

Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Council Annual Report March 2023



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
14th MARCH 2023, at St Peter's Church, Church Street,
Wellesbourne at 7.00pm

ORDER OF AGENDA

WELCOME BY PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, CLLR ANNE PRIOR

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF 2022 MEETING
MATTERS ARISING

GUEST SPEAKERS

WELLESBOURNE & WALTON FLOOD ACTION GROUP
WARWICKSHIRE FIRE SERVICES
WARWICKSHIRE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

ANY MATTERS WHICH MAY BE RAISED BY AN ELECTOR OF THE PARISH

CLOSE

When I wrote the report for 2022, the Council staff were working from home and life was not yet back to anything that represented normal. What a change there has been since then; life seems almost normal although there have been some changes in behaviour as a result of the pandemic.

The Council has continued to work hard on your behalf during the last twelve months and I want to take this opportunity to tell you about some of it.

We now have a new website which is accessible to all.



www.wellesbourneandwalton-pc.gov.uk

It features a simpler design with easy access to important information about the council.

The home page features a welcome message from the chairman of the council and various and rotating pictures of the village.

In just a few clicks you can find out about:

- forthcoming meetings of the council and committees
- who's who in the council and how to contact them
- the index to shops and services in the village (due to be updated this year)
- details of the village conservation area
- the fascinating history of Wellesbourne featuring old pictures of the village

The new website includes the new parish council logo which was designed by a pupil at Wellesbourne Primary School after a village-wide competition.

The Parish Council has continued with its policy to adopt the open spaces in the village and has recently taken ownership of the play area and land surrounding it off Cozens Street, the new extension of the Dovehouse Estate.

We are currently in the final stages of taking over the two play areas on The Grange and the land behind the larger play area up to the woodland. The final piece of land beyond the houses will be transferred when the building work is completed.

We are also in the final stages of transferring the open space on Frost Road, just awaiting the final paperwork from the management company's solicitors.

The Council believes it benefits residents for us to have ownership of these areas as we can respond to issues as they arise.

After the Annual Meeting in 2022, Sustainable Wellesbourne was set up from residents who volunteered to launch projects to make the parish more sustainable and to meet its goals in the coming year. You will be receiving more information from this group in the coming months.

The Parish Council has worked in partnership with several groups this year. The Community Café has been established at Wellesbourne Sports and Community Centre. Initially Warwickshire Rural Community Council launched it and then the Parish Council in partnership with the Methodist Church has continued it. Every week, 15 -20 people get together to enjoy each other's company with refreshments and several activities. You are all welcome to come along.

We have worked with other Parish Councils to pressure the Integrated Care Board to establish a health care provision in the new development of Upper Lighthorne. It has now been agreed by all parties that the development should have its own medical practice. This demonstrates the power of cooperation in achieving a desired goal.

The Council has helped relaunch Wellesbourne in Bloom with planting activities across the village. This has made the village more attractive.

As always, planning applications form a significant part of the work we do. This year has seen some major applications in the village including a proposal for self-build houses on Walton Road, the development of Wellesbourne Hall and recently the application to extract minerals from the land near Barford. I have highlighted these as they were applications to which the Council objected. Objecting to applications takes a great deal of thought and time as objections must be on planning grounds. The council listens to the views of residents, either received by email or in person at council meetings and then express our own opinions and vote outlining our reasons for objecting. Wellesbourne has had much development over the last few years, and we are mindful of that but

that is not enough of an argument to object to all applications, there needs to be good planning reasons why we are objecting.

Other areas of potential development are the airfield and the allotments. We have supported Wellesbourne Matters and the Allotment Association to prevent either being designated for housing development and will continue to protect both areas.

A development which will be moving ahead, with local consultation due to be published shortly, is the University of Warwick site. Cllr. Shepherd and I attended an interesting meeting to listen to their proposals and to contribute our thoughts. It was refreshing to see the landscaping of the area forming an essential part of any proposal. Too often, landscaping seems to be an add on, a matter we have raised with Stratford District Council in a recent consultation on Open Spaces.

Last year there was a very successful awareness raising venture with the 20's plenty signs and banners around the village. Unfortunately we have been informed that we can no longer put up our signs but we have had feedback from residents that the behaviour of some motorists has improved.

We want to use this report to highlight other areas of our involvement in the village. In particular, Councillor Shepherd is our representative on the Reverend Richard Boyse's Education Foundation and we feel that not enough of our young residents know about it. The foundation was created by a previous Vicar of St Peter's Church back in 1739, for the education of children in the then parishes of Wellesbourne Hastings and Wellesbourne Mountford. In 1933 a new Settlement Deed was agreed and the charity was registered with the Charity Commission. The Parish Council is entitled to nominate a trustee of the charity and councillor Shepherd was appointed as a Trustee in May 2022.

During 2022, the Trustees undertook a review of the terms and powers of the Charity and obtained the Charity Commission's agreement to extend the area covered by the charity. Due to boundary changes, the mergers of the above 2 parishes and Walton Parish Council some years ago the charity did not include Walton. The changes agreed by the Charity Commission now enable the charity to make grants to children and young people living anywhere in the area of Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Council (whether or not they go to school in the parish) and those going to Wellesbourne School (including if they live outside the parish). The changes also increased the age limit for grants for educational purposes to 25 (provided they are not in substantive employment).

In 2022, the charity made 16 grants totalling £4,550 for a variety of purposes including laptops and school trips.

Anyone wishing to apply for a grant or assistance towards their education can obtain an application for from <https://www.stpeterswellesbourne.org.uk/the-boyse-foundation> or from St Peter's church office. All Grants are at the discretion of the Trustees although are unlikely to exceed £300 per applicant or £500 per person throughout their education.

Finally, We wanted to mention our office staff who support the work of the Council on a daily basis and without whom our work would be more difficult.

From the Clerk

Following the pandemic, the staff readjusted from home working to being back at the office. It was refreshing to be able to open the doors to the office and welcome you back in person.

During the year, I have attended meetings with District and County Councils, liaised with developers, prepared the summons and papers for the Council's own meetings, and have run the Lengthsman scheme for 5 Parishes to mention just a few.

We have a variety of enquiries, including complaints about potholes, overgrown vegetation and dog fouling to requests for general information and assistance, play equipment and more public open space. It is also my job to ensure that the Councillors have registered their papers of office, have the support documentation they require and generally provide them with administrative support.

The Clerk will have been with the Council for twenty years this year and has a fund of knowledge.

Please remember that the Annual Parish Meeting is your meeting.

It is your opportunity to question the Council about what it has done and to raise any matters that concern you.

Please do come along on the 14 March. We look forward to seeing you there.

Anne Prior
Chairman.