



Barnes raised concern that at the consultation meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 it was claimed that Whitnash Sports and Social Club had 'pulled out' of the proposed Community Hub. This apparently was not the case and wanted to rectify the incorrect statement.

### 150/18 WELCOME MATT WESTERN MP

Mr Matt Western MP attended the Town Council meeting.

Members asked questions with regard to local and national affairs – unfair practices towards town and parishes i.e. park rangers, fencing off traveller encampments, permanent traveller sites to prevent illegal encampments; why do HMO's not pay council tax as they are running a business and making a profit; lack of council / affordable housing; shortage of police in Warwickshire – now paying more for less service; also now have more councillors on Warwick District Council; and cuts to services i.e. NHS and homelessness is a major concern..

Mr Western said he was addressing homelessness and that migrant labour housing is sometimes not fit for purpose. He is also objecting the move of Warwick District Council offices to the top of the town and that the plans Riverside House site will not have any affordable housing. He has asked for the planning application to be called in as it was not feasible to move into the centre of town with no parking facilities.

### 151/18 POLICE REPORT

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

PC Rachel Stevens reported that since the last meeting there were 10 incidents of anti-social behaviour; no burglaries; 1 damage to property; 2 vehicle crimes and no drug reports. Police priorities are:

- Inconsiderate parking – focusing on schools and hotspot areas
- ASB in parks – Minimum of two patrols per week in all parks
- Speeding- minimum of two Speeding Ops per month

Surgeries at the library will now be held on alternate Friday afternoons. Evening surgeries will take place outside the Acre Close shops every second week until August 2018.

Cllr Shepherd mentioned that residents had noticed a reduction in the police presence in Whitnash. Members were concerned that Whitnash was not getting its fair share of policing. This will be discussed with Chief Inspector Faz Chisty.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

### 152/18 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

*In Cllr Heath's absence the announcements were read by Cllr Shepherd.*

I am sorry I cannot be with you tonight. I would like to welcome Matt Weston MP to our meeting and hope he enjoys it. Please make him feel at home and do not give him a hard time!

During the last month I have attended a few civic events. Leamington Mayor's Civic Dinner and Kenilworth Mayor's Civic dinner. Both of which were very nice evenings.

The only meetings I have had at District level were the Small Grants Panel which decided who should receive the remainder of the funds left for 2017/8 year. This is the last meeting as the small grants panel will no longer exist next year.

A Planning meeting held a couple of weeks ago attempted to break the record for late finishes (10.45) but did not

quite make it. The major application was the land at South Heathcote. The application had been reduced following the previous refusal but even so it was again refused as it was 70 houses more than the Local Plan was recommending. I think it will go to appeal and be won in the end.

The other meeting was a regular Trade Union/Employer meeting last week with nothing much to report on except the WDC gender pay gap is only 7% compared with others in the area at 20% and 15%.

The Whitnash Hub project is progressing well and I will leave it to Cllr Mrs Falp to bring you up to speed.

Finally thank you to those who supported my Civic Dinner last Friday.

Have a good meeting and see you soon.

**Tony Heath Mayor**

### 153/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

### 154/18 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

**133/18 WCC Report** – posts on the grass verges in Coppice road have been installed.

**137/18 Heathcote / Franklin Road junction** – white lines have been painted at the roundabout and the island will be raised and possible calming measure implemented where they can.

### 155/18 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

#### *Warwickshire County Council Report:*

Thank you to all Councillors and residents who notify me or the clerk of pot holes and other issues with the Whitnash Roads. Wherever possible they are repaired as quickly as possible but larger schemes have to wait for funding.

I attended and spoke at the Cabinet meeting where school funding was agreed. All our schools are constantly finding funds are in short supply but the demands placed on them grow all the time.

The resources committee I sit on was looking at performance in a number of areas. This covers Property Services, Libraries and Customer Contact, H.R and Fire and Rescue. The discussion was also held on ways of working in the future with West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service that could lead to the forces working together. Warwickshire's force is a small one and they have looked to joining with other forces in the past to help give extra support to the County.

We have now had two meetings as a working group looking at Loneliness and Isolation. Presentations on the Men in Sheds project in Nuneaton and Age Concern gave us information on activities they provide. Members input information on groups they know of in their areas and information on the work the County Council already help deliver was given. Social prescribing by doctor's practices when applied works well but is not universally used. We have more presentations in the next meeting looking at support for younger people. The final meeting in May will look to prepare a report to go to full council.

I am now almost 10 months into my first year. Residents are contacting me on a range of issues. Posts put in or wanting taken out, some for and some against, yellow lines and pot holes, street lighting, Community Forum and Education. I am pleased to have solved some issues, I am working on others and some normally due to financial restraints are not possible.

County email address [judyfalp@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:judyfalp@warwickshire.gov.uk) or [Cllr.falp@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.falp@warwickshire.gov.uk) and phone number 07771339183

**Cllr Judy Falp Warwickshire County Councillor for Whitnash**

#### *Warwick District Council Reports:*

This time of the year we start to look at what we have achieved at meetings over the previous year (May to April) such as what we have scrutinised, what influence have we had on decisions and also what actions have been taken

since those decisions were made. At shadow portfolio meetings I look to see if targets set are being achieved and if not ask why not. Figures are normally produced quarterly. Sometimes you question why some figures are kept while others that seem more important are not. Staffing shortages both through ill health and recruitment difficulties can be the cause of targets not being met. General Staffing issues are looked at in the Personnel Staffing Group meetings and reports then go to the Employment committee where I am the Whitnash Residents Association Representative. Councillor Heath sits on the Members and Trades Union committee where staffing issues are discussed. Employment law is complex and has to be well understood and adhered to and Employees rights protected. Recruitment and retention are important and so is providing opportunities for training and new skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Cutts who is head of the Community Protection team at Warwick District Council. Pete has given us advice on safety and protection on the new Community Hub. He also arranged for Whitnash Councillors and the Clerk to see the work of the CCTV team. Whitnash has always been well informed and well supported when we have asked for Pete's help. We so often go to officers with complaints so it is good to have a working relationship that supports each other and our residents.

While we are looking at issues across the District us three District Councillors for Whitnash are working both in Committees and with one to ones with relevant officers to look after Whitnash's interests and concerns. This is not always easy but negotiation rather than confrontation usually works best.

**Cllr Judy Falp Warwick District Councillor**

Cllr Margrave reported that he attended a Finance and Audit Committee meeting and a training session on fuel poverty.

**Cllr R Margrave, Warwick District Councillor**

### 156/18 COMMUNITY HUB UPDATE

We are now at a very important phase of the Hub Project. It is hoped to submit a planning application to the District Council by the end of March. Our consultants ATI will then reduce the time they support us apart from funding applications after a hand over period. We hope to appoint a person soon who will then take us through the building stages. If planning is determined in the twelve weeks period allowed we will then go out to tender for the building contract. It is hoped that work on the building will then start by September. I must admit to being amazed at the range of professionals that are needed to put up a building!

Residents will have received a notice asking for their support to the Town Council in applying for a Public Works Loan that will cost them an extra £5.01 on their rate. This is to borrow £100,000 at a very low rate of interest over 20 years. Our current hall was built using the same method of borrowing. The end result will provide excellent enhanced facilities for our residents for many years when built.

We are already also starting to look at two other possible phases for the future. Changing rooms and the future of the current Community hall, though are main focus at the moment has to be on getting phase one and the new building

**Cllr Judy Falp, Chairman, Whitnash Community Hub Working Group**

*Cllr Mrs Falp expressed her disappointment that view expressed by Mr Barnes in the Public Forum regarding the involvement of Whitnash Sports and Social Club in the Whitnash Community Hub project. A deadline was set for the grant from Warwick District Council to be used which meant the project couldn't be stalled.*

*Cllrs Cancilla, Margrave and Sparkes declared an interest in this item.*

### 157/18 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS OF MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT FOR 2018 - 2019

Cllr Shepherd was nominated as Mayor Elect for 2018 – 2019 by Cllr Button and the nomination was seconded by Cllr Smart.

All members present voted in favour of the Mayoral nomination.

Cllr Margrave was nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for 2017 – 2018 by Cllr McFadden and this nomination was seconded by Cllr Franklin.

Twelve Members voted in favour and there was one abstention.

#### 158/18 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 was noted.

#### 159/18 CORRESPONDENCE

*There was no correspondence.*

#### 160/18 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

**South Ward:** There was a complaint about school busses leaving their engines running and polluting the air. There is also a large pothole at the bus stop on Heathcote Road near the Plough and Harrow pub.

**East Ward:** Cllr Mrs Falp reported that she originally had two houses in East Whitnash and now there are 112. The roads have not been adopted yet. A tidy up walk is being arranged for a Saturday morning. There are currently 7 names on the waiting list for the allotments on Chesterton Gardens and once the transfer is completed the allotment plots will be allocated.

**North Ward:** There is a bye law sign that has been taken out on Heathcote Road near the junction with Franklin Road. There is also a large pothole at the top of Harrow Road.

**West Ward:** Cllrs Franklin, McFadden and Sage did another comprehensive ward walk and photographed all the defects and put this on a CD which has been given the highway officer at County Highways. They would like to know how many of the previous defects sent through have been sorted.

#### 161/18 REPORT ON PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING:

Cllr Franklin proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Planning Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018 are received.

#### 162/18 WHITNASH TWINNING ASSOCIATION REPORT

The German Twinning visit will take place in August and it is hoped that the French Twinning visit will take place in September or beginning of October 2018.

163/18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 12th April 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

There being no other business the Deputy Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed.

SIGNED..... DATE.....