**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ASTON CANTLOW VILLAGE HALL ON 13th JULY 2023 No. 127**

**1. Present:**

Cllr. Nicholson,Chair, Cllr Haycock, Cllr Peacey, Cllr Holmes, Cllr Edwards and three members of the public.

**2. Apologies:**

County Cllr. Kerridge.

**3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:**

Cllr Nicholson declared an interest in any matters concerning the village hall.

**4. Sarah Brooke-Taylor, Rural Housing Enabler, WRCC to discuss the**

**housing needs survey report and site canvassing survey carried out**

**in Aston Cantlow in October 2019:**

Ms. Brooke-Taylor had requested the opportunity to meet with the

Councillors to discuss the housing needs survey undertaken in 2019

and subsequent site canvassing process.

A question and answer session too place and then Ms. Brooke-

Taylor advised that originally 6 sites had been considered, and three

subsequently discounted. The three remaining sites are in the

centre of the village and Councillors agreed to her writing to the

owners to enquire if they would be prepared to put their land forward

for small scale developments. If so, the next stage would be a public

consultation.

The Chair thanked Ms Brook-Taylor for attending and we will await news on the land enquiries.

**5. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and ordinary meeting held on 18th May 2023:**

The minutes were approved by all and signed by the Chairman.

**6. Public participation:**

Two members of the public had an interest in the following agenda

item, Community Speedwatch, and the other member of the public

was attending as an observer.

**7.** **Community Speedwatch/Traffic calming:**

The results of speed a survey in Little Alne had been received and circulated to Councillors and the Speedwatch team.

Speeds in excess of 30mph have been recorded and the Clerk has been advised to contact the Traffic & Safety Team at Warwickshire County Council to discuss the situation.

Costings have previously been obtained for gateways and bollards and an enquiry into the possibility and costs of a chicane.

The Speedwatch team now does not feel any of those would be suitable and would like to see a yellow box, without a camera, as they feel that would act more efficiently to slow drivers down.

**8. County & District Councillor reports:**

**District Councillor Holmes report:**

* Attended two planning committee meetings
* Attended four training evenings:
  + Safeguarding
  + Crime and Anti-social behaviour
  + Planning
  + Code of Conduct
* Attended Overview and Scrutiny meeting
* Met with headteacher of Alcester Academy Sarah Mellors
  + Discussed projects the school are looking to undertake and explored potential avenues for funding for the school.
  + Alcester Academy has applied for CIL and 106 funding but have been rejected at every opportunity. Despite being the only non-selective secondary school to serve the Alcester and Bidford area of the hundreds of houses built in the catchment area no CIL money or 106 money has been given to AA at all.
  + I have met with our new planning and economic development portfolio holder Cllr George Cowcher for advise on how best to acquire funding for the school.
  + I have been given a list of contacts to try within the district council and am in the early stages of communicating with officers.

One of the main points of the SLD manifesto was Rebuilding trust between residents and their elected representatives. Where the previous administration chaired the overview and scrutiny committee themselves we have appointed a conservative councillor to chair and a green councillor to vice chair to increase openness and transparency of the district council.

We are looking at introducing a pensioners parking permit for residents of pension age to purchase to allow for parking in Bridgefoot car park in Stratford town. Every town in the district other than Stratford has free parking and this will encourage the use of facilities in the town and combat social isolation of older residents. Would allow us to provide this permit such that it would cost taxpayers nothing or next to nothing as administration fees will be covered by the upfront purchase of the annual permit. Long term the district council is dedicated to promoting and bringing forward sustainable travel priorities across the whole of the District.

West Midlands Combined Authority:

* The district council has grave concerns about the move being made by the County Council to force our area into the WMCA.
* The Conservatives have set out a timetable for the county to join the combined authority to be before May 2024
* The Liberal Democrats believe that residents benefit most from local government that is close to them, is able to listen to them and which best represents them.
* We are currently working with other district councils to investigate exactly how this political move by the county is going to affect us at the district

There was no County Councillor report available at this time.

**9. Planning application update:**

No update to report.

**10. Stile AL93a adjacent river bridge in Little Alne:**

Cllr Peacey had been in touch with the Landowner who agreed to a replacement and asked Cllr. Peacey if he would arrange to do that for him if he provided the necessary materials. Cllr Peacey was happy to do that and the Clerk advised him to obtain written authorisation for the Parish Council files from the Landowner before carrying out the work

County Cllr Kerridge had offered part fund a new disability access gate here, in co-operation with the Landowner, from his delegated budget as he is very keen to create as much disability access into the countryside for trampers etc. as possible. On this occasion the Landowner declined the offer.

A litter bin had also been requested by a dog walker. Litter/dog bin £250.00 + VAT and installation £150.00 + VAT. To be considered at the next meeting.

**11. Preparation of Newsletters and monthly reports for publication**

Cllr Nicholson suggested that all Cllrs. should supply her with a short bio promptly to enter into the August edition of the Village Vine, and a photograph, if desired, to include on our website.

**12. Review of Parish Plan:**

Cllr Holmes suggested we consider a Neighbourhood Plan and agreed to look into what support would be available from the District Council.

**13. Mill Lane speed reduction:**

The Clerk agreed to mention this to the traffic and safety team when discussing the speeds in Little Alne.

**14. Review/Update of Parish Council Website:**

The Aston Cantlow Village Hall committee is keen to update their pages on the website and have been advised that this can be carried out without affecting, or waiting, for the Parish Council.

In the meantime the Chair suggested that Councillors need to decide if our website should be updated and, if so, should that be carried out by SDC or an independent company.

This will be taken forward to our next meeting. In the meantime Councillors giving some thought to what changes/design updates they would be looking for.

**15. Update on matters since the previous meeting:**

* The barriers across the road to the ford were to allow work to be safely carried out on trees at the Little Alne side of the bridge.
* SLOW has been repainted on the road in Mill Lane.
* Mr Evans reported that some of the drains/gullies have been cleared and the verges cut. The pothole by The Old Green has been filled.

**16. Items for consideration at the next meeting:**

Update on repair of stile in Little Alne

Review/update of Website

Traffic and safety items

Litter/dog bin by stile when renewed

Horse gate at Bearley Road end of bridleway

**17. Bank Mandate**: Deferred to next meeting.

**18. Date of next meeting:**

14th September 2023.

No further business, meeting closed at 9.15 pm