

Shotteswell Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th July 2021 at 7.38pm at Valley Farm Equestrian Centre, Shotteswell.

Present were: Cllrs Faulkner (Chair), J Burgess, V Ingram (Clerk), M Pearson, B Zammett, C Mills (WCC)

Apologies: None

Members of the Public: 9

(Cllr Feilding (SDC) joined the meeting at 7.41)
(1 Further member of the public joined the meeting at 7.52)

Declaration of Interest: None.

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Burgess and Seconded by Cllr Faulkner
Cllr Zammett asked about the reply to the FOI request, the information had been posted to the web site.

(Cllr Feilding joined the meeting)

Matters Arising

Highways and trees:

A considerable amount of time has been spent on trying to get the various works around the village flagged and rectified. These include First Turn, the sign is to be removed on the entrance to the village and a large patch for repair by New Road. Snuff Lane Posts have been ordered for installation. The road has been put forward as a resurfacing scheme and has been measured up in readiness Bury Court Lane Potholes will be filled to keep the road in a safe condition and it has been put forward for a structural patch up to the end of the lane. Chapel Lane. Potholes have been issued for repair. Church Lane This has been put forward for a large structural patch, to be assessed by engineers. This will either be repaired or resurfaced. Potholes will be rectified. Second Turn Grips have been marked up for digging and jetting has been raised. The areas outside of Redlands farm will be filled with stone and tarmac where necessary. White lines will be repainted at the junctions. There are still several items outstanding that the Clerk intends to pursue when time allows.

Trees, hedge in the playing field had been inspected as yet nothing definite sorted. Bonfire could not be lit owing to the risk of fire spreading.

Parking at junctions, on bends and on the grass verges has led to a number of complaints again since the last meeting. Cllr Burgess stated that if people have issues with unsuitable parking to let the council know the location and registration numbers. Some people are parking very inconsiderately and in some cases dangerously on bends and junctions, causing problems with visibility in particular with oncoming traffic.

Cllr Zammett said that people were free to use the village hall car park when not in use.

A water bowser had been coming to the village to take out water from the fire hydrants causing damage to the verges and introducing water onto the road. This street cleaner had come from the new housing estate in Banbury. It took quite a bit of effort to stop this but the Clerk had finally managed to succeed.

Some complaints had been received after the verges were cut back by SDC and a plea to leave for the wildlife had been made. Clerk has written to see what the policy is over the cutting as OCC appear to be leaving theirs. It was felt that at junctions to ensure visibility was adequate that vegetation needed to be cut back and a strip alongside the road to allow people to step off the road on to the verge. Long grass does appear to slow traffic down but must be managed so that it doesn't flop into the road.

The well door in Snuff Lane has been replaced and a new padlock to secure it has been sourced, a few geraniums had also been planted to brighten up the feature. The replacement tubs had been put in situ and planted up for the summer. Thanks to Cllr Faulkner for bringing them up after storage at his home and disposing of the old ones, not a particularly nice job as one tub was alive with ants.

The bus shelter has been swept and cleaned out and some of the ivy encroaching on the roof removed.

Unfortunately, the notice board glass had been smashed in not too dissimilar manner to that of Mollington's noticeboard. This has been replaced.

New Road: This is about to be signed off by senior management. The land is already insured by the parish council and it is to be retained for amenity purposes. It appears that the contractors had been told to cease cutting last year and have not billed Orbit, so it appears they aren't sure as to why they have still been coming either. Orbit tenants will be receiving a refund backdated to June 2020. The mowing rota will be monitored to see how well it is working for this year but all arisings if not mulched will need to be disposed of correctly. A letter to this effect has been circulated to all residents of New Road to let them know what has happened and is planned. An offer of a green bin had been made, but it was decided to see if mulching would work as this would be preferable. Cllr Zammett reported that he had spoken to a resident about the incorrect disposal of grass cuttings.

Electricity undergrounding in Snuff Lane & top part of Middle Lane. The Clerk had spent some considerable time negotiating with Western Power about this project and as a result, has obtained consents from all households concerned with the scheme. The Clerk is due to meet the contractor on Thursday. (Member of the public arrived)

The Clerk has reported a number of trees interfering with the electrical network, the Clerk accompanied the representative to highlight the trees and discuss with the residents affected. These have been logged and will be done in October. There will be an electric interruption on the 4th August for Middle Lane residents, and road closure. The Clerk has notified SDC re the bin collection and the bin men will be let through to empty the bins. Any residents who will not be at home on that day are advised to get a neighbour to check that their fuse has not gone as a result of the power interruption, to avoid freezers defrosting in their absence or house alarms going off.

Playing Field Repairs to the various bits of play equipment had taken place, the back axle had gone on one piece of the exercise equipment waiting to hear if this can be repaired. Signs for litter have been ordered. Painting of treehouse still to be sorted, potentially a work party. Some rotten posts have been reported on the perimeter of the field Cllr's Faulkner and Cllr Pearson to check to see if they can be replaced. The remainder of the field had been cut. The fete had sadly been cancelled due to the continuation of Covid restrictions, it was

hoped that at some point the marquees could be put up to allow them to dry out from being in long term storage.

Dog fouling: Still happening in certain areas. Fly tipping a large amount of what appeared to be industrial type cylinders and some 18 bags of rubbish was dumped on the Mollington Lane and a quantity of tyres in the layby on the B4100. These were reported and actioned promptly by SDC.

South Warwickshire Local Plan. Three Residents and two parish councillors had formed a consensus group to discuss the SWLP. Two parish councillors and two residents had met after reading the 100 page document and gone through the 53 questions; these responses were agreed upon and circulated to the village so that everyone would be aware of the questions and responses. Initially, the group had recommended not sending in a response this time as there will be further opportunities to contribute, but as no sites had been chosen for development the council decided that the response would go in. The consensus group was consulted and agreed with the parish council's view, and Cllr Ingram submitted the responses on behalf of the council. Cllr Burgess had offered to receive any responses by villagers and answer any questions only one had been sent to her and this had been forwarded to SDC. One aspect of the plan centred around electricity capacity, however, the council had already made overtures to the local MP in May prior to any discussion over electrical supply and capacity in light of the greater dependency on electric with EV's coming more to the fore. An assurance that this will be sufficient has been given by the Minister and major investments are planned in this sphere. 8 households within the village have been identified and may struggle to undertake overnight charging for EV's. As a result to try and facilitate and counter this problem the Clerk has consulted with Orbit to see if the garages at New Road could be fitted with an electric supply. This could be achieved as there is the capability of attaching to the network close by, but as yet no view has been given as to whether this can be achieved. This aspect will continue to be on the council's radar. Another item raised a while ago and as a result of the discussion was that electric vehicles are quieter but tyre noise would not necessarily be reduced and as such the council had already written to the Motorways agency and the MP to see if quieter road surfacing could be considered on the M40.

Finance paid since last meeting:

Proposed by Cllr Burgess Seconded by Cllr Pearson

Replacement glass £80	Wicksteed £734.28
Insurance £614.60	Brasenose £400
Well Door £435	Walc £123

Planning Lawful Development Certificate to change PVC windows to wooden.

Councillor reports:

Cllr Fielding, submitted the following:

The last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny, we were updated on the amalgamation of the two districts. Also raised was how the consultation would proceed.

We also received an update on the unification of one Warwickshire Authority. The chief executive pointed out that there are still discussions taking place around the White Paper that the government will be bringing out in the near future. SDC is still hoping that the amalgamation of the two neighbouring districts will take place creating South Warwickshire Council. At a meeting of the newly formed Joint Arrangements Steering Group on 21 June 2021 a report prepared by Chris West FCPFA, formerly Executive Director of Resources at Coventry City Council, was considered. The report was designed to provide financial information to feed into the decision making surrounding the proposed merger of Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils. In particular it outlined areas of potential risk for the two councils. It concluded:

'SDC and WDC are similar councils in many respects. There is a logic in them contemplating merger to achieve economies of scale and better resilience going forward. Nothing has emerged from this exercise to fundamentally challenge that concept. Councils always have their own specific characteristics and a merger of two exactly identical or equal partners is highly unlikely. Each will bring a variety of strengths and some weaknesses to the table.'

With regards the consultation it was suggested that a way forward would be to invite the chairman of all the parish councils for a briefing. They could then report back to their parish council.

The other major issue is that of the revision of SDC wards. The proposal is for an increase from 36 to 41 district councillors. Several of the larger wards will be broken up with a target of approximately 2800 persons in each ward. Red Horse ward is considered to be one of the larger wards on mileage. However, it has been agreed that the ward will stay as it is. This is a requirement of the Boundary Commission.

The other issue but came before Overview and Scrutiny was the price of parking tickets. This affects Councillors in the Stratford Town wards. A great deal of time was spent on this issue.

The other matter that was up for discussion was affordable homes. Because the time taken over the parking issue, we were unable to deal with this, and it was put aside for next time. We will, together, be meeting with the Head of Housing monthly. The Housing Strategy has been sent back for a rewrite to reflect the SDC/WDC relationship, a more aligned - if not yet common - allocations policy. We use Home Choice Plus which is, frankly, not fit for purpose. I am also concerned that we need to be ready to work with WDC on the Housing Company - which they have already set up so making our need to set one up redundant. We are working out how we will make progress.

The other issue of note is that the County Council have given permission for Edgehill quarry to be filled. There are very strict conditions around noise and the type of material that is being used to refill the quarry. The material is to be spoil from building sites. The owners are

allowed to recycle on site. The refill will be partial with some of the land put aside for wildlife and conservation.

Permits are now at around 46,000 which, even allowing for those with two bins, represents around 74% of all properties. North Warwick's percentage is 56%, Nuneaton and Bedworth's is 38% and Rugby's is 53%. We have exceeded expectations and believe we have one of the highest take-ups of permits in the country.

- Fly-tipping

April saw 63 incidents, a significant increase over last year's 47 incidents. May's numbers were 35 incidents, down on last year's 38. Fly-tipping remains a major problem.

Cllr Mills Submitted the following:

County Council supports businesses with £140 million injection to boost local economy Businesses across Warwickshire are set to benefit from a £140m cash injection to boost the county's post pandemic economic recovery.

Warwickshire County Council has agreed the significant new fund to stimulate the local economy, create jobs, support local businesses, and attract investment into the county. Warwickshire's economy has a great track record of growth and excellent fundamentals.

The aim is to distribute £140m over the next five years, offering loans and other financial investments to existing and new businesses to help their long-term recovery and growth.

20 is plenty A motion was put forward at the Full Council Meeting regarding reducing the speed limit in certain areas to 20 mph, this was given cross party support. A working party is to be set up to discuss the practicalities.

Adult Social Care Warwickshire currently provides support to older people. Support for older people accounted for £49.4m. Total forecast expenditure for 2020/21 is estimated at £162m. The primary aim is to 'act as a lever to improve the health of local people.

Protecting Warwickshire's most vulnerable residents Throughout the pandemic the Council has protected and supported our most vulnerable residents and provided meal vouchers to support vulnerable families with an £8.2m investment to protect the elderly and vulnerable residents.

Giving our children the best start in life. A new Warwickshire school with special needs is to be built along with launching a new careers, skills, and apprenticeships initiative.

Building safer communities Investing with the police to make communities safer by adding a £1m funding for voluntary and community sector. Whilst enhancing the Fire Service to support local communities.

Supporting people with dementia The Council supported the Dementia Action Week which took place 17th-23rd May to raise awareness for people living with dementia in their families. In Warwickshire there are approx. 8,000 people who are living with dementia although many

more people are affected by dementia, including those who are caring for people with this disease.

At the Cabinet meeting on Thursday 17 June, Warwickshire County Council agreed to sign-up to the UK100 Net Zero Pledge on carbon emission reduction. UK100 is a network of local government leaders focused on tackling the climate emergency through the promotion of rapid action across a spectrum of climate change mitigation and adaptation work.

Warwickshire County Council has unveiled its fleet of ten new environmentally friendly home-to-school transport buses. The new buses, which cost just under £900K, are all Euro 6 standard for harmful emissions, making them far better for the environment and delivering greater fuel economy than the existing fleet of buses.

These buses will be coming into service over the coming month and will be used for home-to-school transport, adult transport and a range of other transport services provided by Warwickshire County Council.

COVID-19 cases rise across Warwickshire Over the last few weeks COVID-19 cases have been rising across the county with Warwickshire now at 48 cases per 1,000. Whilst this may seem low compared to the previous peak in March 2021, the figures are going up. This is also the picture nationally and regionally with a rise in the Delta variant playing a key role.

The number of reported cases are increasing across the county and although the rise in cases remain relatively low compared to where we have been, if we don't act now, we can expect to see a surge in cases which will lead to hospitalisations and in some instances a higher number of deaths. The five areas with the biggest week-on-week rises are: Tamworth (up from 57.4 to 319.4) Warwick (116.2 to 322.1) North Tyneside (237.1 to 419.4) Carlisle (59.8 to 240.2) Newcastle upon Tyne (264.5 to 442.2)

Warwickshire County Council Parish Champion is Chris Mills