

Minutes 03/20

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **remote** Town Council meeting held on 10th September 2020
at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

Mayor
Deputy

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

G Cancilla

no sound only camera

42/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

43/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

44/20 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

45/20 POLICE

The Police report was forwarded to all Members.

September 2020 crime figures are as follows:

ASB – 17 reported mainly personally targeted, neighbour disputes, 3 being from the same household.

Burglary – 2 reported, we did have a few shed breaks on Golf Lane allotments which some were not reported. PCSO Sample attended a meeting on the allotments and gave crime prevention advice and also handed out PIR shed alarms to the trustees.

Damage – 2 reported. A vehicle was keyed on Morris drive also a front door was damaged on Brunel close when someone threw a plant pot in the street.

Drugs – None reported.

Vehicle crime – 1 reported. Whitnash Rd where a rucksack with a laptop was taken from an unsecured vehicle.

Overall, we have had 134 incidents reported this month. I expected it to be higher as we are getting daily calls from people telling on their neighbours for not self-isolating or breaking the Covid19 rules.

Good News,

The Police including Whitnash SNT have been involved in regular operations around county lines. A male was stopped and searched and found to have £600 in cash on him this was suspicious and led to his arrest. There was then a section 18 search carried out at his address and a large quantity of class A drugs were found and seized.

In the early hours of the morning. A Police officer managed to arrest a burglar who was climbing back over a fence from a house in Weilerswist Drive after he attempted to break in to the property.

The team are patrolling Whitnash as much as we can. Our aim is to be out engaging with the community, educating them with the Government Guidelines.

With regards to our priorities we are patrolling the parks and sign posting the vulnerable if they come to our attention to the right help/agencies but obviously not able to deal with school parking.

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 safe

Mark, Steve and Jess

46/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that there would not be a Christmas Lights switch on event this year due to the covid19 pandemic. The Christmas lights in Whitnash will still be on show during the festive season as will the Tree of Light.

47/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 16th July 2020 as circulated were approved and will be signed as a true record when face to face meetings are held again.

48/20 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

25/20 Mayor's Announcements – Cllr Mrs Falp complimented Cllr Barton for he efforts in organising the VE / VJ Day Memorial Service.

49/20 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

County meetings and briefings have continued virtually since I last reported to the Town Council in July. In future all briefings and possibly all training will be virtual with other meetings being virtual and shown on You Tube so the public can observe. Residents can ask to speak at these meetings as they would do normally

Local government reform has been discussed at one Cabinet meeting with a full debate due on the 22nd September. This will be after the Cabinet has sent a letter to the government saying they wish to have a single unitary. The District and Borough Councils asked the County to join with them to look at all options but they declined. I was very disappointed after some great partnership work during the Covid crisis this has been agreed and progressed before full scrutiny and debate could take place.

There has been flooding issues in Golf Lane, Home Farm Crescent and Landor Road in the recent heavy rain. The County have or will be clearing gullies and have requested more gullies in Landor Road and Franklin Road to address the issues there. Severn Trent finally stopped the leak in Coppice Road by the school and filled in the hole, but only after I had asked County to issue them with a warning if they did not complete the work. My thanks go to Councillor Cancilla and Kitty Crutchley for raising the issue with me. Sadly, the County have not been as I type this managed to get Lovetts Estate Agents to remove a for sale sign placed on a highway verge. Councillor Smart had asked them to remove it twice and I then asked County to tell them to remove it or County would do and charge them. Any works or signage on the highway and this includes verges has to be agreed by the County Council

I am pleased the schools have started back and wish the staff and pupils a safe and productive time.

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:

It has been a busy two months since my last report. Residents have been contacting me with housing issues. Although the Social housing waiting lists have reduced considerably with all the new properties being built there is still a shortage on some types, especially one bed room properties.

Covid 19 continues to impact on us all. I have attended five virtual meetings specifically on Covid and my Portfolio of Health and Community Protection has seen a considerable increase in their work load, with all but one staff member working from home.

All District council meetings are virtual and committee meetings are broadcast on You Tube. The Executive and Group Leaders meet every fortnight now, having met weekly from when the lock down first commenced. There is a new structure of six Programme Advisory Boards which will allow more Councillors to become involved, by assisting the Portfolio's. We have Councillors from all parties who have skills that will be an asset to the administration and it is the ongoing wish that decisions are discussed with all and all have an opportunity to be involved

The close working ties with Stratford Upon Avon District Council has started with the appointment of the Head of Neighbourhood Services who will work across both districts The Head of ICT across both authorities is currently out for recruitment. The District and Borough leaders and their Chief Executives continue to work together to look at the forthcoming proposals for the future of local government. W.A.L.C. are consulted on any proposals so that the voice of Parish and Town Councils are represented.

Cllr Judy Falp Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

August has been relatively quiet except for a couple of planning meetings, none of which effected Whitnash area.

We declared a climate emergency in February but due to Covid our progress has been slowed down. However, as a council we are on track with the ambition to reduce our carbon footprint by 2025. We have changed our electricity supplier, installing EV chargers in our car parks have two electric cars in our vehicle pool. Started upgrading our property's to category C rating from D, E & F. This will reduce our carbon output by 2400 tonnes per year.

Civic Centre & Library

Great news. By this meeting we will have signed the contract with Deeley Construction to build the Centre. Everything is in place and the start date is the 5th October.

The WDC decision that has caused the most controversy in the past month is the Licensing and Regulatory Committees, which I chair, decision to review Dog control orders. This is required of the Council every so often otherwise the regulations lapse.

We agreed to consult stakeholders and Town/Parish Councils for their suggestions and then the report, once analysed would come back to committee at the end of September to decide what, IF ANY, changes would be made. Then and only then would it go out to public consultation.

Someone in Kenilworth put it on Facebook that we had decided to ban dogs from Newbold Comyn and insist dogs on St. Marys lands (Warwick Racecourse) are kept on a lead. All of which is fake news. Well, you would not believe the reaction we have had. Chinese whispers produced a torrent of opinions against any changes in the media and on Facebook. Strange reaction really considering in 2011 they were against the rules we have but now say to keep them as they are!!!

However, we will consider the findings of the stakeholder's survey at the next L&R meeting.

Cllr T Heath Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

Attended one meeting and there is nothing to report.

Cllr R Margrave Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

50/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

The contract with Deeley Construction was signed on Monday, 7th September 2020 and work should start on Monday, 5th October 2020. Cllr Heath thanked everyone for the work involved in getting this project off the ground.

Cllr Mrs Falp asked if Whitnash Sports and Social Club had agreed to Deeley having access via the club. *Cllr Sparkes declared an interest* and said Deeley had been in contact with the club, but he was not part of the negotiations. If access was denied then there would be no alternative, but to use Acre Close. The football pitches will be done before the construction starts and the exercise equipment, measured mile and skate ramp would be moved. Cllr Heath would forward a copy of the work programme to Members. A message would also be put on social media informing residents that work would be starting soon. Deliveries to the site would be managed. The first three cherry trees will be removed to allow for the construction.

51/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The income and expenditure report for the Civic Centre and Library as at 1st September 2020 was emailed to Members.

52/20 DOBSON LANE COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS

Warwick District Council were willing to hand over the Dobson Lane Community Allotments to Whitnash. The Hall and Playing Fields committee proposed that the Dobson Lane Community Allotments are transferred from (Action 21) Warwick District Council to Whitnash Town Council. All Members voted in favour of this proposal. Whitnash Town Council will have to pay the legal fees for this transfer.

53/20 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

54/20 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 8th July 2020 to 1st September 2020 was noted.

Cllrs Barton and Button declared an interest as payments were made to them for work undertaken as part of ensuring the Community Hall was covid19 compliant to re-open.

55/20 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: Nothing to report.

North: Reports of rats in Greville Smith Avenue, broken manhole cover near St Margaret's House, grass verges need cutting, suggestion of planting wild flowers was not pursued as it all ends up with weeds and looks untidy. WCC will inform Cllr Mrs Falp about replacement posts as there are places where posts aren't needed.

South: Report of rats in Morris Drive as well.

West: Litter in Othello Avenue, footpaths in Tachbrook, Coppice and Ashford Roads need resurfacing. Items reported 18 months ago in West Ward have still not been done. Cllr Mrs Falp said that due to covid19 there have been delays as well as a backlog previously. The issues will be updated and a new west ward report undertaken. Fly tipping is a growing problem around Whitnash especially around the recycling containers at various points. Cllr Vaughan mentioned that the trees on Tachbrook Road have been cut back so oncoming cyclists are more visible.

56/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 15th October 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.....