

Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday, 9th. May 2021

Log on details:

Meeting ID: 863 0155 8578 Password: AP21

Type in this link to go straight to the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86301558578?pwd=ZU0xUmxiU2hXQmhQeFYyUXFjN094UT09>

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Zoom this year as we are not able to meet in person. As you are aware, this is your meeting but is organised by the Council. It is your opportunity to ask questions about the work of the Council and to raise any matters of importance to the Parish. If you are unable to attend in person, you can ask your questions or raise concerns by sending them to me at: Cllr.Prior@wellesbournepc.com

The HEE Committee is responsible for overseeing all matters relating to Highways, Environment and Emergency, as the acronym would suggest. The committee itself has seen changes with the benefit of new Councillors, each with their own areas of knowledge and experience.

We have challenged subjects including light and noise pollution, road safety including speeding, anti-social behaviour, emergency equipment updates, green area maintenance and landscaping, and improvements to our footpaths. Most recently we have successfully engaged with the Police with the objective of improving communications with our local SNT, increasing their visibility, and having more practical support where needed.

A fully updated Emergency Plan has been completed and is now in place should we need to act in a crisis.

It is also pleasing to note that we have good engagement with other responsible areas of Council, such as Community Facilities, which gives us greater cohesion and understanding of our long term plan.

In respect of budgeting, improved analysis of our spending has allowed us to be more targeted. This reduces the need to significantly increase our budget demands for the coming financial year - reducing the burden on our residents - whilst still being able to provide additional support for the new development areas and other improvements around the village.

Cllr. Stuart Jackson

The Community Facilities Committee has continued its work this year although it has been a frustrating one. The work of the committee has been delayed by matters outside our control. We are still moving towards signing the lease for Dog Close and working on the planning application for the Newbold Road site.

We have purchased further play equipment for the Mountford Play Area which will be installed shortly, and we have recently gone out to tender for the removal of the old youth hut and the creation of an improved car park behind the village hall.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee continues with its oversight of the Council's spending. The Responsible Financial Officer and the Finance Assistant help with this. The months of November and December are busy discussing the Finances for the next financial year and setting the precept. Our precept request has been sent to Stratford District Council and this should be confirmed in March.

Cllr. R Bolton

During the year we have had new councillors join us and I am including two reports from them.

Councillor Andy Blake:

Having joined the council in November last year it has certainly been an interesting few months. The existing councillors all welcomed me most warmly and made me feel part of the team from the start. I have learned a lot about the work that the council does for the

residents of the local community and have enjoyed being part of the discussions and being able to help make decisions. I have found the subcommittees an extremely interesting part of what the council does, and I look forward to being a useful member of the Finance committee. As all our meetings have been held virtually, I also can't wait until the time that I am able to meet my fellow councillors in person.

Councillor Tony Dipple:

My role as the Parish Councillor for Walton certainly has had one or two rewarding moments - with Walton being the delightfully small Hamlet it is, being able to welcome new residents into our small Community is of great delight, and I expect they often wonder why they see me walking round with a long handled rake! Which brings me to what seems to be my main role and that is of drain clearer. I do seem to spend a good few hours clearing the mud and leaves from the drains on the road past Walton Hall, ensuring we all have a safe and flood free passage in and out of Walton - although I now do have the support of the Highways Agency - good news indeed.

I also excel at being the chief road gritter for the hazardous corner near my home on cold and frosty evenings. I also deliver the Wellesbourne and Walton news and with Easter on the horizon, there will be a little something extra for the village. I do a newspaper run on Saturdays if anyone would like to be added to the list, please do just call me.

I have had a few residents speak with me regarding the number of "extra" visitors to Walton during the lockdowns. I have raised this with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Philip Secombe at the last Parish Meeting. He has assured me that this is being taken very seriously, and if you do see any flagrant breaches of COVID-19 protocol, please dial 101 and they will respond appropriately.

And should any Walton residents have any concerns or questions, or need any help at all, please do just pop round or call.

This year, our staff have been working from home.

Lynda Scriven - Clerk and Finance Asst to the Council

What a learning curve a pandemic brought to WWPC staff! For the last year we, the staff of the Parish Council offices, have been working from hastily set up home offices and I am proud of how we have coped in difficult and demanding times. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff with the support of our Councillors, there has been no loss of service to the residents of the parish from our offices. The office phone (01789 841434) is on transfer to my home and the Admin Asst Kate, has a new public mobile (07783303198). Of course, you can still contact us on our usual council email addresses too.

Kate has done a remarkable job of gathering the Index information from local businesses and the vast preparation required before getting it to the printers despite the restrictions brought about by the pandemic, and she is to be commended for her tenacity. She continues to deal with resident's enquiries and our contractors on a daily basis.

Des, our Finance Officer continues to support the Council from his home with financial accounting and reporting and will be holding a virtual meeting with the internal auditor later in the month to ensure the Council has the financial support it requires to function. He has been assisting with the budgeting for the 2021/22 financial needs of the Council and the precept and is busy preparing for the year end.

I have been busier than ever, supporting the Council to keep "normality" in these difficult times, organising papers for virtual meetings, carrying out the usual duties of a Parish Clerk as well as assisting with voluntary groups grant funding by acting as the administrator for government grants for Wellesbourne & Walton Community Cares and Wellesbourne Scrubbers. More recently I have been on socially distanced site visits to get one of our projects underway. My workload vastly increased with the additional demands of working from home, by week 14 of lockdown I had worked 85 hours of overtime to support everyone who needed it and there were many of you. I am delighted to report that we the staff haven't stopped, if you need us, we are all still here for you and happy to help.

This has been a most unusual year and councillors and our staff are to be commended for the work they have done to ensure our business of supporting the Parish runs smoothly. We hope that 2021/21 will be a little easier although the future is still unclear at the time of writing this.

Anne Prior, Chairman.

March Meetings:

March 2nd Council Meeting at 7pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84620361016?pwd=MWJQSWI4aytid1hsUINoRVFIL2RZdz09>

Meeting ID: 846 2036 1016

Passcode: Council21

9th. March Annual Parish Meeting 7pm on Zoom

16th. March Community Facilities Committee 7pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82419812748?pwd=cG84Wk5VTlJzd3NqdHFZTGNIKzcxdz09>

Meeting ID: 824 1981 2748

Passcode: CF21

30th. March Finance Committee 7pm on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83540537331?pwd=Uzh6MnF3WFILS296RnI1aHdianBvUT09>

Meeting ID: 835 4053 7331

Passcode: F21

There may be other meetings, please check our website.