

Minutes 02/20

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **remote** Town Council meeting held on 16th July 2020
at 7.00 p.m.
at various locations

PRESENT

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

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

Finance Assistant Kerry Samperi

21/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs McFadden. Apologies for absence were accepted.

22/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

23/20 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

24/20 POLICE

The report was emailed on 16th July 2020.

This month's crime figures are as follows:

ASB – 9, all of which are personally targeted.

Burglary- 1 reported. A property on Albert Bean Close was insecure and a mobile phone taken was taken.

Damage- 1 incident reported on Brunel Close.

Drugs- 0

Vehicle Crime- 3. Incidents reported regarding theft from motor vehicle on Langley Road, Weilerswist Drive and Erica Drive. No signs of damage but all vehicles entered and items taken.

Overall, we have had 98 incidents reported last month compared to 153 incidents reported the previous.

With PC Rachel Smith moving to another role within Warwickshire Police, Whitnash Safer-Neighbourhood Team would like to welcome PC 1565 Mark Young.

"I joined Warwickshire Police in 2003 and have spent all of my career in the north of the county policing Nuneaton and Bedworth as a response officer.

I am looking forward to a change of scenery and a change of role and hope to be a valuable member of the Whitnash SNT.

As a response officer you do not have the chance to work closely with the community but I am hoping by joining the SNT, myself and the team can make a positive impact in Whitnash working alongside the community and partner agencies." PC Mark Young

25/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had no announcements.

Deputy Mayor said that a combined VE and VJ Day service would be held at St Margaret's Church on Sunday, 16th August 2020. This will be a socially distanced service and numbers would be limited. Wreaths will be laid at the Memorial after the service. Cllrs Shepherd and Smart will liaise for the centre inserts for the wreaths.

26/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th June 2020 as circulated were approved and will be signed at the next face to face meeting.

27/20 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

17/20 Dobson Lane Allotments – This will be discussed again at the September 2020 Hall and Playing Fields meeting. The Lease will need to be signed by January 2021. We need to ensure outside hedges are maintained by Warwick District Council.

28/20 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS / PROJECTS

Community Map on hold until Civic Centre and Library has been completed.

29/20 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

County facilities are slowly beginning to open. There is still a booking system for the Tips but there are vacancies most days. The first three largest Libraries Leamington, Nuneaton and Rugby will be opening soon. The back log of birth registrations is now being undertaken and weddings are allowed again with a limited guest number.

Schools remain subject to the national guide lines with all being expected to open fully in September. With shielding hubs slowly reducing their work load staff are returning to their normal work. County Staff have been asked about how they feel working from home and most would like a choice of home and office working. It is clear that now so many have the capability of working from home that unless it is a front-line customer service it is unlikely that it will go back to a before Covid 19 way of working. This will mean that as much office accommodation may not be needed.

I have been to two meetings recently where County Lines has been the main topic. From both strategic and street level operations there is a lot happening to combat what has become all too common in Warwick District. Just taking the dealers from the streets is not enough as they are soon replaced. It needs to be tackled at all levels and it is important we all report incidents we see or our suspicions we have about a property. The police cannot always report back to you on a particular report but every bit of intelligence is recorded and used to catch those making money out of other people with no due regard for law and order.

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

Cllr Judy Falp Warwickshire County Councillor for Whitnash

Warwick District Council Reports:

After informal talks with Stratford District Council Cabinet the Warwick District Council Executive are recommending to the full District Council that we investigate closer working ties. The government white paper on reorganisation of local government is due out in September and it is believed they will be looking to devolve more resources from central government to combined authorities and Local Enterprise Boards. It is becoming harder to recruit to local government posts especially in fields such as planning and I.T. where private firms can pay so much more. A combined role over two authorities would be more attractive to applicants. Contracts could be negotiated on a larger and more economical scale if they covered two authorities. Both Stratford and Warwick are small District Councils and like all local authorities are finding more demand with less money.

We currently already work with Colleagues and Councillors on boards such as the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership, but feel it is time to take this joint working further. Districts and the County Council from across Warwickshire are also meeting together to discuss the future. If both Councils agree a questionnaire will be sent to all residents.

On a personnel level I have been very busy working with other Portfolio holders for health from across Warwickshire on the local TEST, TRACK AND TRACE system. With responsibilities for local lock downs now resting with local public health it is important that the system is agreed, implemented and monitored. Warwickshire is one of 11 authorities being asked to implement first.

Cllr Judy Falp Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

I have deliberately avoided sending my report out last week so that I could let you know the latest update on the Civic Centre.

We have now received the Agreement to Lease from the library's solicitor at the WCC and. All but a minor mistake which is being amended, will be signed in the next couple of days. Town Clerk delivered the legal documents to the Solicitor on 16th July 2020.

The storm drainage route has been agreed and the residents of Clarkson Drive have been approached and informed of this. All have no problem with the work being carried out.

We are now finalising the last details of the contract with Deeley Construction also that we can sign this, hopefully, in the next couple of weeks. After that it Spades in the Ground time folks. At long last.

District Council activities have been restricted to online meetings of Planning and Licensing and Regulatory. L&R are consulting with stakeholders and public regarding the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders which cover anti-social, nuisance behaviour, alcohol and drugs across the district. Shortly there will be another consultation on Dog Control Orders again covering the district. When we get back to some kind of normality is anyone's guess but let's keep our residents safe and up to date with any progress being made locally.

Cllr T Heath Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

Cllr Margrave attended the Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

Cllr R Margrave Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

30/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

Update provided in Warwick District Report.

31/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The income and expenditure report for the Civic Centre and Library as at 7th July 2020 was emailed to all Members. Cllr Colledge queried the £132 000.00 overspend during phase 1 – Kerry explained that this overspend would be part of the overall budget.

32/20 WDC STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES

Letter was emailed to all Members. Warwick District Council examined a number of services one being the watering of the Town Council hanging baskets, planters and tubs throughout the summer period. Warwick District Council is in a position where the continued provision of this service is unaffordable without support from the Town Council. Without our funding, it will be necessary to remove this service. The maintenance and watering of the hanging baskets has always been included in the price.

Members discussed the letter and Cllr Barton proposed that we should show solidarity with the other three towns and voice our objection to this additional charge.

Eight Members voted against paying towards the service and five Members voted to pay for the service.

A discussion also took place regarding the weed killer that is sprayed around the street furniture in Whitnash that kills off the grass. Cllr Mrs Falp will find out more from Warwick District Council.

33/20 NEW ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL, OAKLEY GROVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Comments need to be submitted by 31st July 2020.

34/20 COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Cllr Barton received an email to find out whether Whitnash Town Council would be interested in establishing a community orchard on the patch of ground at the far end of the playing fields. The Woodland Trust are offering free trees.

The link to the Woodland Trust would be sent to Members. Members liked the idea. Cllr Mrs Falp said she planted 100 saplings from the Woodland Trust a few years ago and most died. They need regular watering and maintenance. Due to the moving of the pitches at Acre Close and the building of the new Community Hub and Library a site the size of 4 tennis courts would be difficult on Acre Close. This will be discussed at the next Hall and Playing Fields meeting in September 2020.

354/20 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from High Sheriff requesting project for Warwickshire Crime Beat was read.

36/20 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 10th June 2020 to 7th July 2020 was noted.

37/20 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: Cllr Mrs Falp and Clerk did an inspection of the Chesterton Allotment plots and only two were neglected.

North: The Rectory Close street sign is illegible and needs to be replaced. The no parking sign outside 50 Whitnash Road needs to be replaced. Ask Groundsman to remove the one on the corner of Golf Lane to replace this one. There is also a no parking sign that needs to be concreted in near 15 Whitnash Road. There has been a lot of fly tipping at Black Bridge.

South: The hedge issue in Fieldgate Lane has been referred to Warwick District Council Planning Enforcement.

West: The posts at Washbourne Playing Field have been concreted back into the ground.

38/20 REPORT OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Button proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Christmas Lights Committee meeting held on 2nd July 2020 are received.

39/20 REPORT OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 11th June 2020 are received.

40/20 REPORT OF HALL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Barton proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Hall and Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 25th June 2020 are received.

41/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 10th September 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.....