

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINWARTON PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING, MONDAY 6th JULY 2020**

Present:

Cllr M Moore MM (Chair)
Cllr K Rees KR (Vice Chair)
Cllr M O'Rourke MOR
Cllr N Loomes NL
Cllr J Vining JV
Cllr M Giddings MG
Cllr C Armstrong CA

Cllr M Cargill MC (Alcester Town Councillor, District Councillor, County Councillor)

Mrs. Z Illés-Cody (clerk and rfo)

Update from Cllr Cargill, County Councillor

Proposed closer working relationship with Warwick District Council (WDC).

Consideration currently being given to the impact of the anticipated White Paper in relation to devolution that was announced within the Queen's Speech before Christmas. It has been widely reported that in considering the devolution and "levelling-up" agenda there will need to be reform of local government, especially in two-tier areas. The most likely outcome of this would be single unitary authorities, in our case a Warwickshire wide unitary. It is expected that the White Paper will be issued in the Autumn of this year.

It has been decided that to be able to influence the debate in a constructive manner, we (Stratford District Council), should explore in principle, a more formal working relationship with WDC. This could start with sharing services, management positions and contracts leading to a potential merger.

- pressures on services faced by all tiers of local government from communities wanting improvements in public services and in the management of place;
- financial pressures faced by all tiers of local government over the past 10 years and now exacerbated by the COVID-19 emergency, potentially compromising the delivery of public services;
- erosion of the connection between people's association with a sense of place and the span of democratic arrangements in place governing them;
- continued lack of clarity, transparency and democratic accountability for local community leadership between the tiers of local government to the detriment of local communities;
- barriers between local government and other public agencies that prevent effective action to address important local issues;
- implications of the creation of mayoral authorities.

One of the reasons that both councils have taken this step is to be able to maintain the close relationship with its residents we currently experience.

If the proposal is agreed in principle, then the next step will be to commission a report on the potential benefits of merging with WDC. If accepted, then there would be a public consultation. The report would most likely consider the following options:

- 1) Status quo – do nothing
- 2) Creation of a 'super' District with WDC
- 3) A single unitary authority (Pan-Warwickshire wide)
- 4) A two Unitary authority model (North & South Unitaries)

If the single or double unitaries are ruled out, then options 1 & 2 will be considered

There are a number of joint working arrangements already in place between Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council, namely:

- the South Warwickshire Health Improvement Partnership;
 - the South Warwickshire Crime reduction partnership;
 - Shakespeare's England, our destination management organisation which we jointly founded to promote our local tourism – a vital part of the recovery. In addition to these joint partnerships we currently have a shared Business Rates team Information Governance Officer post.
- The intentions of this proposal are to save money, retain and improve services and provide a council that can continue to engage with its residents.

1. Apologies – Cllr Gill Foreman

2. Disclosure of interests – None disclosed

3. Confirmation of the Minutes – Minutes confirmed from June 2020.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

5. Ongoing matters.

a) Parish Action Plans.

Repair of footpath to Coughton Fields Lane. ZIC requested the extension to the original section for footpath resurfacing and ACJ is considering this (from Coughton Fields Lane along to Kinwarton House). It is not financially feasible to widen the footpath as this would involve altering the road layout. ZIC to follow up response from ACJ.

b) Additional waste bin Wakefield Way near Costcutter shop.

New bin has been placed outside shop.

Awaiting response from landowner regarding state of the shops forecourt.

c) St Mary's Park

Fallen tree –follow up required on tree in river.

Dog bin – awaiting delivery.

Tree pollarding - Roots to Shoots quotation for final willow of £600 plus VAT to be accepted. Proposed KR, seconded NL.

d) Hedge and verge maintenance Captain's Hill

Recently trimmed but some sections in need of further cutting. ZIC to contact highways again for trimming again.

e) KPC noticeboards

ZIC to accept final quotation from Greenbarnes.

John Clarke quotation for board removal to be accepted (£120). Proposed NL, seconded MG.

f) Captain's Hill service road verge

Awaiting quotation from Alan Caldwell-Jones for wooden bollards.

g) Community speed checks/signage on Kinwarton Farm Road

MC reports should be starting up training schedule soon, when new contact in Warwickshire police is made to assist.

h) Pastures Residents Association dog bin request.

Dog bin emptying. MC suggests contacting Streetscene again to explore paying for bin emptying and accessing the area for this to be completed.

i) Lowering pavement near Seymour rd to enable w'chair access

Response from WCC does not grasp the requirement for lowering of pavement in order to access the town from Seymour road, not down Kinwarton Farm Road towards the shops. ZIC to follow up, and raise the question of hedge trimming on Kinwarton Farm Road.

j) Pavement Kinwarton Farm Road

In the absence of funding from WCC for resurfacing pavement on Kinwarton Farm road, adding the list for the Slurry sealing programme to prolong the pavement's life. May be done in the next 2-3 years.

k) AGAR form

Awaiting accounts from Vinings. ZIC to contact council when form available to witness signature.

l) Footpath signpost

A monarch's Way signpost halfway up Captain's Hill has rotted through and needs replacing. ZIC logged issue on WCC website.

6. Planning applications

- Ref: 20/01462/FUL – erection of B1(c) and B8 industrial units with all associated works including parking. Land adjacent to Severn Court, Tything rd East, Alcester. ZIC to place objection on grounds of noise and air pollution to housing in Kinnersley Close.
- Application reference: 20/01083/FUL **permission granted.**
6 Captains Hill, Alcester, B49 6QW - Single storey rear extension to kitchen.

7. Financial Matters

a) Accounts for payment

ZIC salary	£317.10
ZIC home working allowance (£4/week Jan Feb, March; £6/week April, May June)	£52+£78= £130
ZIC sundries	£9.95
1 & 1 Internet	£10.79
JM Roberts inv.2771 (paid)	£400.00
Limebridge inv 1495	£516.00
JM Roberts inv. 2773	£400.00

Accounts for payment approved: Proposed NL, seconded CA.

8. Correspondence

- Email from Head teacher at Alcester Academy regarding re-instating the tarmac playground area at the front of school and movement of bike sheds. Concern that gate near bike sheds is on bend and only has planning permission for use for maintenance. History of car accidents due to bend in road. ZIC to respond to Mrs Mellors with these concerns.
- Email from MOP regarding use of St Mary's Park for holiday clubs. No concerns from councillors. Advise MOP to ensure adequate insurance.

9. AOB

a) Overgrown hedge in Devonish Close

Hedge blocking pavement and preventing use of drop kerb. Further letter required as inadequate action taken by landowners.

b) Play area St. Mary's Park reopening

Government has allowed play areas to be opened but says operators should observe Covid-19 guidelines. Councillors happy to open, with risk assessment carried out, and guideline signs in place.

ZIC to get quotations from HAGS for replacement swings for play park.

c) Extension 21 Horton Close

Concerns raised about extension to house which may be being completed without planning permission and not conforming to building regulations. ZIC to contact building control and Planning.

d) Tree in Haselor Close

Tall tree at end of common ground has a branch which needs removing. Alcester estates / houses at end of road own land, not KPC. ZIC to liaise with MOP and MOR to contact homeowners to inquire about ownership and branch removal.

e) Consider extending concrete from bridge into St Mary's Park.

To be discussed further at next meeting.

f) Next meeting of KPC September.

Signed.....

Date.....