

Minutes 04/20

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **remote** Town Council meeting held on 15th October 2020
at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillors: R Margrave Mayor
 S Button
 B Colledge
 Mrs J Falp
 B Franklin
 T Heath
 S McFadden
 W Pickett
 B Smart
 R Sparkes

Cllr Cancilla

no sound only camera

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

57/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Shepherd. Apologies for absence were accepted.

58/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs Falp, Heath and Margrave declared an interest in item 12 Grant Application at the start of the meeting.

59/20 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

60/20 WELCOME CHAIRMAN WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Due to personal circumstances the Chairman of Warwick District Council was unable to attend the meeting and sent apologies.

61/20 POLICE

This month's statistics are as follows between 14/09/2020 – 14/10/2020:

ASB There have been five reports of ASB, four of which were personal and one report of a group of youths in Acre Park not adhering to the Covid-19 regulations. The SNT were made aware and foot patrols carried out at the location.

Burglary – There has been one report of a residential burglary on Montgomery Road on 26th September between 15:30 – 22:50hrs. Offender(s) are believed to have made entry through a back door and items taken.

Damage – We have received one report of damage that has occurred on Poplar Way. The report is in relation to some damage that has occurred to a cement post situated next to a parking space.

Drugs – Nothing reported.

Vehicle crime – Six incidents have been reported at the following locations, Tachbrook Road, Heathcote Road and Sir Toby Belch Drive. Vehicles have possibly been left insecure and items taken ranging from loose change to a wallet.

Monthly overview

Overall, we have had 134 incidents reported this month. We expected it to be higher as we are getting daily calls from people reporting their neighbours for not self-isolating or apparently breaking the most up to date Government Covid19 rules.

Policing has changed over the last 6 months; with the way we are having to engage with the community. Unfortunately, with social activities having to be cancelled we have found it very difficult to engage with residents, apart from when we are on foot patrols in the community.

The team are patrolling Whitnash daily, as much as we can. Our aim is to be out engaging with the community and advising and enforcing, where necessary the current Government Covid19 guidelines.

There is also a daily Covid19 car in operation which has been dealing with any apparent breaches of the legislation. This patrols Whitnash and neighbouring areas and the team have been and will be involved in resourcing this operation.

Good News

We have decided to begin local police surgeries again for October and November 2020. Social distancing guidelines will be in place in line with the most up to date Government Covid19 rules. We will be available on the following dates;

Home Farm Crescent shops: 21st October 2020 2pm-3pm

Acre Close Shops: 28th October 2020 7pm-8pm

Home Farm Crescent shops: 20th November 2020 2pm-3pm

Acre Close shops: 26th November 2020 7pm-8pm

Other news

October 2020 is Warwickshire Police Tyre Safety Month so the team will be out completing checks around the safety of vehicles and their tyres, lights and general condition of owners' vehicles. We hope to complete at least two tyre safety checks in the Whitnash locality by the end of the month.

We will also be conducting more speeding operations on different days and times in Whitnash.

Community speed watch will be getting new volunteers so you will also see more checks been completed in the future.

The volunteers will be CRB checked before completing any training.

Whitnash SNT will be working from Warwick Police Station for the foreseeable future. We can still be contacted on 01926-684248 or by email. The change of location does not and will not impact on our policing of Whitnash. It will make it a safer environment for the team to work from, preventing a lot of cross contamination from officers during these difficult times.

PC Mark Young has been on the team now for about 4 months and he is still in the process of meeting Cllrs, which has proven difficult, due to not having any routine face to face contact at the moment.

Warwickshire Police, including Whitnash SNT, have been involved in regular operations around county lines drug supply. During the last month we have seen a number of warrants being executed on different properties within Leamington. We have had some good results including the discovery of a cannabis grow within an address. The intelligence that we gather from such operations is invaluable in our fight against the presence of drugs in our community.

With regards to our priorities; we are patrolling the parks to reduce ASB and we will continue to sign post the vulnerable, if they come to our attention, to the best placed agencies to help them. Other community priorities that have been brought to our attention may get looked at should we get chance.

If anything is reported to you please direct people to ring 101 to report it to the police. If that is not desirable then please send the team an email on @SNT Whitnash.

Stay safe,

Jess, Mark and Steve

Members queried why the incident in Moorhill Road at the beginning of the week was not included in the report. Members also queried where the Police Station is in Warwick where the SNT are working from?

62/20 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor did not have anything to report.

63/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 10th September 2020 as circulated were approved and will be signed as a true record when face to face meetings resume.

64/20 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

46/20 Mayor's Announcements – Cllr Button said he would pass on any information regarding the virtual Christmas Lights switch on to Members as soon as it is received.

52/20 Dobson Lane Community Allotments – no update received yet.

65/20 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council report for Whitnash Town Council 15th October 2020

It has been extremely frustrating being a County Councillor these last couple of months. We are there in my opinion to represent the views of our residents and take actions to make their lives better or to try and solve issues they have. All I have seen is self-interest, party political nonsense and no thought of what our residents might want. We are facing the biggest shake up of local government in 50 years. The voice of residents must be at the front of changes that will affect their ability to influence what is happening in their area. But the County Council have made a decision (not all Councillors') in haste (and even before the white paper is published) and will then ask residents if they are alright with that decision. I am not sure what residents can change when a single unitary option has already been made by the County Council to government. I am also very concerned that there was a lot of talk of how much more Parish and Town Councils would be asked to do with no upfront discussion with them!

Thankfully the District Councils are and will be asking views of residents and the Towns and Parish's through W.A.L.C before they submit a one or two unitary options for Warwickshire.

Judy Falp, Warwickshire County Councillor for Whitnash

Warwick District Council reports for Whitnash Town Council 15th October 2020

Most decisions on changes that will affect the Public or on whose ideas the District Council want to hear are through public consultations. Sadly, when pre consultation to statutory bodies is published with no background information and with ideas that may or may not be taken forward to a public consultation miss information and upset occurs.

People who only have one view and are not prepared to listen to others even when told nothing had been agreed then make it impossible for a fair public consultation to be held. We moan that officers are taking too long to resolve our issues but they are being bombarded with freedom of information requests, emails, press wanting statements and all when they are trying to undertake the work they have to do as much of it is a legal requirement. Oh, and in this time, we are living in Covid.

We have seen how difficult it has been for our Town Council staff to work in the current way, and I have seen how difficult it is for District officers to do all that is being asked of them. So, while I will continue to press for the best service, I can get for Whitnash residents I also have a duty of care for the officers who are helping to provide those services.

Judy Falp, Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

Another month has gone by. This time not much has happened at the district except that we have commissioned our own report into the future unitary authority under the reorganisation of local government.

The County Council had their own report which their Cabinet arranged without the full council's approval. This recommended a single unitary authority based on the County Council. When it went to the full council on the 22nd September it was changed by "friendly amendments" to include consulting with Districts and Boroughs and the Towns and Parishes along with the public and to agree with the Districts to submit the findings together to the government.

However, the very next day the Leader of the County Council called another Cabinet meeting for last week to disregard the approved motion and to go ahead straight away and submit the original one without consulting others. I cannot understand how a resolution passed by full council can be reversed only one day after being passed!

The District and Boroughs consultation is already consulting on the options involved. i.e. a single unitary based on the County, a north and south unitary based on the Districts or the status quo.

Until the consultation has been concluded it will not be decided which the residents of Warwickshire are in favour of. WALC have already held an online consultation last week about the District options and will be having another shortly about the County option.

Judy has already said about the fuss about the Dog Control Orders I mentioned last month so I will not go into it again.

The Licensing Department are very busy implementing the Covid regulations and issuing Pavement Licences for premises wishing to use the footpaths outside their premises. There have been a couple of problems with interpretations of the law but they have been sorted out quickly.

So far, we have not had the problems that other areas have with blatant abuse of social distancing but we are very alert to the problem and the team and the police will act accordingly.

Civic Centre & Library

The "Cutting of the First Sod" will now take place on Monday, 19th October 2020 after yet another delay so, hopefully, I will be able to report next month on the progress being made on this important project for Whitnash.

Cllr Tony Heath, Warwick District Councillor.

No report received from Cllr Margrave.

66/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

The sod turning ceremony will be on Monday, 19th October 2020. Due to covid19 only 6 people will be in attendance.

67/20 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

The income and expenditure report for the Civic Centre and Library as at 7th October 2020 was emailed to Members and was noted.

68/20 APPROVE GRANT APPLICATION

The (LGA 1972 section 137) grant application for 2020 submitted by the Finance and General Purposes Committee was approved.

Organisation	Application request	Grant approved
Whitnash Youth Club	To help provide youth services in Whitnash. Requesting £367 for insurance costs for the Youth Club	The amount of £337 for insurance costs was approved. All Members voted in favour.

Cllrs Mrs Falp Heath and Margrave declared an interest in the Youth Club Grant application.

69/20 APPROVE AND ADOPT POLICY FOR USE OF WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL OPEN SPACES

It was proposed that some amendments are made to the Policy for the use of Whitnash Open Spaces. The Policy will go back to Hall and Playing Fields Committee in November.

70/20 UNITARY AUTHORITY

Warwickshire County Council and Warwick District Council are in the process of looking at a new form of local government in Warwickshire. The two reports from both Councils were forwarded to all Members on 1st October 2020. A discussion took place regarding the local government reform.

71/20 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

External auditor report 2019 / 2020:

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Cllr Mrs Falp thanked the staff for their hard work.

72/20 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Email from Villebon Sur Yvette re Worldwide Music. There was only one positive response to this email so Whitnash Twinning will not take part in this project.

73/20 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 2nd September 2020 to 6th October 2020 was noted.

74/20 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: Nothing to report.

North: The cobbled area at the junction of Church Lane and Whitnash Road is sloping towards the road.

South: Gulley's are blocked between Morris Drive and Holmes Close. Severn Trent are aware of this problem. There is a lot of flooding on Harbury Lane alongside the playing fields. This is on the side of the playing fields themselves, and there has been standing water there over the last few days. A resident has asked for a dog waste bin on the grassed area in Verdun Close. This is not Town Council land so we cannot supply a bin.

West: Inconsiderate parking is becoming a problem in Heathcote Lane.

72/20 REPORT OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING GROUP

Cllr Button proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Christmas Lights Working Group meetings held on 3rd September 2020 and 1st October 2020 are received.

73/20 REPORT OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Community Hub Committee meeting held on 17th September 2020 are received.

74/20 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 meetings held on 10th September 2020 and Cllr Margrave proposed that the minutes of the meeting on 24th September 2020 are received.

75/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 12th November 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.....