**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ASTON CANTLOW ON 18th JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00 pm. No. 125**

1. **Present:**

Cllr. Nicholson,Chairman, Cllr Holmes, Cllr Peacey,

 Cllr Haycock, Cllr Edwards, Sarah Brooke-Taylor, WRCC Housing Enabler and upwards of 70 residents. Not possible to count accurately as some members of the public were standing in the doorway and corridor.

**2. Apologies:**

 County Cllr. Kerridge.

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

 No declarations were received.

 **4. Sarah Brook-Taylor, WRCC Rural Housing Enabler regarding**

 **an area of land off Bearley Road to the north of the village**

 **where the Landowner is, in principle, happy for the site to**

 **be considered for the development of local needs housing.**

Initially 6 sites were identified as possibilities and after full consideration 3 were discarded. Ms. Brooke-Taylor wrote to the landowners of the remaining 3 sites.

Ms Brooke-Taylor confirmed that a site in the Parish had been found i.e. a landowner had come forward with a plot so that there was the potential to take the investigations further to outline in more detail, and what this would entail. She stated that the site was less than an acre and could potentially contain 6-8 homes. In order to take the investigations forward she would need approval from the Parish Council.  If the parish council did agree Ms Brooke- Taylor could proceed to the next stage, she would have some sketches drawn up and would arrange a public meeting in the village hall for all residents to attend and make their comments. She also advised that if at any time the parish council did not want to continue with this exercise it would proceed no further.

 It was confirmed that the following investigations would be carried out before any application is progressed to any formal planning and would include:-

* Thorough understanding of any impact of flooding and drainage.
* Addressing the location, ecology and landscape.
* A site plan and layout.
* Access issues to utilities impact if any on neighbouring properties.

 Ms. Brooke –Taylor was happy to take questions and the Chair advised that these must be one at a time and indicated with a raised hand.

 A great many questions were asked, some comments were made about the land in question not being very suitable.

 Ms. Brooke-Taylor said this was the only land on offer and she would be happy to receive offers of other plots to look at.

 The last question was asked and the Chair indicated that we still had a number of items to discuss on the agenda so we would have to proceed with those. Residents were welcome to stay if they wished

 The Cllrs took a vote with a show of hands and the result was 3 in favour of proceeding to the next stage and two against.

 **5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting**

 **Held on the 9th November 2023.**

These minutes were approved by all Cllrs. present and signed by the Chair.

**6. Public participation:**

The majority of the members of the public were attending in relation to agenda item No. 4

**7. Correspondence: All correspondence circulated electronically**

 **is taken as read.**

**8. Mill Lane traffic safety provisions and traffic calming in Little Alne:**

 The Highways team are hoping this can be completed before the end of March.

**9. County & District Councillors reports**:

 The District Councillor report is appended at the end of this document.

 County Cllr. Kerridge reported as follows:

 I have no reports from WCC except around road flooding where I have a reply from Dylan, our highways localities officer:

 "Aston Cantlow- Unfortunately, again this is down to it being an extreme weather event. I went out to this the day after the floods on the 2nd and checked all the gullies and they were not blocked. The outfalls of the gullies go into the brook that runs along the road, and the water level was higher than the outfalls of these gullies. As such the water had nowhere to go which led to the floods. Unfortunately there isn’t anything we can do about this during these flood events, however I will monitor the gullies in case they do become blocked.

 Little Alne- Very similar to Aston Cantlow, the gullies outfall into the brook and when there is these extreme weather events the volume of water fills up in the brook and can’t get away quick enough. However there are some blocked gullies here so I have raised a job to have these jetted.

 Little Alne to Great Alne- Jetting jobs have been raised on each of the corners to clear the blocked gullies, it is likely that further works will be required here, however until the jetting is carried out I am unable to be specific on what we can do."

 **10. To agree precept request for 2024/2025:**

 Cllr Nicholson proposed keeping the precept request at £9,400.00,

 the same as last year, as our finances are reasonably healthy.

 seconded by Cllr Peacey and agreed by all Cllrs.

 **11. Defibrillator update:**

 We were advised that there has been a delay with the cabinet

 delivery from the supplier and hope to hear further next week.

 **12. Planning applications update:**

Application No. 23/02804/FUL Walnut Tree Cottage, Little Alne

 Permission with conditions.

 Application No. 23/03056/TREE St John The Baptists Church

 Application withdrawn.

 **13. Parish Council Assets:**

Councillors carried out the annual inspection and the only issue

 raised was the lid on the dog bin by the Club car park being bent

 and not fitting properly. SDC may be able to repair this or it

 be replaced with a new bin at a cost of £250.00. Biffa can

 also supply stickers for the general waste bins indicating that

 they are dual purpose and bagged dog waste can be put in them

 as well.

**14. Flooding:** As reported by County Cllr Kerridge in agenda item No 9.

**15. Review/update of Website:**

 This matter is ongoing.

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

 A letter of thanks for the donation towards new curtains has been

 received from the village hall committee.

**17. Warwickshire County Council’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan:**

 A survey for completion by 10th March. The Chair said she would

 take a look at this.

**18. Urgent items not on the agenda raised by Councillors:**

No items were raised.

**19. To propose other items of business for consideration at the next**

 **meeting:**

WRCC local needs housing.

 Flooding

 Defibrillator update

 **20. Date of next meeting:**

14th March 2024. Annual Parish Meeting followed by an ordinary

 parish council meeting.

No further business, meeting closed at 7.50 pm

**District Councillor Report**

**Cllr Thorn Holmes**

**Flooding:**

Following the recent flooding in our local area as well as around the district, Liberal

Democrat Councillors are working on a motion about planning and flooding, and flood

defences, and I will update you at the next meeting.

If your home flooded during Storm Henk (2-5 Jan), please report it now. Reporting flooding

may help us secure Government flood funding to support you, and help planning future

flood prevention measures. Report flooding in your home:

https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/flooding

The flood risks in the district are well recognised. The wetter winters will only make this

worse and we must make sure that our planning policies locally address this. Information

below helps when there is a threat of flooding:

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You can check which rivers have flood alerts or flood warnings in place by visiting

https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/alerts-and-warnings

**If you are affected by floodwater from:**

• the road - please contact Warwickshire County Council Highways Team on 01926

412982

• a main river - please contact The Environment Agency on 0345 9881188

• a public sewer or burst water main - please contact Severn Trent on 0800 7834444

You should also call the Environment Agency Floodline on 0345 988 1188 if you see flooding

from collapsed or badly damaged riverbanks, or unusual changes in river flow. Main rivers

may also be blocked by a vehicle or fallen trees and increase the risk of flooding.

If you see animals trapped in flooded fields, please call 999 and report this to Warwickshire

Fire and Rescue Service.

Please call Severn Trent Water on 0800 783 4444 if you see flooding from sewers and burst

water mains.

If there is a risk to life dial 999.

**Budget cycle**

We are now in the first budget cycle of the new administration, with the proposed budget

going for public consultation this month (January). Stratford-on-Avon District Council is

required to set its budget annually; this is normally approved by Council at the meeting at

the end of February each year. The Council sets out its spending plans for both revenue and

capital for the year ahead, along with reviewing the position for the following four years.

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There are huge pressures on local government finances across the country. The Local

Government Association has identified an estimate £4 billion funding gap in the next two

years for councils to maintain their current service levels. This gap has been significantly

impacted by the lack of additional funding in the recent Autumn Statement from the

government.

Since 2010, central government funding for local authorities has been cut by 50%. This

means that in the 2024/2025 budget-setting process there will be some difficult choices.

Despite these challenges, and in contrast to the government's current agenda, the new Lib

Dem administration is focused on achieving a balanced budget and maintaining sufficient

reserves to protect the council against future uncertainty. Further, the council is ensuring

we spend resources on good quality public services that meet the needs of our residents, in

particular the most vulnerable. The budget proposals include support for the cost-of-living

crisis, help for the rural communities and vulnerable residents, support to address the

Climate Emergency and resources to implement the new Council Plan agreed in December

2023.

**Budget proposals include:**

**Rural communities and vulnerable residents**

• £28,000 for Rural Crime Advisors, working with Community Safety Team, to improve

response to rising rural crime.

• £85,000 to maintain support for the UBUS service, to protect the vital connection

between isolated communities and public services.

• £5,500 for a new pilot scheme in Southam and Alcester for Customer Access

Terminals in rural communities to enable face-to-face communication with the

District Council.

**Staying healthy and active**

• £25,000 for a new Leisure Community Instructor to provide targeted support for

people with long term health conditions.

• Reduction in hire fees for use of public playing pitches in Stratford-upon-Avon to

incentivise more sporting activity.

**Cost of Living Crisis support**

• £250,000 to continue to protect residents from the ongoing cost of living crisis,

providing grants for those most in need of support with energy bills.

**Climate change emergency:**

• £500,000 extra funding to enable the Council to achieve its carbon reduction targets.

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• £250,000 to change the current refuse collection vehicles to the use of HVO

(hydrotreated vegetable oil) fuel to reduce harmful emissions by nearly 100%.

**Council Plan and Change Programme:**

• £2million to implement the new Council Plan, benefitting residents within six areas

of focus, including delivering better homes, boosting the local economy, increasing

green spaces, encouraging alternative modes of transport, supporting Town and

Parish Councils and their local communities, and improving the overall effectiveness

of the Council.

The draft budget also proposes an increase to Council Tax of £5.00 for 2024/25 and 2025/26

and 2.99% thereafter, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per

month to the District Council next year.

**Community Climate Change Fund**

A new Community Climate Change Fund is being launched this month which will encourage

Parish Councils and constituted community groups to carry out actions that support the

Council's climate change goals.

**Green waste bin subscription**

Subscriptions for the Garden Waste Service April to Match 2024 opened on the 16th of

January. The annual charge is £46 per green bin.

https://www.stratford.gov.uk/waste-recycling/garden-waste-service.cfm

For further information, you can contact the District Council on streetscene@stratforddc.

gov.uk or 01789 260628

**Podback coffee pods recycling**

Residents will be able to recycle their plastic or aluminium coffee pods at home by signing

up for free on the Podback website. They will be sent two rolls of Podback recycling bags (26

bags or six months' supply) along with instructions on how to use the service. Filled bags of

used coffee pods can then be put out alongside or on top (not inside) of the waste,

recycling, or garden waste container(s), on the scheduled collection day. Residents living in

flats can participate by using the Podback Drop Off service.

For more information, please visit: www.stratford.gov.uk/podback

To find out more about signing up for the new Podback service please

visit: www.podback.org

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**Sherborne Material Recycling facility**

The state-of-the-art Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Coventry, which is a project by

eight local authorities including Stratford District Council is now fully operational. Its

technologies achieve high purity rates and tackle a wider range of waste materials, including

single use plastics. The most advanced MRF of its kind in the UK, the plant utilises specialist

Al technology to process dry mixed residential kerbside recycling in the most sustainable

and efficient way possible. More information will be coming in the next issue on what

further material we can out in our recycling (blue lid) bins.

**Fire & Rescue services consultation**

As you might be aware, Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) which carries out fire

and rescue functions on behalf of the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority,

Warwickshire County Council (WCC), is consulting on a proposed change to its service

delivery model as part of its Resourcing to Risk approach. It is a radical change to current

operations. They are proposing to close Bidford, Fenny Compton, Henley, Shipston,

Polesworth, Kenilworth, Wellesbourne and Gaydon as on-call fire stations into surge

stations.

I urge residents to engage with the consultation: https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insightsservice/

wfrs-r2r/

If you have any queries or need any help or advice about the consultation, please

email wfrsr2r@warwickshire.gov.uk or telephone Warwickshire County Council Customer

Service Centre on 01926 410410.

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