

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WOLSTON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT WOLSTON LEISURE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THURSDAY 5th AUGUST 2021 AT 7PM**

This meeting was held in accordance with Government Covid Regulations.

PRESENT Cllr T Harvey-Smith (Chair), Cllr G Fewkes (Vice-Chair), Cllr Miss T Ball, Cllr D Cross, Cllr R Grainger, Cllr J Milne, Cllr A Parker, Cllr Mrs M White, Cllr L Wright and Mrs M Meede (Clerk).

Plus: Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner Mr P Seccombe, Borough Councillors Bearne, Poole and Willis, Mrs Malyon (NDP) and 8 members of the public.

After members of the public and Councillors had been given the opportunity to raise any issues, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and the Parish Council meeting commenced at 8.05pm.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The apologies of Cllr Miss S Dobinson for personal reasons were accepted.

The apologies of Cllr Mrs H Timms were noted.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (existence and nature) for items on the Agenda

Cllr Wright declared a personal interest in agenda item 50b. The Chairman advised that Councillors could declare an interest later in the meeting should this become apparent for any agenda item.

48. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

All Councillors had been given the opportunity to review the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st July 2021 prior to this meeting and any changes requested by Councillors prior to the meeting had been seen by all Councillors. Following a brief discussion Cllr Parker proposed approving the minutes which was seconded by Cllr Milne and the motion was passed.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st July 2021, having been approved for adoption by those who had been present at the meeting, be signed by the Chairman.

49. FINANCE

Councillors reviewed and discussed the accounts for payment and considered payments received.

a) To approve accounts for payment in July 2021.

Date Issued	To whom payable	For what purpose	Cheque number	Gross Amount
25/06/2021	S&D Postlewaite	Plants for Millstone Gardens	106181	£122.00
01/07/2021	WALC	Understanding Code of Conduct training x2	106182	£60.00
01/07/2021	Mrs M Meede	Zoom and CCTV screwdrivers	106183	£26.37
01/07/2021	WALC	Understanding Standing Orders training	106184	£30.00
01/07/2021	Rugby Pest Control	Mole Control	106185	£72.00
01/07/2021	Joint Burial Committee	Precept	106186	£3,000.00
06/07/2021	Lakeside	Grass Cutting	106187	£1,440.00
06/07/2021	Moule & Co	Land Agent Professional Fees	106188	£617.76
06/07/2021	Staples (Banner Advantage)	Stationery	106189	£202.91
06/07/2021	WLCC	Room Hire	106190	£30.60
06/07/2021	Mrs C Payne	Signs for Millstone Beds	106191	£23.98
06/07/2021	Community Heartbeat Trust	AED Training	106192	£120.00
15/07/2021	Water Plus Ltd	Pavilion Water Supply	106193	£25.68
15/07/2021	E-ON	Pavilion Electric Supply	106194	£15.62
15/07/2021	Parish Council Employees	Staff Salaries	106195-7	£2,274.52
15/07/2021	WCC Pension Fund	LGPS	106198	£357.39
15/07/2021	HMRC	PAYE	106199	£268.68
15/07/2021	P Bird	Mower Service, Gate Repair	106200	£31.50
20/07/2021	Sovereign Play Services	Play Equipment Repairs	106201	£244.24
20/07/2021	Shell Energy	Phone and Broadband	106202	£29.37
20/07/2021	EON	Streetlight Maintenance	106203	£676.15
20/07/2021	Mr P Owen	Fuel and Wheel Split Pins	106204	£77.15
27/07/2021	Moule & Co	Land Agent Professional Fees	106205	£1,968.12
27/07/2021	Cheque Cancelled	Cheque Cancelled	106206	£0.00
27/07/2021	EON	Streetlights Electric	106207	£1,933.76
				£13,647.80

Following a discussion, Cllr Fewkes proposed approving the accounts for payment, which was seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: The accounts, as listed above, be approved.

Signed.....

b) *To note payments received in July 2021:*

There were no payments received to note.

50. ALLOTMENT LAND

a) To receive an update from the Allotment Working Group (AWG)

Cllr Miss Dobinson had asked the Chairman to give a brief update on her behalf. The Chairman explained that the AWG had been liaising with the Land Agent and Parish Council's Solicitor to pass on the information that had been agreed at the last Parish Council meeting. The Allotments Association have also sought advice from the National Allotment and Gardening Association in relation to the lease. The lease is still being worked on but is still in its draft stages.

Cllr Wright raised queries about the ownership of the new sheds/greenhouses etc on site, including rent and who would be responsible for covering the cost of damage. Cllr Grainger advised that these details could be confirmed and he will find out the information on behalf of the AWG, and share the information with the Parish Council.

A discussion took place about correspondence, and the Chairman confirmed that the Chair of the AWG always keeps Councillors up to date at Parish Council meetings in relation to the work they are doing, which always relates to what has been agreed at Parish Council meetings. Any Councillor can speak to a member of the AWG for updates in between Parish Council meetings should they require, and anything relevant or where a decision needs to be made by the Parish Council is always shared.

b) Asset of Community Value

Cllr Wright confirmed that a community group had now been set up, and he advised that the group were seeking support from the Parish Council and drew attention to a report from the 'Wolston Community Action Group', which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, in which the group set out as 'Next Steps: 'Get a commitment from the Parish Council that they will support this approach as they are the community interest group who have sent written request to be treated as a potential bidder for the land.' Cllr Wright then read out some historic emails which confirmed the Parish Council had previously offered support for a potential purchase by a community group. A discussion took place and it was again confirmed that the Parish Council had already given their support to a community group being set up and led by Cllr Wright in April (see minute 235d 2020-21). A question was asked about what the group had been doing over the last three to four months, as the Parish Council had not received any updates or requests for support so far. There was some confusion over what support the group would want from the Parish Council and how they would achieve their aims, but Councillors reiterated that they were still happy to provide support to the group in accordance with the original request. Cllr Miss Ball advised that no financial support would be required from the Parish Council. In terms of who would actually put any bid for the land forward, a discussion took place (which included the legal advice that had been received from RBC), and it was noted that the Allotments Association were an eligible group who were already formed and perfectly placed to make any bid. A further discussion also took place about the advice and guidance received which indicated that the Parish Council would not be best placed to make any bid due to certain regulations/guidelines (which were also discussed).

In conclusion, it was confirmed that the previous resolution should not be changed, and the Parish Council will continue to offer any advice, support or guidance as required to the new community group with regard to the potential purchase of the allotment site.

51. PLANNING

All Councillors were given the opportunity to review the applications prior to the Parish Council meeting.

a) *R21/0638 – Retrospective advertisement consent for a stand alone sign at Dunsmore Kennel and Cattery, 248 London Road, Stretton-On-Dunsmore. CV23 9HX*

b) *R21/0639 – Erection of new automated gates and widened access/egress to driveway at Dunsmore Kennel and Cattery, 248 London Road, Stretton-On-Dunsmore. CV23 9HX.*

Councillors had no queries or concerns in relation to these applications, and noted that the decisions on these applications had now already been made by RBC.

c) *R18/1086 – Demolition of existing buildings and outline planning permission at Coventry Stadium, Rugby Road, Coventry. CV8 3GJ*

Although Councillors appreciated this application is not within the Parish of Wolston, they recognised the impact it may have on Wolston. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact RBC to

raise concerns about noise, but that individual Councillors would write directly to the Planning Officer with any concerns or queries they have.

RESOLVED: For Councillors to write to the Planning Officer direct with their concerns and queries, for the Clerk to raise concerns around noise.

- a) *RBC/15CM007 – Variation of condition 4 (Hours of working) at Ling Hall Quarry, Coalpit Lane, Lawford Heath. CV23 9HH*

Councillors briefly discussed the application and raised no concerns about the application.

RESOLVED: No concerns were raised about this application.

52. REPLACEMENT OF SLIDE IN DYERS LANE PLAY AREA

A discussion took place about the need to replace the damaged slide in Dyers Lane play area, this including reviewing quotes for slides of different materials, and the location of the slide.

Following the discussion the Chairman proposed ordering a replacement slide from Sovereign Play, which was seconded by Cllr Cross and agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that the Clerk will ask Sovereign Play if the slide could possibly be repositioned so it is not in direct sunlight, and to highlight the issue of water ponding at the bottom of the previous slide.

RESOLVED: For a new slide to be ordered from Sovereign Play as per their quote. For Sovereign Play to be asked if it would be possible to reposition the slide so it is not in direct sunlight, and also position it so water does not pool. (Councillors appreciated that it may not be possible for these requests to be met).

53. PROGRESS REPORT

It was confirmed that WCC are aware of the damaged bridge by the War Memorial.

Cllr Grainger advised that the Community Speed Watch speed camera has been booked in for recalibration.

The Clerk agreed to contact WCC about the potholes on the Church Lane, and also to check the barrier by the cattlegrid where the gate closes

54. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that Lakeside have been asked to look at the weeds and vegetation growing between the two fences on Dyers Lane play area.

55. DELEGATES REPORTS

- a) Parish Council Newsletter – Cllr Miss Ball advised this is ongoing.
- b) Community Speed Watch (CSW) – Cllr Fewkes, Grainger and Cllr Parker had recently attended a re-training session with the Police. The CSW speed camera is owned jointly with Brandon and Bretford Parish Council, and the teams work together (all CSW teams need a minimum of 6 people). Cllr Milne and Cllr Miss Ball agreed to join the CSW.

There are still some ongoing queries and questions the CSW have with the police, including speed monitoring and locations, and they are hoping to arrange a meeting in the near future

- c) Road Safety – Cllr Miss Ball advised that the some members of the Road Safety group had spoken to residents at the recent Garden Walkabout, and were collating opinions and suggestions. Any Councillors who have any views on the matter were asked to get their responses to Cllr Miss Ball.

A discussion took place about the speed limit in Wolston, and Councillors generally supported having 20mph zones, although it was recognised that other issues would also need looking into (such as emissions and air quality) as reports have indicated that a reduction in speed can cause environmental issues. Councillors have in the past raised concern about air quality in Wolston, however, in principle Councillors support the idea.

56. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Parish Council was invited to Resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the public interest would not be served in disclosing that information.

Reason for Exclusion – The exclusion is on the grounds that items of business to be discussed are likely to include discussions about items of a commercially sensitive nature.

RESOLVED: For members of the public still present to leave the meeting for the next agenda item.

57. STREETLIGHTS

Cllr Grainger advised that the Parish Council had been successful in their application for a £12,000 'Green Shoots' grant towards the streetlight replacements, which was in addition to the £32,670 5 year interest free loan that has been granted. The Parish Council are still awaiting 'Approval to Borrow' from the Public Works Loan Board for this loan.

Cllr Grainger advised that he, Cllr Cross and the Clerk had initially reviewed all six bids which had been received for the streetlight replacement scheme. Cllr Grainger and Cllr Cross then looked at the bids in greater depth, where some follow up questions were asked where necessary.

All Councillors had been given the opportunity to see information about each bidder and a comparison matrix prior to the meeting, and ask questions if required. Each bid was given a number so during discussions commercial sensitivity could be managed.

A discussion took place about the bids received and Cllr Grainger then proposed that contractor '6' be advised they are the preferred bidder. It was explained that although the successful bidder could be advised they are the preferred choice, the contract cannot be awarded until approval for the loan had been received from the Public Works Loan Board. The unsuccessful bidders can be advised they were not successful at this time.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Cross and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: For the successful contractor to be advised they are the preferred bidder (but the Parish Council is unable to formally award the contract until the loan is approved) and to inform the other contractors they were not successful at this time.

58. PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS (Information for sharing)

Councillors discussed items for uploading to the village website, the Parish Council Facebook page and for inclusion in the Avon Grapevine. Councillors are reminded they can submit articles/information at any time, and do not need to wait for Parish Council meetings.

- Road Safety Consultation
- Fly Tipping
- RBC Consultation 'access to information' grant

59. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councillors were reminded that guidance had been given to only include urgent items on the agenda for the next few months, when meeting face-to-face. Due to this, some agenda items mentioned may not be discussed for a couple of months. A discussion took place about the order of agenda items, and it was agreed that the Clerk and Chair will meet to discuss what they feel is best.

- Working Groups and Committees
- Standing Orders
- Christmas Light Switch on
- Recognition of Chelsie Giles

60. DATE OF NEXT MEETING/S

The Chairman confirmed that the next Parish Council meeting is due to take place on Thursday 2nd September 2021 at 7.00pm at Wolston Leisure and Community Centre

As there were no further items on the Agenda the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:

**Notes on the Public Forum and Parish Matters held during the
Parish Council Meeting on 5th August 2021.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Mr Seccombe to talk.

Talk from Mr P Seccombe, Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Mr Seccombe introduced himself, and the fact he had now been the PCC for 5 years after being re-elected in May, and he will be in post for a further 3 years until the next elections take place. He explained his role is to listen to residents about their crime-related concerns, and this includes speeding. He is the 'voice of the people and community' and has a mandate to hold Warwickshire Police to account. Mr Seccombe stressed he has no operational control and therefore no authority in relation to operational decisions, but his is a 'job of influence' – which includes control over the budget and precept setting. He explained its costs £125 million to run Warwickshire Police annually, half of which comes from the Government, and the rest from Council Tax.

Signed.....

As PCC, he works with partner agencies which include Councils, the NHS, Mental Health Services and sectors and services (both in the public and private sector). This includes a statutory role in relation to safeguarding in conjunction with WCC.

Mr Seccombe advised that part of his current plan is to put victims and survivors of crime first, and he urged people always to report crimes and incidents so that the Police get the full picture relating to crime in the area. He recognised it can be frustrating and people think nothing is being done with the information they supply, but he gave assurances that all reports are recorded and are important.

Road safety also forms part of his plan, with £1 million committed to this area, principally on education – to include pedestrians, bicycles and horses as well as vehicles. He aims to get the ‘blue light’ services working together to work on projects proactively, and reported that over an average year there are 35 fatalities and 300 life changing injuries due to incident on the road in Warwickshire.

Mr Seccombe also highlighted the fact there is a total of £2.2 million available in grants for projects relating to reducing crime, victim services and youth services. He was pleased to hear the Parish Council would be looking for a grant for Speed Activated Signs, which he felt were a useful tool if placed in the correct locations, and if drivers are simply advised they are going over the speed limit (rather than the signs that give you actual speed, as this can result in some drivers competing to get the highest speed).

Mr Seccombe then invited Councillors and members of the public to ask him questions. The first questions related to speeding, and bad/inconsiderate parking. He explained that sometimes vehicles parking on a road can help reduce speeding vehicles and this can be a good speed reduction tool, as long as they are parked safely and do not cause an obstruction (especially for emergency vehicles). He recognised that speeding is an issue Nationwide, and the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) may be able to advise on the best speed reduction measures, which could include chicanes. He also acknowledged that some speed reduction techniques such as speed bumps, actually cause more problems for residents and don't always help with the problem.

Borough Cllr Poole mentioned that the SNT had actually been out in Wolston twice in the past week with speed cameras, and Cllr Poole agreed to obtain the data and share it with the Parish Council once known. A discussion took place about the fact drivers would slow down if they saw people with a speed gun and hi-vis jackets, and this is where a Community Speed Watch (CSW) can help – if they have the authority to operate in different parts of the village. Cllr Poole also agreed to ask the SNT to carry out risk assessments in Wolston to see if the CSW could increase the number of locations it can operate.

A discussion then took place about reducing the speed limit, and Mr Seccombe felt that speeding should be seen as Anti-Social-Behaviour and it is against the Law. Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership have 4 pilot schemes with average speed cameras in Warwickshire, and Mr Seccombe explained that managing expectations is one of the hardest parts of his job, as people have to understand that the Police can't be everywhere. Discussions took place about the problems in Wolston, and Councillors along with members of the public stressed their concerns and gave examples of issues they have experienced. Mr Seccombe noted that there had luckily been no serious incidents reported in Wolston over the past few years, and also explained that any ‘near misses’ or minor road incidents will not be recorded, and a local Road Safety group may be better placed to record these issues. It was explained that the priority for speed reduction initiatives would go to roads and areas where there were bigger issues and ongoing serious incidents, and gave advice on how ‘near miss’ incidents should be recorded by a local road safety group (including having a factual report, dates, witness details and photographs where possible). He reiterated that road safety is one of the biggest areas where he has to manage expectations, as although he can appreciate the concerns being raised by Councillors and members of the public about problems in Wolston, with limited resources there has to be some sort of prioritisation.

A discussion then took place about the possibility of having 20mph zones/roads within Wolston, and Mr Seccombe confirmed that if the Parish Council could evidence that the majority of residents would like a reduced speed limit, he will offer his support. He suggested a consultation with residents be carried out by the local Road Safety group, with ideas about where any 20mph zones would be.

Lorries travelling through the village was raised as a concern, and Mr Seccombe advised that private vehicles, including lorries, have the right to use a public highway unless there are restrictions in place specifying they should (which could include weak roads or low bridges) and he wasn't aware of any such restrictions in Wolston. However, any speed reduction initiatives would also apply to lorries within the village.

Mr Seccombe concluded by advising that Warwickshire Police have established an online reporting facility which also allows residents to record their current concerns. He thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to

the meeting, and explained that he will always listen to concerns, and he understands all the issues raised during the meeting. He promised to always respond in a realistic and constructive way.

The Chairman thanked Mr Seccombe for attending the meeting and for his time, and said he had found the session informative and helpful.

Mr Seccombe left the meeting at this point, at 7.45pm

The Chairman then asked if there were any representations from anyone else present at the meeting.

Mrs Malyon provided an update from the NDP Working Group. She advised that progress is ongoing and most updates have now been completed following the 'health checks'. She suggested that when the plan goes back to Avon Planning Services once the updates are complete, the plan could come to Parish Councillors at the same time for comment. The plan would then go to the designer to look at final artwork, and the completed document will have a final viewing by the Parish Council, before being sent back to RBC. All Councillors were happy with these suggestions.

Borough Cllr Poole reported on fly tipping, and mentioned that the cost to the Borough Council is £57 per man to uplift any fly tipping, which equated to £57,000 of tax payers money last year. RBC are looking at initiatives to stop fly tipping, and welcome any support from the Parish Council and residents in reporting anything suspicious. Members of the public can report suspicions or incidents direct to RBC using their app or on their website.

Borough Cllr Poole then advised that the Police are holding a session at the allotments on Saturday 14th August at 10am-1pm to mark tools and gardening equipment – this is open to any resident of Wolston.

Borough Cllr Willis reported that there is a shortage of refuse staff at RBC which may cause delays with bin collections, but they are trying to keep on top of their schedule.

Borough Cllr Bearne advised that the RBC consultation on 'access to information' is open, and relates to how they share information with residents. He also mentioned that the Community and Rural Development grants application is on the RBC website.

Cllr Wright asked if the Environment Agency would be able to speak to the Wilcox Trust or their tenants about clearing the vegetation in the brook through the Church Field. Residents had raised concerns about any flood risk due to the amount of vegetation in this area of the brook.

As there were no further comments or questions, the Chairman declared the public forum part of the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Note: Borough Councillors Bearne, Poole and Willis and Mrs Malyon gave apologies and left the meeting at this point.