. **Cumbrian Clock Company update** Work agreed in November to be carried out in February.
  - iii. **Bridge repairs update** Ongoing.
  - iv. **Council assets (repairs and replacement) update** Cllr Bolton has two last bins that are awaiting installation by Highways. Neil Redding (retired police officer) has carried out the maintenance checks on the defibrillator. The pads have been replaced and the defibrillator is logged on the national register. Approximately three of the Diamond Jubilee trees may need replacing. Cllr Bolton and Judy Cooper are to check the trees and report back at the March meeting.
  - v. **Tree Charter update** – Cllr Bolton has registered. The PC are entitled to plant trees for the platinum jubilee. Resident William Little has agreed to have the trees planted on his land. (Approximately 70 trees). The trees will need to be planted soon or in autumn.
  - vi. **Work on noticeboards and bench by Lengthsman** Discussed under item 8g.
  - vii. **Platinum Jubilee Committee and activities** Discussed under item 7a.
  - viii. **Laptop collection from Cllr Brazel** The laptop has been collected.
- g. **Welcome Pack Committee**
  - i. New pack is on the website.
  - ii. Details to be updated when a new Chairman is elected.
- h. **Oakley Woods** Judy Coopers report to be added to the Village News and website.
- i. **Planning 'Parish Plan Update'** – No further update.
- j. **Human Resources** Cllr vacancy has been advertised.
- k. **Training** Cllr Bolton and Cllr Struthers will attend on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Hiorns to confirm.

**10) ISSUES RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- a) **Climate change Emergency.** Cllrs agreed to wait until after attending the WALC Climate Action Day to discuss the Climate Change Emergency Declaration and how to involve the community.

**11) RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN** Awaiting applications.

**12) DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 19.30, Ashorne Village Hall. Locum Clerk agreed to attend if new clerk has not been recruited.

**13) CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Cllr Bolton closed the meeting at 21.24.

**14) PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL** Recruitment of Clerk ongoing.

Signed Chairman.....

Date 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022