

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **remote** Town Council meeting held on 18th February 2021
at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

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

Mayor
Deputy

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

In attendance: Kerry Samperi Finance Assistant

127/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

128/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

129/21 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

130/21 POLICE

The Police Report was emailed to all Members.

The previous months crime figures, up to and including 14th February 2021, are as follows:

ASB – 8 calls to the police for anti-social behaviour related incidents

Burglary – 1 call to the police in relation to residential burglaries.

Damage – 2 calls to the police in relation to criminal damage.

Drugs – 0 drugs related calls this month.

Vehicle crime – 7 vehicle crime related calls in the Whitnash beat code.

In total there were 231 reports to the police in the previous 2-month period. There were 110 calls in the October report to the Town Council and 134 reports in November. This 4-week period the police have received 108 calls for service.

Our call figures have been fairly consistent and it is a positive to receive only 8 ASB related calls but disappointing that there have been a further 7 vehicle crime incidents.

On a positive note, though we are confident that it is the same suspect, who has been arrested and prosecuted by the police previously, and so as a team and locally, officers know and recognise the suspect(s) so can take appropriate action and put them before the courts.

As stated previously local policing is still different to how we would like it to be at this time whilst still in the national lockdown. As reported on the national news we are hopeful, as is everybody that restrictions can start to be slowly lifted soon. As a team and individually we will still be out patrolling and focussing on the current agreed Whitnash Forum priorities;

1: Anti-social behaviour

2: Speeding

3: Intelligence led drugs patrols

Anti-social behaviour impacts on the community in many ways so as a team we will patrol all of our known ASB hotspots, as much as possible, and respond to reports as quickly as possible when reported to the team. We hope our work is recognised by the low number of ASB calls to police.

Intelligence led drug patrols rely on intelligence being generated by the team and also from information being supplied to us by the community. The more intelligence we can gather, about any type of incident, allows us to focus our patrols and target criminality.

We still encourage the public to report anything they believe to be suspicious in relation to drug activity and as a team we monitor our local intelligence on a daily basis. We have carried out a number of speeding operations in locations made known to us by the community. This was shared on social media.

Community van

As previously mentioned, we now have the community van based at Warwick (now fully operational) which the team now have access to, so we will be planning future mobile surgeries utilising the van. We will endeavour to set some dates, advertise them and ensure all surgeries will be Covid compliant.

Facebook live

The team will also be hosting Facebook live Q&A events, the dates of which will be confirmed and advertised on social media. This has been delayed due to operational issues. We hope it will give the community the opportunity to ask questions to the team during these socially distanced times and will be run in conjunction with the Warwick SNT.

Team voicemail

The team voicemail has finally been sorted (01926 684248) and so the team can now listen to and respond to voicemail messages. The team will also now indefinitely be based at Warwick.

Covid19 car

The dedicated vehicle / team dealing with all reports of potential Covid19 regulation breaches is still being utilised from 2pm each day. This is reducing the impact on the team being used for these calls to the police. This hasn't prevented the team still having to deal with Covid breaches whilst on duty. There have been 15 reports on the Whitnash beat in the previous month for potential Covid breaches.

Team Changes

For operational reasons PC 1565 Mark Young will be moving to Warwick SNT and PC 1272 Donna Smith will be moving to the Whitnash team to work alongside Jess and Steve. There will be a handover period so the area will not be without a beat manager and the official change will take place on 22/03/21.

Please keep reporting any issues to us via the team e-mail or by phone and we will respond as soon as possible.

Best wishes, Jess, Steve & Mark

131/21 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to February's Town Council Meeting. With regards to Zoom meetings unless the

Government extend the regulations with regards to face-to-face meetings we will be meeting in person as from the 7th May 2021. It has been a quieter month so I won't keep you long as I will have to leave at 7.45pm to attend Matt Western's Community awards via Zoom, so Barry be on standby. The highlights of the month have been putting rubber matting down at Acre Close Park entrance and a Zoom meeting with the Dobson Lane Allotment Holders this is still an ongoing saga.

Let's hope March is a little more exciting.

Cllr Adrian Barton - Mayor

132/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 21st January 2021 as circulated were approved and will be signed as a true record when face to face meetings are held again.

133/21 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

116/21 (a) Dobson Lane Community Allotment Association – the Mayor, Deputy, Cllr Mrs Fap and the Clerk met with the Chairman and Secretary of the Allotment Association on 17th February 2021 to discuss their concerns. Cllr Mrs Falp has spoken to Warwick District Council regarding the issues raised and it is hoped these will soon be resolved.

134/21 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

The County Council put on a briefing for its Councillors every two weeks. Officers lead by the Chief Executive update on items such as Covid information, Schools, Children's Services, Adult Social Care and Finance. Councillors have an opportunity to ask questions. Anybody can sign up for e mails that gives you information on most of the services and its always worth looking at the Council website to seek information.

Along with the government the County have provided lap tops and dongles to schools for children who have no I.T. or Internet access at home so they can take part in online learning.

The Library Service is offering a 'Click and Collect' service from all Libraries. You can order books online and pick them up from your local Library. Whitnash also has a small display of books by the entrance that you can ask to borrow when you pick up your books. You can also download a range of magazines to read online.

The Local recycling centres continue to operate an online booking system and you can normally get slots free most days.

The Budget debate was held on the 8th February.

Cllr Judy Falp County Councillor for Whitnash

Warwick District Council Reports:

A new Housing Allocations Policy will be agreed at this months' Executive meeting. I have campaigned for some time that the current policy worked well when first introduced but was now causing issues. It was easier to transfer from one home to another and I know of one case where somebody transferred three times in four years. I have two ongoing cases where the people are homeless, sofa surfing and have less chance every week to bid for and get a property than those already with one. This new policy will address this. I also campaigned and it was agreed to change the village category for some properties. With most of the new building being South of Leamington it was agreed that only properties in the village part of Bishops Tachbrook would be for those with a direct connection to the village. ALL of the new Social properties off Harbury Lane were being put in for Bishops Tachbrook only. I pointed out that most of them were nearer

Whitnash than Bishops Tachbrook.

The budget for the District Council would be agreed at the Executive meeting and ratified at the full Council meeting on the 24th February. An allocation of money for a Feasibility study for the future of our old Centre and its surrounds of £25,000 is included in this budget.

Cllr Mrs Judy Falp, Whitnash District Councillor

Since last month I have had two meetings of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and two Planning Committee meetings. The most contentious one being last week when the proposed development at East Whitnash was discussed. Labour rallied their troops to overturn the officer's recommendation to grant the 200 houses based on the access through St Fremund Way.

However, County Highways were agreeable and so were Environmental Health. To refuse an application that is listed in the Warwick District Local Plan and the Whitnash Neighbourhood Plan there has to be solid planning grounds.

Councillor Terry Morris (Con) proposed refusal on the grounds that no more development should take place until the road alongside Campion School is built. It is the school governors who have blocked this road for the last three years.

This was not planning grounds but it was agreed by 5 votes to 4 despite me proposing a deferment to enable officers to talk to A C Lloyd again to resolve the issue.

Now A C Lloyd will probably appeal costing the District up to £250k in legal costs and have the knowledge that they have Highways and Environmental Health on their side. Likely they will win.

Until the Governors at Campion wake up and realise that when the new school is built in two years' time at the junction of Tachbrook Road and Harbury Lane most of Whitnash children will choose to go there instead of Campion which means Campion's intake will start to diminish each year so without this development they will have severe problems in retaining staff.

Meetings are going ahead between Stratford District Council and Warwick District to agree a merger to make a South Warwickshire Super District which will have many benefits to residents and save over £4m in the next five years by combining services and officers.

On a final note. I have been asked to be Vice Chairman of Warwick District for 2021/22. This is an honour for me to be chosen as I represent Whitnash and in 2022 it will be the Commonwealth Games which Leamington will be hosting the Bowls and Warwick the Cycle road race. That will be a busy year.

Cllr Tony Heath, Whitnash District Councillor

Since the last Town Council meeting, I have attended the following meetings:

10th February: South Warwickshire Local Plan Advisory Group Meeting. This was the second meeting of the group and follows on from the first introductory meeting last month. Again, it was a scene setting meeting, so far too early to report anything of consequence. All Parishes and towns have been consulted and a summary of parishes' comments were made available. This biggest challenge for a combined SDC and WDC Local Plan is going to be reconciling two districts, one with a large rural and dispersed population, the other with a 3 large, and 1 small town housing most residents. Combine this with shrinking budgets and both areas declarations of "Climate Emergencies", it is going to be a challenging but interesting process – I hope.

9th February. Overview and Scrutiny Meeting. A very long 3½ meeting where the two main topics were again Kenilworth leisure centres, specifically whether or not to reopen for a short-time before closing again for reconstruction work; and the plan to form an alliance with Stratford District Council. On the **8th February** there was also a briefing on the proposals for combining or working more closely. We will keep you updated with progress as it develops, but it goes to Full District Council for agreement to proceed with further investigation at the end of the months. It looks likely to be a highly controversial issue.

A planned Standards Committee meeting was cancelled, because apparently, there is absolutely nothing to talk about.

27th January. District Councillors, me included, attended a briefing from the DHS regarding the new vaccine centre "Royal Leamington Spa Laboratory" at the old Woolsey site. Unfortunately, the briefing was confidential, despite being asked why was confidential, they side stepped this question. Personally, I don't think there was anything in it that needed to be confidential.

Other

I have raised an issue with WDC regarding the CCTV camera at Acre Close. For some reason they have located it such that the chemist is totally obscured from view by the pole to which it is attached. To me, it simply needs rotating on the post 90 degrees to have full view of the shops. I will let you know what happens. They said they will look into it.

No residents have contacted me with any issues.

Cllr Robert Margrave, Whitnash District Councillor

Cllr Mrs Falp congratulated Cllr Heath on his nomination to be Deputy Chairman of Warwick District Council.

135/21 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

Progress in the last month has been hampered by the amount of rain we have had. This has delayed the drainage and car park base. Let's hope they can make up the time when winter is over. The committee has met to discuss various aspects of the internal finish and CCTV cameras.

The District have agreed to fund a feasibility study to see what we can do with the old community centre.

Cllr Heath provided an update on the Finance of the Civic Centre and Library at the meeting.

1. Automation of entrance doors – Members agreed that the entrance doors should be automated. The cost of this needs to be clarified - is the cost for each door just the automation or is it for a complete door as the price quoted at the meeting is very expensive.
2. Power supply – the power supply at the Civic Centre and Library is not adequate and it was recommended to increase the power supply to 160amp to future proof the building and to ensure an adequate supply for events in the civic centre. The cost estimated for this is in the region of £16 000 - £20 000. In order to cover this additional cost, it was proposed that quotations are sourced for the commercial kitchen, but not to go ahead with the fit out until the Council could identify sources of funding.

All Members present voted in favour of the above.

136/21 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION PHASE FUNDING

A copy of the funding for the construction phase of the Civic Centre and Library was emailed to all Members.

137/21 VACANCY

A vacancy has arisen on the Town Council due to the resignation of Steve Mc Fadden. Cllr Mrs Falp will circulate her suggestion to Members of the Whitnash Residents Association and this will be discussed at the March 2021 Town Council Meeting.

138/21 APPROVE AND ADOPT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2021 – 2022

The Calendar of Meeting for 2021 – 2022 was approved and adopted.

139/21 APPROVE AND ADOPT POLICY FOR USE OF WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL OPEN SPACES

The Policy for the use of Whitnash Town Council Open Spaces was approved and adopted subject to the inclusion of the word 'appropriate' in section 4 of the Policy. All Members voted in favour.

Dog faeces must be collected and can be disposed of in the appropriate litter bins that are provided on the field.

140/21 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Stephen Gallagher, Practice Manager at Clarendon Lodge sent a positive response to our letter regarding the Vaccination Clinic at the Rehabilitation Hospital.
2. A response was received from Glen Burley regarding our letter about the canteen at the Rehabilitation Hospital – we were sent an example of the menu for the last week.

141/21 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 13th January 2021 to 10th February 2021 was noted.

142/21 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: Nothing to report

North: The manhole cover outside the nail bar was repaired a few weeks ago and the tarmac has disintegrated and the area is not level. This will be reported again. The steps at the embankment slide at Acre Close needs to be re-instated.

South: Bushes at the corner of Erica Drive and Holyoke Grove need to be cut back.

West: An issue with trees in Landor Road was reported to Cllr Button. Cllr Mrs Falp said this was a legal issue and the residents need to contact Warwickshire County Council.

143/21 REPORTS OF CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Civic Centre and Library Committee meetings held on 4th February 2021 are received.

144/21 REPORTS OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings held on 14th January 2021 are received.

145/21 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 28th January 2021 are received.

146/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Town Council meeting will be held on 11th March 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

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

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