

**Minutes 11/20**

**WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020  
at 7.00 p.m. in

**This was a remote meeting held at various locations**

**PRESENT**

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

Mayor  
Deputy Mayor

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

**198/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**199/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**200/20 PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

**201/20 POLICE REPORT**

This month's crime figures submitted by PC Rachel Smith are as follows:

**ASB** – 10 reported, 8 of which were people having issues with their neighbours. The other two were calls about people misusing the golf course.

**Burglary** – No residential burglaries this month. Probably due to people being at home. There was the break in at Whitnash Sports and Social club.

**Damage** – 3 reported. The benches at Acre park. Temporary traffic lights on Heathcote Rd and a damaged fence due to a neighbour dispute.

**Drugs** – None reported however on patrols people have said there is dealing in Washbourne Fields

**Vehicle crime** – 2 reported, a car window smashed on Masters Road, nothing taken from the car and a theft of cash and bank cards from a car parked in Hasting Fields.

Overall, we have had 134 incidents reported this month, which is similar to last month. A lot of the calls are people reporting others breaking the COVID-19 Regulations.

We have had reports about the vehicles parking on the double yellows on Murcott Road East. We're displaying signs up on a couple of the properties, with the home owner's permission, so were hoping people will take notice.

If anything is reported to you please get people to ring it in on 101. If that is a problem send us an email.

Stay Alert!

**Steve, Jess and Rachel**

Members mentioned a large gathering of youths down Fieldgate Lane and youths were apparently also dispersed at Acre Close Playing Field for not observing social distancing rules.

## 202/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Margrave joined the remote Annual Meeting and Mayor Making for Leamington Spa and Kenilworth.

## 203/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2020 as circulated were approved. The minutes were not signed as this was a remote meeting. They will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

## 204/20 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

## 205/20 OUTSTANDING PROJECTS / ACTIONS / DECISIONS LIST

There was no update regarding the Community Map.

## 206/20 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

### Warwickshire County Council Report:

Due to the current Covid19 Crisis all meetings and briefing are being held virtually.

There is a briefing every Friday morning and Councillors can send in questions before or during the meeting.

There has also been a number of briefings on teams from the Portfolio holders, two health meetings and I have interviewed on line for the first time.

There will by the time of the Town Council meeting have been a virtual Cabinet meeting

The news from County is that all but three of the smaller Tips in the County will be open from 18<sup>th</sup> May but there will be a on line booking system.

200 schools have remained open for children of essential workers. We have daily updates on Covid19. PPE personnel protective equipment and testing information is given at the weekly briefings. Libraries are shut but Library staffs have been ringing isolated people they have been told of or know of through the house bound service just to chat to them. Monthly deliveries of books to the housebound has continued. The take up of digital books and magazines has increased by a large amount as people cannot get out to get their books. Road works have continued during this time and increased in some places due to less traffic being on the roads. The Fire Service have increased their House to home from Hospital service. They have also been helping in the Shielding Hubs and delivering parcels. I have been contacting the County to finalise the Library Agreement to lease so we can get it signed before the Building Contract. Two issues remain to resolve. Sub meters and an electronic door, with who is going to pay for them being the issue. There is much more happening on Covid19 and what services are running or where you can get help and information can be found on the County Council Web site - [www.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk) Finally, I have been spending a lot of my daily walking hour going around Whitnash. I have noticed that some of our paths need attention and as soon as I can I will arrange for these to be looked at. I also want to spend some of my money for Highway improvements for this year looking at the junction of Heathcote Road and Murcott Road by the Plough Green. Cllr Barton had raised with me the damage to the green and residents had raised concerns re the parking on yellow lines. My 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:**

All meetings at the District are now held on Web-ex or Teams. I have two every Monday. The Executive meet for an hour and then senior officers and group leaders join in for up to two more hours. While part of it is updates on Covid19 the economic recovery is high on the agenda along with the Climate Emergency. We were not allowed to go ahead with the Referendum for now but there is still the emergency to deal with. Most weeks I have given a report to these meetings on how the Shielding Hubs have been doing and sadly number of cases of Covid19 and death rates. Thankfully these have been going down in the last two to three weeks. As of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, since the start of recording the information there have been 1319 cases of Covid19 confirmed in Warwickshire, 268 of these in Warwick District and 99 deaths in Warwick Hospital. We now also get data of deaths in care homes though not what care homes they are. I have agreed a new grant fund Criteria to allow small organisations and things such as food banks to apply for up to £1000 to help them during the crisis. There is up to £250,000 in the fund and details will be realised by 15/05/20.

My Portfolio staff are dealing with what they can with working from home, but going out to do food inspections or taxi fleet inspections or a visit on reports of rats just cannot be done at this time. There has though been a lot of compliance work to make sure reports of shops being open when they should not be or not having the two metre are addressed. Also, many of my staff are working in the Shielding Hubs, making sure food is safe, organising, packing and delivering parcels of food or helping get support for prescription pick up or helping people in other ways such as who to go to for certain needs. Councillor Heath and I had a virtual meeting with the two officers working on the Civic Centre Project and I believe Councillor Heath will update you on the progress.

**Cllr Judy Falp Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash**

Four Months ago, I had never heard of Web-ex, Zoom or Teams and now it's an everyday use for meetings of Warwick District Council

Times have certainly changed. Most of WDC employees are now working from home and those that are not are employed working in the Hub which has been set up to help those vulnerable people over seventy with underlying conditions who cannot get out to the shops and Doctors / Chemists for prescriptions and have no-one who can help them. Judy, with her health and community portfolio hat on has assisted the Environmental Health team with monitoring and reporting this back to the council. The Hub is delivering over 1700 food parcels each week and this is set to continue for another two months.

Also, WDC has been responsible for processing and paying the government's help to businesses that qualify. So far distributing in excess of £25m and still ongoing.

As well as this we are having weekly meetings of the Executive and Group Leaders on Web-ex and regular Planning meetings on Teams.

This I feel will be the way forward in future. With only the full council meeting being held in the Town Hall, at present it has been reduced to 16 members, pro rata to the political make up on Web-ex.

Going forward the government is pushing more ways to travel to work, cycling, walking or by car using car parks which at present are free. We are also in talks with the County Council regarding a sustainable transport system (Judy may wish to elaborate more as Warwickshire County Councillor), which we have asked them to trial first in Leamington before rolling it out to Warwick, Kenilworth and Whitnash.

Obviously, the cost of the present support to individuals and businesses means loss of income on business rates and car parking is having an effect on the District Council's bank balance and we are pressing for more help from central government. The knock-on effect of all this will mean we have evaluated our long-term plans and prioritise them. Some of the Climate Changes we were proposing to make in the near future by the additional £5 per month to the council tax (now on hold) could be part of the government's present plans which will be to make our area more environmentally friendly for us all.

Hopefully, I will be able to report more next month.

**Cllr T Heath Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash**

There was no Warwick District Council report from Cllr Margrave.

### 207/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

The drainage problem we were having has now more or less been resolved. MLM have received Seven Trent's authority to connect to Clarkson Drive and have submitted the drawings to the WCC Flood Team for approval. Having got that WDC Housing Department are notifying the tenants effected to let them know we will be digging up their drive.

MLM have now to send Deeley's the drawings for the drainage for them to give us a final price which should not take long. Once we get that we will be in a place to sign their contract as all the legal documents with the exception of the library are ready.

The Library have questioned who pays for their automatic doors and the sub meter for the electricity. We have told them the doors are their responsibility as they are an extra but the sub meter we will pay for as we will then control the billing.

The hedge at the back of the bowling green will be cut back by the end of May which will clear the way for the construction to begin.

Both Judy and I are confident we will be in a position to agree to sign the contract at the June meeting.

**Cllr Tony Heath, Civic Centre Committee Chairman**

Cllr Heath reported at the meeting that the Warwickshire Flood Risk Management team have no objection to the proposed storm water scheme.

Cllr Mrs Falp is waiting for a reply from the Library regarding issues raised.

### 208/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The Civic Centre and Library income and expenditure report was emailed to Members.

### 209/20 DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

It was proposed that the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making be held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The Clerk will contact the Golf Club to arrange a provisional date for the Civic Dinner in October 2020 subject to lockdown rules being relaxed.

210/20 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

211/20 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 was noted.

212/20 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

**East:** A discussion took place about the planned new housing development in East Whitnash with regard to the Holy Well, Brook Valley and the Nature reserve. It was proposed that an informal approach is made to AC Lloyd to discuss the preservation of this area and the local environment.

**North:** The tree outside the shops in Home Farm Crescent has been removed by WCC.

**South:** Paving around the bus stop on Coppice Road is breaking up. Foliage from a tree is covering lamp column 10 on Coppice Road near mini roundabout. Bollards on the grass verges between Cypress Lane and Morris Drive was requested again. The planters at the Millennium Garden need watering. This area will be watered when the hanging baskets are hung in the next few weeks. An order has been issued for the clearing of the area on Washbourne Playing Fields between Chandlers, Washbourne and Landor Roads.

**West:** It was reported that refuse bags have been dumped at the litter bin outside the Post Office on Heathcote Road.

The grass cutting at Leamington Cemetery was mentioned – the cemetery is not in Whitnash.

213/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 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.....