

Minutes 07/20

Whitnash Town Council

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 13th February 2020

At 7.00 p.m. in

Whitnash Community Hall, Acre Close, Whitnash

PRESENT

Councillors: R Margrave Mayor
 A Barton Deputy
 S Button
 Mrs L Burkinshaw
 G Cancilla
 Mrs J Falp
 B Franklin
 A Heath
 S McFadden
 W Pickett
 T Shepherd
 B Smart
 R Sparkes

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Finance Assistant Kerry Samperi

151/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

152/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the start of the meeting.

153/20 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

154/20 POLICE

Standing orders were suspended to allow the Police (PC Rachel Smith) to present their report.

This month's crime figures are as follows:

ASB – 4 reported – All personally targeted no general ASB.

Burglary – Nothing reported.

Damage – 1 reported. Damage to a gate on Palmer Road.

Drugs – Nothing reported.

Vehicle crime – 6 reported. Two secure vans broken into on Whitmore Road, nothing taken. One vehicle on Ashford Road, a rucksack, clothing and bike tools taken. Two vehicles on Montgomery Road broken into, one was insecure, the other had loose change taken. A vehicle parked secure and unattended on Badgers Retreat had their spare wheel taken.

Overall, we have had 82 incidents reported this month, which is similar to last month's figure.

1. List of possible Community Forum Policing Priorities:
 - a. ASB in Parks- high vis patrols.
 - b. Speeding- Officers to conduct speed checks.
 - c. Intelligence led Drugs Patrols
 - d. School Parking Patrols.
 - e. Protecting Vulnerable People
2. This month Steve and Jess have visited Whitnash Primary School to talk to the reception class about the role of the Police.
3. Also, to note, a resident in Whitnash has fallen victim to a scam in which the scammers led them to believe that they were the Police. The scammers contacted via telephone by a number of different people claiming to be operating as part of a serious fraud investigations squad. They have convinced the victim that they were working undercover for them and got the victim to hand over £11,700 in cash at their home address to a courier described as tall, large build with grey hair and scruffy clothing. The victim was stopped on 7 FEBRUARY 2020 by police at the Leamington Retail Park with £8,500 in their possession, due to hand it over to another courier. The victim continued to remain convinced that they were still working undercover when dealing with officers at the scene.

Members asked if any arrests have been made – no. Was there any news on the mugging at the Co-op at Warwick Gates – Rachel will find out. Cllr Mrs Falp mentioned an Exploitation Event at the Spa Centre on 2nd March 2020. Cllr Mrs Falp forwarded the flyer for this event and Town Clerk emailed details to all Members on 17th February 2020 if they wanted to attend.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

155/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This last month I have attended: Mayor of Stratford's Quiz Night, Solihull Civic Dinner and planted a Cherry Tree today at Cherry Tree Lodge. Coming up: Quiz in support of the mayor's charity, Saturday, 22nd February 2020 at the Whitnash Sports & Social Club. Civic Dinner, 20th March 2020 Golf Club and 12hr Line Dance Marathon in support of the mayor's charity, 21st March at the Whitnash Sports & Social Club.

156/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th January 2020 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

157/20 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

Cllr Barton asked that the name of the Leader of the Council, Cllr A Day, be included in item 134/20.

158/20 OUTSTANDING PROJECTS / ACTIONS / DECISIONS LIST

Cllr Heath asked for the light outside the Community Hall to be added to the outstanding projects list along with the minutes that need to be uploaded onto the website.

Members were forwarded a draft of the Whitnash Community Map leaflet from Cllr Margrave and were asked to comment on the content. Cllr Margrave read out a list of comments received. Cllr Margrave will find out about the funding and it was proposed that the map is deferred until the new Civic Centre and Library is completed.

159/20 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

I have been looking at ways to improve safety around our local schools. I was very pleased after meeting with our local Neighbourhood Police team and Paul Whittaker who is the Fire Chief in charge of Leamington Fire Station to discover that Warwickshire County Council provide Road Safety Education to schools. I was also pleased to be told that all Whitnash Schools will be visited in February and will receive some input from the team. This may be assemblies or working with certain classes or both. I am hoping to attend some of the training, and I know the Police and Fire brigade will support in whatever way they can.

The Warwickshire Road Safety Club is a whole school primary age programme (a similar team provide training for secondary schools), and importantly uses behavioural change techniques, cooperative learning activities, Makaton and a range of engaging resources. The programme has been thoroughly evaluated providing evidence that awareness and behavioural change aims are being achieved. The scheme promotes Stroll a Roll to school, where children use their scooters or bikes to get to school. It also has a leaflet that goes home to parents with a polite request to park away from schools!

My County email address judyfalp@warwickshire.gov.uk or Cllr.falp@warwickshire.gov.uk and phone number 07771339183.

Cllr Judy Falp County Councillor for Whitnash

Warwick District's Climate Emergency Action Programme discussion

Cllr Heath read Warwick District's Climate Emergency Action Programme.

Together, we believe that the time has now come to take practical action to deal with the Climate Emergency. Warwick District Council's Officers and a cross-party group of Councillors have developed a plan 'The Climate Emergency Action Programme' that advocates strong local leadership and significant investment to change our future for the better.

This Plan will enable the Council to be carbon neutral by 2025 and help the district to also be carbon neutral by 2030, plus make necessary local preparations for climate disasters such as flooding. Investment today will help our communities 'face the future' with confidence.

Councillors believe that the fairest way to raise the money locally is through our Council tax. We will therefore be considering at the Council meeting on 26 February, asking residents for an increase of £1 per week (for a Band D property) at a Referendum to be held on 7 May; this would put £3m per year into a 'ring-fenced' Climate Action Fund. Last summer, your Councillors put aside political differences and came together to unanimously declare a Climate Emergency. A far-reaching plan has since been developed to reduce the Council's carbon emissions to zero and lead further climate change efforts across the district.

The Climate Emergency Action Programme is a positive programme that over the next decade will bring social, environmental and economic benefits to all our residents and businesses.

Warwick District Council is well placed to do this work, being strongly rooted in the local community with many of the practical skills and local contacts necessary to lead in implementing this ambitious plan, which will:

1. Create major benefits for local residents, such as reduced congestion and improved air quality; enhanced biodiversity; and more energy efficient homes and public buildings.
2. Partner, advise and encourage businesses and other organisations to take the necessary steps to meet the challenges of climate change.
3. Enable the Council to be carbon-neutral by 2025.

A discussion took place regarding the Climate Change Emergency programme – would residents be charged for green bin disposal, why is VAT charged on solar panels, what about infrastructure for electric busses / vehicles, will gas boilers be replaced in council properties, insulation, air quality, plastic pollution and traffic congestion.

Warwick District Council are committed to the Climate Change Action Plan and would like feedback from residents.

160/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

Cllr Mrs Falp reported that there is enough funding to afford the new Civic Centre and Library. Additional grants will be needed to cover some costs. The contingency is very tight. Warwick District Council has agreed to additional funding that will hopefully be approved at the March 2020 executive meeting. The Quantity Surveyor is checking the specification for the drainage in Osbourne Close and Severn Trent will take ownership of this drain once completed. The Topographical Survey was undertaken today, 13th February 2020.

161/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The income and expenditure report was emailed to Members.

Once construction starts invoices can be submitted every two weeks for grant money. The PWLB funding will be used as 'working' capital. Cllr Mrs Falp thanked Kerry and Jenny for the work on this.

162/20 LEGAL DEEDS AND DOCUMENTS

There were no legal deeds or documents to sign.

163/20 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD

A report was emailed to Members to consider the lending arrangement for the Public Works Loan Board. Members need to decide on the type of loan by interest rate and also the method of repayment as well as when the loan will be applied to expenditure. Repayment cost if the loan is drawn down and not used was calculated so Members are aware of the implications.

The following risks and issues were highlighted, and Cllrs Mrs Falp and Heath responded to the risks and issues:

- Grant Agreement with Warwick District Council has not been signed as at 6th February 2020 – ***the agreement is with the solicitors.***
- Community Infrastructure Levy Agreement with Warwick District Council has not been signed as at 6th February 2020 – ***if additional money is approved by the Executive at Warwick District Council this agreement will need to be amended or an additional agreement drawn up.***
- Planning permission for amendments to original application has not been received by Whitnash Town Council for comment – ***this is a variation to the plan and may need to include drainage details once the additional topographical survey has been completed.***
- The revised drainage plan has yet to be completed – ***the additional topographical survey was carried out on 13th February 2020.***
- The drainage plan will require the agreement of Severn Trent Water – ***there is a solution and an application will be made to Severn Trent.***
- The building contract has been agreed in principle but is still subject to negotiation and cannot be signed until the Grant and Community Infrastructure Levy Agreements have been signed with Warwick District Council.
- The Contractors price is being held until 13th March 2020 - ***Deeley Homes will hold the price.***
- Sport England Grant valid until 31st March 2020 – ***according to officers at Warwick District Council this is not a problem and the funding is available.***

Members proposed that the **Fixed Rate Loan with Equal Instalments of Principal**: equal half-yearly instalments of principal together with interest on the balance outstanding at the time is accepted. Based on information available this will be an initial half yearly instalment of £8277 which reduces by £66 each half year. Actual rates are confirmed when the Loan is drawn down. The total repayment will be £337,750.

<i>Minute number:</i>	163/20
<i>Confirm type of loan:</i>	Fixed Rate Loan with Equal Instalments of Principal
<i>Confirm period of loan:</i>	25 years
<i>Proposer:</i>	Cllr Heath
<i>Seconded:</i>	Cllr Mrs Falp
<i>In favour:</i>	11
<i>Against:</i>	2

Members also needed to agree in advance by when the Town Council expects the loan to be applied to expenditure. (The answer should be expressed in terms of the number of months from the point of application.

<i>Minute number:</i>	163/20
<i>Date when loan will be applied to expenditure:</i>	3 months after the loan is received.
<i>Proposer:</i>	Cllr Barton
<i>Seconded:</i>	Cllr Margrave
<i>All in favour:</i>	All Members present voted in favour
<i>Abstentions:</i>	0

164/20 APPROVE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020 - 2021

The calendar of meetings for June 2020 – May 2021 was amended. The Christmas Lights committee meeting on 4th June 2020 has been changed to 2nd July 2020. All Members approved the amendment and voted in favour. A copy of the Calendar of Meetings will be emailed to all Members.

165/20 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS OF MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT FOR 2020 - 2021

Cllr Barton was nominated as Mayor Elect for 2020 – 2021 by Cllr Heath and the nomination was seconded by Cllr Mrs Falp.
Cllr Franklin was nominated as Deputy Mayor Elect for 2020 – 2021 by Cllr McFadden and this nomination was seconded by Cllr Pickett.
All Members voted in favour of both nominations.

166/20 THURSDAY, 7th MAY 2020

There are two committee meetings on 7th May 2020 – Planning and Finance and General Purposes. There is a bank holiday on Friday 8th May 2020. Members proposed that the date for the meetings is changed to Thursday, 23rd April 2020. All Members voted in favour.

167/20 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

168/20 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 8th January 2020 to 4th February 2020 was noted.

169/20 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: There is a fence down and AC Lloyds have been informed.

North: Nothing to report.

South: The litter on Harbury Playing Fields has been cleared. The drain cover outside 76 Erica Drive has been repaired, but the barriers are still there. Rowley Road litter bin is full. The trees in Landor Road need lopping. Cllr Mrs Falp said Forestry Department were no longer lopping trees. *(Cllr Cancilla declared an interest)*

West: Busses are struggling to turn into Murcott Road East from Heathcote Road as vehicles are parking on the double yellow lines. The Leylandii hedge on the corner of Franklin and Heathcote

Roads that was reported last month has not been trimmed. Warwickshire County Council write to owners and they are given three months to cut the hedge. The pothole in Franklin Road near Whitmore Road has been reported as has the dislodged illuminated bollard in Tachbrook Road.

170/20 REPORT OF COMMUNITY HUB COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Community Hub Committee meeting held on 30th January 2020 are received.

171/20 REPORT OF HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Mrs Falp proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hall and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 23rd January 2020 are received.

172/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 12th March 2020 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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