

# WELLESBOURNE & WALTON PARISH COUNCIL

## *Minutes for a meeting of the Council on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.15 pm at the Methodist Hall, Bridge Street, Wellesbourne*

Present: Chairman: Cllr Mrs Prior      Councillors: Barton, Mrs Bolton, Davies, Dipple, Mrs Hancox, Howes, Keogh-Bywater, Storr  
Clerk: Mrs Scriven      County/District Cllrs: 4      Members of public: 10  
Guests: Ben Brooks (Chief – Fire Service) Sally ? (Fire Service) Cllr Izzy Seccombe (WCC)

### 1. Welcome and announcements

### 2. Apologies received – Cllrs Mrs Jackson, Shepherd. Cllr Crump (invited guest)

### 3. Declarations of Interest - none

### 4. Confirmation of the order of the agenda – Item 8.2 WWPC response to Fire Service consultation to be moved to 16 and renumber and item 13.4 Monitors for the River Dene and Newbold Brook to be moved to 20<sup>th</sup> February Ex Ord meeting for further information to be sought – agreed.

### 5. Identification of any items that might be resolved for confidential session – Item 17 Citizens Award - agreed

### 6. Confirmation of the minutes of the Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 - agreed

### 7. Matters arising from the minutes (not included in the agenda)

7.1 Parking on footway in Newbold Road – The Police and WCC had been made aware of the problems and dangers of this practice.

7.2 Overgrown Hedge 1 Newbold Road – WCC had sent a letter requesting the hedge be cut back.

### 8. Fire & Rescue consultation

8.1 Fire & Rescue consultation – a presentation was given by Ben Brook (Chief Fire Officer) with supporting comments by Izzy Seccombe (WCC) followed by a Q&A session. Within the service activity versus availability was not a Warwickshire problem but rather a national one with 89% of life events/fatalities occurring between the hours of 8am and 10pm. Wellesbourne's availability currently was 20% during 9am – 6pm and 80% at night. Proposals for Wellesbourne were to provide a dedicated crew between the hours of 8am – 10pm with a crew based at the station covering those times. Cllr Seccombe said the change in society means more families have both working parents and less volunteering time and these problems needed to be addressed in order that proper solutions could be explored rather than taking a "sticking plaster" approach.

The Councillors asked the Fire Chief:

Q. With the south of Warwickshire being such a large geographical area how would the rural villages and residents safety be covered without appliances available? (8 appliances attended the RSC building on Sunday night, what would you do if another incident occurred?)

A. The service hears this and are looking at other options to put cover where needed there would be "Surge Teams" which would give a further 12 appliances in the day and 8 at night with the ability to call back other crew members if needed.

Q. The information on Surge Teams is vague, no information on how they would be appointed, trained, equipment maintenance, where based – this had not been thought through. Fire fighters said they require time to prepare themselves and the appliance to leave the station.

A. Surge Teams would be run by crews working night shifts or whole time fire fighters with mobilisation as required. The legislative process still has to be gone through. The service has a workshop on 19/02/24 with fire fighters to discuss rotas, pay and conditions. Two afternoons had been set up for fire fighters to bring their views and ideas to the table. Wellesbourne cover would be provided by either whole time or part time nightshift workers who have the same competency level. The issue of preparation time of fire fighters and appliances to leave the station has been heard and consideration could be given to the hours maybe from 7am – 7pm or 7am – 10pm, the service is open to suggestions.

Q. Wellesbourne would be unhappy to lose the night shift cover currently 92% with on call fire fighters (after 10pm) as only one appliance available for the vast geographical area of south Warwickshire and why are the recruitment criteria so disjointed? (currently all training had to be completed before a medical was done – it was a huge waste of resources to put someone through the training programme only to find they have a medical condition which precluded them from joining the service) The 5 minute from station rule precluded many from joining the service as they could not afford properties next to the station.

A. The shortfalls in the recruitment process have been heard and will form part of the consultation process. The decision on appliance allocation had been made based on the risk versus resource rather than geographic or political reasons.

Q. Wellesbourne will have reduced safety because of the decision to move services to the north of the county who would have 3 appliances at the cost of the south who would have 1 appliance for such a vast rural area where it takes time to get anywhere whilst expecting us to pay the same for a much reduced, lesser service.

A. The risk factors are much higher in the north of the county, higher more densely populated areas and although the incidents of chip pan fires and house fires are lower due to better practices and materials, the road traffic incidents are higher due to the motorway networks around Nuneaton and Bedworth in particular. Warwickshire fire services have looked at the models used by surrounding services and cherry picked the best parts for its own model.

Councillors responded that it shows that WFS have taken this approach, it is a complete pick and mix without firm and fair structure.

Q. No costings have been made available, how will downgrading the service provide value for money?

A. No real cost saving, one model saves approximately £14,000 another £20,000 (ish), it is not a cost cutting exercise, a 151 officer (Financial Officer) has checked the models and schemes and it was noted that call outs for incidents vary greatly, one incident might cost £11,000 another £400.

Councillors commented that whilst residents were to be asked to pay more for a service they would actually be getting less value for money and a lesser service leaving residents vulnerable and ignoring their safety.

Cllr Seccombe said "we have to keep people safe and cannot say how that will be done currently, but to do nothing was not an option."

## 9. Open session for members of the public to raise any matters of relevance to the Parish

Miss McDonough, Mountford Close raised concern about the school traffic, with parents parking on zig-zags, white lines, corners and have now been seen driving across the footway to travel against the flow of the traffic.

N Batchelor, Cozens Street raised concerns about the “no dogs permitted” signs recently installed in the Council’s parks.

C Bennett, Cozens Street, people were encouraged to use the green open spaces for wellbeing but the “no dogs permitted” signs meant the park at Cozens Street could not be used by anyone with dogs.

Mrs Troth, Chestnut Square, the PC had been perceived as being anti-dogs and asked what about companion dogs used by children or older people who need somewhere safe to let dogs off leads.

Queries raised by other residents were circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting.

The Clerk explained that there were no Dog Control Orders on the three new parks/open spaces but the PC had taken the decision to make these areas dog free due to problems with fouling and out of control animals in play areas. If residents did not respect this signage then the Council would seek a Public Space Protection Order on these areas enforceable by Stratford District Council and the Courts.

The Chairman said the Council had a responsibility to provide safe areas for children to play and could not have dogs running out of control off leads. The Council had tried appealing to dog owners to pick up after their animals and enclosing play areas with fencing at a cost of more than £30,000 only for dog owners/walkers to open the gate and let their animal into the enclosure to run around unwatched. Such was the level of fouling, the sports field had to be fenced in at great cost only for the fence to be cut so dog walkers could get back in again. Staff members, contractors and Councillors have all been subjected to verbal assault or threats of physical assault when asking dog walkers to pick up the dog mess left by their animals or pointing out the safety of children must take priority and it is this level of antisocial behaviour which has resulted in the decision taken not to permit dogs on the open spaces adjoined to play areas. The Council are looking at provision of a dog exercise area in the centre of the village, this will be discussed at the next meeting of the Community Facilities committee.

## 10. District & County Council matters

**10.1 Cllr George Cowcher report** – noted. Queries about provision of more bins – it is not currently a legal requirement for developers to install waste/dog waste bins. SDC is to consider this and the ongoing maintenance/emptying schedules.

Cllr AP said WWPC would be installing 4 new bins, three on the Grange estates and one at Mountford Place (Cozens St) parks at a cost of approximately £2600 installed plus a monthly charge for emptying them. WWPC could only install bins on property in its ownership and if requested on the street, the parish are asked to pay for purchase and emptying with the cost dictated by Stratford District Council.

**10.2 Cllr Parry report** – noted. A resident had questioned the works carried out by WWFAG at Moreton Morrell to hold back water upstream from Wellesbourne asserting his home on Newbold Road had flooded and that further investigation was needed about the plans for the use of the field by the PC for a school car park. Cllr Keogh-Bywater confirmed that to the knowledge of the Council, no homes had been flooded during the recent inclement weather, only gardens. The Integrated Care Board (ICB) had approved the new GP facility in the Community Hub and Healthcare facility at Upper Lighthorne and were now pushing forward for tendering. The facility would not be running until at least 2027.

**10.3 Cllr Johnston report** – noted. Following receipt of emails regarding Newbold Road brook and the works carried out by WWFAG, it was important to acknowledge that WWFAG were a voluntary group who were not responsible for the flood protection of the village and any works carried out by the group were approved first by Warwickshire County Council Flood Agency and the Environment Agency. The status of the planning application for the school parking on Newbold Road land was raised. The Chairman clarified that on advice of the agent and SDC Planning, it was agreed the application should not be withdrawn but that further information be provided, timescale of this was not currently known. Cllr Johnston asked if WWPC were going to respond to the Footpaths consultation noting that suggestions made were not necessarily achievable, such as wheelchairs using a bridleway. The Chairman said it had been difficult to make a PC response to this and Cllrs had been asked to respond individually.

**10.4 Cllr O'Donnell report** – noted. Youngsters were being invited to join WCC Youth Council, this was being advertised on social media

## 11. Planning

### 11.1 Applications

1.

23/03170/FUL	Amendments to application – updated drawings and information provided to overcome highways objection to overcome parking concerns. (original proposal – 1 bedroom detached house)		
At	25 Manston Drive, Wellesbourne	For	Mr Lewis Locker
Planning Officer	Sarah Leach	Date	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024

The Council maintained its original objections and reiterated this was out of character with neighbouring properties, did not accord with the streetscene, was overdevelopment of the site, removed the A429 buffer zone and due to the very minimal space given for vehicle parking and manoeuvring the parking of only one car would be practical, not two as stated by the applicant.

### 11.2 Withdrawn

1.

23/02635/FUL	Proposed two storey extension to side		
At	9 Baden West Road, Wellesbourne	For	Mr & Mrs L Brown
Planning Officer	Lindsey Young	Date	24 <sup>th</sup> January

### 11.3 Decisions (Permitted/permission with conditions)

#### 1. Certificate of lawful proposed use or development

24/00058/LDP	Rear single storey extension		
At	23 Cozens Street Wellesbourne	For	Mr Edward Hutton
Planning Officer	Kacey Dickenson	Date	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

#### 2. Permission with conditions

23/03025/FUL	Proposed single storey extension to side of existing dwelling to create a study and utility room		
At	5 Harvard Close, Wellesbourne	For	Mr Boparai
Planning Officer	Sian Maher	Date	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2024

11.4 Date of next WWPC Planning Committee Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

11.5 Date of next SDC planning committee meetings: 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

## 12. Finance Committee

12.1 Committee Chairman's update Cllr RB – the RFO and committee would be gathering year end statistics ready for presentation to the auditor at year end.

12.2 Record of payments made as per the attached list - noted

12.3 Record of staff salary payments made as per the attached list - noted

12.4 Management reports for December - noted

12.5 Date of next meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## 13. Highways, Environment & Emergency Committee

13.1 HEE Chairman's report Cllr MKB - noted

13.1.1 Road Safety working party update Cllr MKB – the working party have been identifying the problem areas across the whole parish. The suggestion from the WP was a 20mph limit through the village following public consultation.

13.1.2 Road safety measures

Recommendation to request 20mph limits through the village following a public consultation	Prop Cllr MKB 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cllr SH carried Cllr RB voted against
Recommendation to commission a speed survey on Bridge Street (nr Constance Harris Close) at a cost of £220 + vat for a two week period to be taken from the HEE Capital Sum	Prop Cllr MKB 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cllr NS carried

13.2 CSW Wellesbourne (Community Speed Watch)

13.2.1 Bushnell Velocity Speed devices update – increase in price from previous supplier & complications of ordering online Clerk – due to the fact PCs cannot hold and use debit or credit cards the devices cannot be purchased online. The Chairman offered to purchase the devices on the Council's behalf with WWPC refunding the purchase.

Recommendation for the Chairman to purchase the equipment and WWPC to refund the Chairman from the HEE Capital Sum	Prop Cllr RB, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cllr NS carried Cllr AP abstained
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13.3 Climate Change – Council Development Plan

13.3.1 Climate funding opportunity SDC Cllr AP – Suggested application for retro-fitting the new community hub/Council offices with solar power/battery power/wind turbines in line with reduced carbon emissions – agreed. Prop Cllr RB, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cllr SH carried.

Action: application to be made for funding for retro-fitting the community hub/PC offices	By: Cllr AP
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13.4 Level sensors for flood monitoring on River Dene and Newbold Brook – request by Wellesbourne & Walton Flood Action Group

Recommendation to purchase two flood level sensors for use on River Dene and Newbold Brook to be taken from CILs funding.	WITHDRAWN – moved to 20/2/24
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13.5 Freedom of Information request Waste site usage update - WCC had been asked to confirm how many people with a CV35 9 postcode had booked into waste sites other than Wellesbourne to gauge how many residents were having to use other waste sites due to the limited opening of the Wellesbourne site – no response other than acknowledgement and request for information of when this information was previously asked for.

13.6 Date of next meeting: to be arranged

## 14. Community Facilities Committee – Cllr AP

14.1 Chairman's update – It was agreed that WWPC would pay to install ground matting at the entrance of the Dovehouse amenity land in front of the sports field as the entrance ground had worn away from vehicular access. The Community Orchard layout notice board had been ordered and the schedule of selective mowing patterns was to be considered and revised where necessary.

14.2 Coronation Living Heritage Fund update – the funds had now been paid into WWPC bank account for the planting of a micro-wood. Mr Wykes from WWFAG had informed WWPC about funding from the Environment Agency for tree coppicing, information to be sought.

14.3 Unlawful encampment invoice to SDC update – no payment had been made.

Action: Final reminder statement to be sent to SDC for the outstanding invoice	By: RFO
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14.4 Request for beehive placement on Dene Meadow – Mr Manning had approached WWPC for permission for beehive placement on the small piece of land at the end of the attenuation pond adjacent to the new community orchard, fenced in to protect the public. Cllrs agreed this.

Action: Inform Mr Manning that WWPC were in favour of the beehive placements.	By: Cllr AP
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14.5 Planting alongside attenuation pond at Dene Meadow – Cllrs agreed to the planting replacement but the most suitable time for planting was to be agreed following discussion with the Meadow Working Party.

14.5.1

Recommendation to accept the quote for replanting alongside the attenuation pond £160 + vat to be paid from Unilateral Agreement funds.	Prop Cllr AP, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cllr NS carried
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14.6 Repair of hedge on Walton Road and installation of public access – following the closure of the large hole made in the hedge on Walton Road with a gate, walkers continued to break through the hedgerow to cut across the land back to the village estates. It was agreed that a pedestrian access should be installed to prevent further damage and gaps which could lead to unlawful encampments.

Recommendation the Handyman repairs holes in hedge and installs pedestrian access with bollards and new warning signage regarding passing traffic on the Walton Road.	Prop Cllr AP 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cllr NS carried
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14.7 Correspondence ref No dogs on play areas – Cllrs had received and noted all correspondence received about dog bans on play areas and public open spaces but this did not change the decision of the Council, that child safety must take priority and the bans would remain

14.8 Date of next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## 15. Office & Staffing Committee – Cllr DB

15.1 Chairman's update – A further meeting at the ex Conservative Club had taken place with the contractors. Agents for Walton Estate would arrange clearance of the building's fixtures and fittings and external signage and air conditioning units prior to the transfer to WWPC.

15.2 Office relocation update – Planning permission had now been passed for the new community hub and the lease was now in progress with the solicitors.

### 15.3 Training Materials

15.3.1 Cllrs noted these books would help the Asst Clerk study for CiLCA but would also be used by the office going forward.

Recommendation to purchase materials required for CiLCA at a cost of £107.49 to be paid from the training budget	Prop Cllr AP 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cllr NS carried
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15.4 Date of next meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**16. Consideration of WWPC response (Fire Service consultation)** Cllrs agreed that the proposed changes left the huge geographical area of south Warwickshire vulnerable during the night, especially as only one appliance to cover the whole of the south rural areas whilst cover in the north of the county had tripled. Surge teams with two hours to arrive at station would not be able to cover emergency call outs in a timely manner and that is supposing they were not at another incident elsewhere in the county. No consideration had been given to annual leave or sick leave, and whilst it was mooted that all stations in the south of the county would host a surge team, there was uncertainty of how maintenance of the appliances would take place. The terms and conditions of the existing workforce would also be subject to change, those whole time fire fighters who stay on overnight once their shift had ended as an on call service were paid at 25% of their usual rate but they could go to bed and get up if an emergency were to occur. This would mean a cut in salary for these employees. Previous comments made following the presentation were to be included in a response from WWPC, Cllrs agreed that the Chairman would put together a response to be made to the consultation.

Action: Collate the comments raised by Cllrs and respond with them to the consultation	By: Cllr AP
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## 17. Wellesbourne & Walton News

17.1 New publication update Cllr DB – The new February edition WWNews had been received well, contained more general news and information, surveys and competitions. Congratulations were extended to the new Editor Christine Michael (in attendance) on a successful first edition. Mrs Michael thanked WWPC and said she had really enjoyed it and long may it continue.

17.2 Wellesbourne & Walton News content (MAR) - Annual Parish Meeting programme, Thermal Imaging Camera, Fire Service consultation

## 18. Citizens Award – Cllrs AP/HD

18.1 Consideration of Citizen Award nominations – moved to confidential

## 19. Annual Parish Meeting

19.1 Arrangements

Speakers: Sam Slemensek – Community Safety Manager SDC, Martin Rone-Clarke – Warwickshire Police Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer

Venue: Wellesbourne CofE School, Mountford Close, Wellesbourne

Time: 7.15pm

**20. Parish visit by Cllr Juned** – it was agreed to invite Cllr Juned to visit the parish, see what has been done and meet the Cllrs.

Action: Invite Cllr Juned to visit the parish and request dates from her	By: Office
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## 21. Cllrs & Clerk exchange of information

Cllr Hancox, complaints were being made regarding Stagecoach buses being late or not turning up and drivers not knowing their routes Cllr Howes, there continued to be discharge into the Dene from bridge street bridge, monitored by the Environment Agency who confirm that the discharge was not toxic. WIB continued its work and would be working with Ceva (from the Distribution Park) on a vegetable garden for the school. More planters were to be placed on the village gates, this time at Stratford Road and a request for planting at the underpass was being followed up.

## 22. Dates of next meetings

			<b>Committees</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Full Council		Highways, Environment, Emergency
12 <sup>th</sup> March	Annual Parish Meeting	To be arranged	Community Facilities
		13 <sup>th</sup> February	Planning or Ex Ordinary
		20 <sup>th</sup> February	Finance
		20 <sup>th</sup> February	Office and Staffing
		27 <sup>th</sup> February	

Under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest, as if members of the public were present during the consideration of such business, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under Paras 1 and 11 and Part 1 Schedule 12A of the said Act, that the public be excluded.

### CONFIDENTIAL

18.1 Consideration of Citizen Award nominations – Two nominations were put forward, Cllrs voted to agree the chosen nominee.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 10.17pm

Chairman....Cllr Mrs Prior.....  
(completed 7<sup>th</sup> February)

Signed.....

Date.....