

Minutes 09/21

WHITNASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **remote** Town Council meeting held on 11th March 2021
at 7.00 p.m. in

PRESENT

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

Town Clerk: Jenny Mason

In attendance: Cllr Martyn Ashford – Chairman Warwick District Council
Police: 1

147/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

148/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

149/21 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

150/21 POLICE

PC Steve Sample attended the meeting via Zoom.
Standing orders were suspended to allow the Police to speak.

Since the report was submitted there was one additional incident of anti-social behaviour and one vehicle crime. Residents are not calling in to report antisocial behaviour. 'Specials' will also be patrolling Acre Close. Facebook live might encourage residents to report incidents. Cllr Smart asked about the increase in electric scooters and the behaviour of the users. The Police hope to do some work with the schools regarding the scooters. Forum meetings will continue when possible. Inconsiderate parking is a problem. Parking at schools remains a problem although tickets were issued not all schools can be patrolled all the time. Blocking driveways is also a problem. Vehicles parking too close to junctions are also a problem. The current structure of the Whitnash Safer Neighbourhood team is as follows: Jessica and Steve are PCSO's, PC Mark Young will be moving to Warwick Safer Neighbourhood Team and PC Donna Smith will replace him. Wayne Bolton is the Inspector and Carl Faulkner is the Chief Inspector.
Standing orders were re-instated.

The previous months crime figures, up to and including 7th March 2021 were received from the Police:

ASB – 3 calls to the police for anti-social behaviour related incidents.

Burglary – 0 calls to the police in relation to residential burglaries.

Damage – 0 calls to the police in relation to criminal damage.

Drugs – 0 drugs related calls this month.

Vehicle crime – 2 vehicle crime related calls in the Whitnash beat code.

In total there were 67 reports to the police in the previous 1-month period which is a drop in calls for service to the police.

Our call figures have been reducing and it is a positive to receive only 3 ASB related calls but we are unsure if this is a true reflection of ASB incidents that have happened. We are aware of unreported incidents hence if we do not know of it then we cannot respond and there will be no record. We must ensure that the public do report all incidents to us that we should be aware of.

As stated previously on a number of occasions local policing is still different to how we would like it to be at this time whilst still in the national lockdown. There is light now at the end of the tunnel with schools re-opening, the vaccine roll out appearing effective and a dated road map out of lockdown beginning to take shape. As a team we are hopeful that once things start to slowly open up and get back to 'normal' we can begin to do more of our usual SNT tasks. 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 but we must reiterate that all ASB incidents are in fact reported to the police via 101/999 so that there is an official record of the incident.

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.

Good News

There is a limited amount of new 'good' news but;

Community van

As previously mentioned, we now have the community van based at Warwick (now fully operational) which the team still have access to, so we will be planning future mobile surgeries utilising the van. As a team we just have to be 'trained' and then authorised to drive it. We will endeavour to set some dates, advertise them on social media 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. This has been a successful medium of communication in the north of the county so we hope it will work well with us too.

Team voicemail

The team voicemail has finally been sorted (01926 684248) and so the team can now listen to and respond to voicemail messages. We have received a few messages and acted on the information given to us.

Other business

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 10 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 non-urgent issues to us via the team e-mail or phone number and a team member will respond as soon as possible. Individual work mobiles are not carried all of the time (especially when not at work) and incidents must be reported via the team contact details or if more urgent via 101/999 so that the whole team has an overview.

Best wishes,

Jess, Steve & Mark

151/21 WELCOME CLLR ASHFORD – CHAIRMAN WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Barton welcomed Cllr Ashford to the Town Council meeting. Cllr Ashford gave an insight into what Warwick District Council has done since the lockdown last year and the achievements.

152/21 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good evening, welcome Cllr Ashford and Members to the March meeting of Whitnash Town Council. It only seems like 5 minutes ago we had our February meeting. Easter is fast approaching. Talking of Easter, when I became Mayor in November 2020, I said that my two charities would be Warwick District Food Bank and History Boards for Whitnash. I also said that I would especially push Foodbank at Easter, so with this in mind and the need for cash for the History boards I have set up a Just Giving page with the proposal that I will dye my hair and beard, I have cut neither since Christmas, couldn't see the point, for 15 days from April fool's day to my birthday on April 15th, so get your donations in please. I have just sent the link to your email address.

Over the past month I have not done a lot, apart from attend Matt Western's inaugural community awards ... virtually. It was a good evening considering and I was really pleased that Whitnash was mentioned and it was not just Leamington and Warwick. It was Leamington Warwick and Whitnash so thankyou Matt

For info on the covid vaccine in Warwickshire:

1st Dose has been given to 300k people, 2nd Dose 6k people – this is a 95% take up.

I am looking forward to a Blue Easter. Enjoy yourselves during this Christian festival.

Cllr Adrian Barton - Mayor of Whitnash

153/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 18th February 2021 as circulated were approved and signed as a true record.

154/21 MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THOSE MINUTES

116/21(a) Dobson Lane Community Allotment Association – Cllr Mrs Falp reported that the rent had been agreed and just waiting on legal agreement.

137/21 Vacancy – there is no movement on this.

155/21 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Warwickshire County Council Report:

The Budget debate was held on the 8th February. While with a big majority the Conservative budget was going to get through, I did support Jonathan Chilvers from the Green party with his request to put back into that budget money taken out from Domestic Abuse services. I actually voted for the Liberal Democrat budget as this was the one, I thought supported Whitnash best.

I want to briefly reflect on the last four years being a County Councillor. I had a hard act to follow. Bernard Kirton had represented Whitnash on the County for 36 years. The Conservatives have a large majority, so how was I going to influence for the benefit of Whitnash Residents. The first thing I managed to achieve was gain £150,000 funding so that the Library could relocate into our new Civic Centre.

I managed to get two of our schools in the Safer Routes to school programme and gain improvements outside their schools. I have been able to spend my Councillor budget on roads, paths, lighting, disabled parking and speed awareness signs. My forum grant was widely distributed through our local organisations. Partnerships have been very important and I now have a good working relationship with Fire and Rescue and an ongoing relationship with our local police and other parties within the council. I was pleased to be able to input to the County Council Climate working group. If elected again I have a firm base of knowledge especially in the area of health, partnerships working and understanding of how the County works to continue to Put Whitnash First.

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:

I have been working with County, District and Voluntary organisation staff looking at how we support and engage with people, especially young teenagers during these Covid times. We know you need a different type of messaging to appeal to young people with social media often being their preferred way to look and communicate. We were also aware that many were not in school due to the crisis and may not have the safeguarding that normally gives them. I have only attended two meetings but already feel I can contribute as a school governor and being involved with Whitnash youth club.

In Health and Community Protection we are now working on producing the service plan for the new financial year in April and Civic year in May. I have helped trial a new noise application that when downloaded to your phone can produce good enough sound recording for our Environmental Health offers to take action. It is hoped to role this out to be used for at least twelve months.

The closer working with Stratford upon Avon took a big step forward with Council agreeing to merge the senior management team during 2021 and both Councils agreeing to work towards a full merger by 2024 subject to agreement from the Secretary of State. Residents will be kept informed and asked their views as things are suggested. The Portfolios for each District will be standardised but each Council will keep its own Cabinet and Portfolio holders until and if it becomes the South Warwickshire Council.

The budget was also agreed and I was especially pleased to see £500,000 put into a budget for Climate Change. Even with Covid still domineering or lives the Climate emergency has not gone away, though Air Pollution in the area has continued to reduce, especially with so many residents not using their cars so much and working from home.

Cllr Judy Falp Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

No report received from Cllr Heath. Cllr Heath mentioned that legislation now makes it a criminal offence if travellers move on to public or private property and they can be moved on immediately.

Cllr T Heath Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

Cllr Margrave asked about the CCTV cameras and Cllr Mrs Falp reported that the trouble shooting of the CCTV at the shops in Acre Close should be sorted by the end of March

Cllr R Margrave Warwick District Councillor for Whitnash

156/21 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY UPDATE

Cllr Heath reported that the construction of the Civic Centre and Library is progressing. The base for the car park has been laid and the work on the storm water drain should start soon. The job vacancy for the Centre Manager has been advertised. Cllr Barton would like Sarah to be considered for the assistant centre manager position. A meeting with the library is being scheduled for next week.

157/21 CIVIC CENTRE AND LIBRARY PROJECT FUNDING – CONSTRUCTION PHASE

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

158/21 MEETINGS

The regulations that allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely apply to local authority meetings that are required to be held, or held, before 7 May 2021. This means that, without any further action from the government, all local authorities including local councils must return to face-to-face meetings from 7 May. Remote council meetings cannot lawfully take place from 7 May 2021. A decision will be taken at the town council meeting on 15th April 2021 as there may be more information on 12th April 2021. Members will be updated if legislation changes in the interim.

159/21 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Our Annual Parish meeting is scheduled for 15th April 2021 at 6.00 p.m. The hold the Annual Parish Meeting must be held between 1st March and 1st June, but recommendations are to hold it virtually in April due to covid19. Members discussed this and the majority of Members voted for the meeting to be held on 15th April 2021 at 6.00 p.m. This will be advertised on social media.

160/21 CORRESPONDENCE

An email was received from Graham Leach on 19th February 2021 to confirm that Cllr Cancilla is still eligible to be a councillor after Brexit.

161/21 SCHEDULE OF APPROVED PAYMENTS MADE

The Schedule of Approved Payments from 11th February 2021 to 3rd March 2021 was noted.

162/21 REPORTS FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

East: Nothing to report.

North: There is a hole outside 113 Heathcote Road on the grass verge.

South: Cllr Margrave has reported a problem with the speed awareness sign on Coppice Road.

West: Nothing to report.

163/21 REPORT OF CIVIC CENTRE COMMITTEE MEETING

Cllr Heath proposed that a receipt (in the form of draft minutes) of the Community Hub Committee meeting held on 25th February 2021 are received.

164/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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