**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD AT THE GUILD HALL, ASTON CANTLOW**

**ON THURSDAY 9th MARCH 2017 – NO. 87.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

Cllr. Harvey, Cllr. Wallis, Cllr. Berry, Cllr. FitzGibbon and two members of the public.

Part meeting: District Cllr. Gittus and County Cllr. Horner

**2. Apologies:**

There were no apologies.

**3. Written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where that interest is not already in the register of members’ interests:**

No requests were received.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2017.**

These were approved by all Cllrs. and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Public Participation:**

Mr. Anslow expressed his concern for residents pulling out of Guild Road as there are no warning signs in either direction on the approaches to the junction from Bearley Road. The Chairman said that we would look into the matter although generally advisories are only put in place where danger has been identified.

Another matter of concern is the damage to verge edges by tractors travelling backwards and forwards through the villages. It was explained to Mr. Anslow that this matter has already been raised and it is difficult for the Parish Council to know what, if any, action would be relevant apart from possible having a conversation with the farmers concerned.

The third item raised by Mr. Anslow is the state of the footpath between the rear of the Social Club and the bungalows including the tree that requires cutting back each year. A matter that has been raised in the past with both Orbit and the District Council both of the opinion that this piece of land belongs to the other. The Chairman asked the Clerk to write to Orbit requesting them to attend to the footpath and tree, with a copy to the legal Department at the District Council.

No further items were raised and Mr. Anslow thanked the Councillors for their time.

**6**. **County and District Cllrs. reports for information only.**

Cllr. Gittus reported that the budgets for both the County and District went well with the District Council being amongst the top ten to have looked after their finances.

In line with a housing needs survey undertaken by Great Alne Parish Council an application for seven affordable dwellings and ten local needs properties on Green Belt land in Spernal Lane was granted at Committee. A Deed of Variation was granted to remove the obligation of providing extra care units on the Maudsley site itself, instead making financial provision in lieu off-site.

Chris Wright has now retired from Alcester Parish Council and the position of Clerk is due to be taken up by Vanessa Lowe.

County Cllr. Horner managed to attend the meeting briefly and said he would be sending his March report the next day. The main points are that the County Council will enter purdah at the end of this month leading up to the elections and in the Spring budget the Government announced an additional £2 billion grant funding to local authorities for adult social care – Warwickshire County Council will receive £17.8 million of this funding over the next three years.

E5341: Cllr. Horner had not yet seen the letter sent by Mr. Green to Mr. Endall regarding the E5341. The Chairman confirmed that she has drafted a letter from the Parish Council, agreed by all Councillors, and this will be sent tomorrow. Cllr. Horner asked to be copied into that.

County Cllr. March report appended at the end of this document.

**7. Planning matters – update on current planning applications:**

*Planning Application No. 16/0379/FUL* Retreat Farm, Newnham: Conversion of barn to single holiday let. Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 17/00610/COUQ* Barn, Salters Lane, Aston Cantlow: Prior approval notification for the proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1 dwellinghouse, associated curtilage and building operations (Class Qa and Qb).

The Chairman asked Cllr. Gittus for his opinion on the planning application for change of use of the barn in Salters Lane. Although he hadn’t studied this application he advised that if it meets the required criteria there would be no reason for refusal and suggested Councillors looked into the requirements on the internet. The Chairman had already done that and found it does meet the majority of the points but not all. There was also some concern about the proposed design and Cllr. Gittus suggested we ask the Case Officer what control SDC would have over design and appearance. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Watson again requesting more guidance for this application so that an agreed response can be made by email by the deadline.

**8. Progress Report for information only:**

Posts along the edge of The Green to prevent vehicles parking on the grass: Enquiries were made with the Highways Dept. and they would seek to accept the proposal – their conditions would include:

a) That the local community are in support of the concept,

When a previous consultation was carried out in connection with vehicles parked in this area the majority were not in favour of causing more vehicles to park on the highway therefore it was agreed that this would not be pursued.

**9. Correspondence received:**

- A guide to preparing for Emergencies in Warwickshire

- Details of White Paper “Fixing our broken housing market”.

- Scam Alert – workmen charging a fortune to remove moss from roofs.

- WALC notification of S137 limits for 2017-18.

**10. Parish Plan status:**

Cllr. Harvey has one or two queries to discuss with Matthew Neal prior to finalising modifications to the Plan and has not yet managed to communicate with him. The Clerk offered to send her his direct dial phone number in case the one she was using is incorrect.

**11. E5341 :** As referred to in agenda item 6.

**12. Millenium Plaque status:**

A quotation has been received from one of two Contractors so far and Cllr. Berry provided the Clerk with the phone number of someone else for her to contact.

**13. Lengthsman scheme:**

The Chairman and Cllr. Berry met with Mr. Koelman to show him around parts of the Parish and brief him on the types of work he may be asked to carry out. Mr. Koelman agreed to provide details of his day and half day rates. In the meantime Cllr. Berry put him in touch with the County Council Officer who is in charge of training for Lengthsmen. It is hoped that as Mr. Koelman is already on the County Council register it may not be necessary for him to undertake further training.

**14. Defibrillator progress report:**

Cllr. Berry had been in touch with both the Chairman of the Village Hall to arrange a meeting to discuss siting of the defibrillator and the District Council for details of an approved electrical contractor. Wilmcote Parish Council has already purchased two defibrillators and Cllr. Berry contacted the relevant councillor to find out the reasoning behind their particular choice of equipment. Currently Cllr. Berry is awaiting a further quotation before any purchase can be made.

Cllr. FitzGibbon suggested using the phone kiosk to house the defibrillator as the kiosk was on offer to purchase for £1.00. It is possible that it may be too late to take this offer up as decisions were required by the beginning of December and will have been sent to BT. Cllr Fitzgibbon is happy to check on this to see whether or not we can change our mind about removal of the kiosk.

**15. Website:**

Cllr. FitzGibbon advised that she has been in touch with David Hannaford about possible changes to the website and he confirmed he will be quite happy to do any updating that is considered necessary.

**17. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

Information Commissioner £ 35.00 (200479)

Mrs. E. Butterworth (expenses Nov to March) 114.74 BACS transfer

**18. Councillor’s reports and items for the agenda for the next meeting:**

Items for the next agenda:

Lengthsman Scheme update

Defibrillator update

Website update

Parish Plan update

E5341 update

**18. Date of next meeting:**

12th April 2017. Annual Parish Meeting followed by ordinary Parish Council meeting.

No further business – Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

# County Councillor Report

In the Spring Budget the Government announced an additional £2 billion grant funding to local authorities for adult social care. **Warwickshire County Council will receive £17.8 million** of this money over the next three years. This sum is in addition to the £134 million currently spent by the County on adult social care.

Adult social care is often regarded as just care of the elderly. In fact nationally more than 40% of the adult social care budget is spent on adults aged between 18-64, with 35% being spent [on people with learning disabilities alone](http://www.publicsectorexecutive.com/Search/learning%20disabilities).

The County also faces significant cost in caring for vulnerable children and in Warwickshire the fourteen most challenging children cost the County £7 million a year. This is to place the children in specialist homes of no more than two children in order to given them a stable home life and over time to reintroduce them into mainstream education and jobs.

The Home Office is reminding everyone who will be over 18 years on May 4 to make sure they are registered to vote. **The deadline for registration is Thursday, April 13**. Postal votes are gaining in popularity and if anyone is worried about getting to a polling station on May 4 please get in touch with me and I will ensure you are sent a **postal vote registration form**.

A new **training programme** is being offered to small independent retailers and those involved in building town centre partnerships in towns across Warwickshire. The training is free to those who sign up and, in return, businesses are being asked to dedicate time and commitment in order to improve their business and the wider town centre offer.  The three packages are**: Improve Your Business and Town Centre through Collaborative Working; How to Create Your Own Footfall and; Digital Business Skills for Retailers.** The training is being delivered by nationally recognised industry experts in each of these fields.  To find out more and to sign up for the training, details can be found at [www.eventbrite.com](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZXZlbnRicml0ZS5jb20v&r=8217827590&d=3205823&p=1&t=h&h=743728fee23764f892c29adeff5e5450)

The Warwickshire Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is now fully operation for both vulnerable adults and for children. If anybody is at all **worried about someone** please provide details to Warwickshire MASH by telephoning [01926 414144](tel:01926%20414144). Lines are open from: Monday to Thursday: 8:30am – 5:30pm and Friday: 8:30am – 5:00pm

John Horner