

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KINWARTON PARISH COUNCIL
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING, MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2021**

Present:

Cllr M Moore MM (Chair)
Cllr K Rees KR (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Vining JV
Cllr M Giddings MG
Cllr C Armstrong CA
Cllr N Loomes NL
Cllr M O'Rourke MOR
Cllr G Forman (District Councillor) and Cllr M Cargill (District and County Councillor)
Mrs. Z Illés-Cody ZIC (clerk and rfo)
Mr. Piers Daniell (Conservative candidate for County Councillors elections in May)

Update from District and County Councillors

Cllr G Forman

Covid-19 184/100,000 – infection figures are showing some improvement. SDC have paid out over £40 million has been paid out so far to businesses and individuals in grants. Residents obliged to self-isolate under track and trace scheme may be entitled to claim £500. Criteria must be fulfilled but they are eligible to apply to SDC for this. Over 5,000 unemployed and 10-11,000 on furlough in SD.

Budget - SDC considering different proposals to raise and save money. Parking charges proposed for SDC carparks outside of Stratford have been abandoned.

Council tax will rise, likely to be the maximum rise permitted by government guidelines.

Suggested annual increases:

- SDC share of Council tax is 7.5% - band D property will increase by £5 annually
- 77% goes to WCC and it is believed that they are looking to increase their share by £90.
- Police and Crime Commissioner are likely to increase their share by about £15.

Green bin charge goes live 1st April 2021. If you sign up before 28th February you can qualify for early-bird charge, with a saving of £5.

Stamp duty holiday – land charges department at SDC seen requests for searches going up 100% between August and December, Extra staff drafted in. Stamp duty holiday ends 31st March. Anyone hoping to move must ensure solicitors submit searches by 12th February to allow completion.

Grieg Hall Alcester Town Council in discussions with SDC over Grieg Hall lease. Hope that this will be conclude within next month.

Cllr M Cargill

Intention to step down from position as County Councillor. Introduction of Mr. Piers Daniell as Conservative candidate for County Councillor elections in May.

Covid-19

The situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds has improved as well with 71 (114) confirmed cases of COVID-19 but there are 9 (7) patients in ICU (figures in brackets are from 22 Jan). Cumulative deaths across Stratford District from the start of this second wave (28th August 2020) have sadly increased by a further 13 to 85 with 28 occurring in care homes, 52 in hospital and five at home, out of a total of 568 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period. The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now jumped to 378 from 306 last week with a total of 2424 all cause deaths. The total deaths in Stratford in wave 2 is 85 giving a cumulative total of 253 Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district since the start of the pandemic.

Lateral Flow Testing The facility for people without coronavirus symptoms in Stratford at the Courtyard Theatre has now carried out 5385 tests with 31 positive results. The good news is that Stratford is now just below the magic 7.5% positivity rate (last week 9.5%) moving us from red to amber status. Warwick are at 9.8%. The procedure for registering has improved and if

you are a walk-in, they will ask you to register with the NHS app. This takes a few minutes the first time but speeds things up after that. I have been asked if after having the vaccination, do I still need to go for a test? Until advised otherwise, yes.

The vaccine rollout continues to move up a gear and is being delivered locally at Studley and Stratford or Redditch. Mass vaccination sites are an option. WCC has also been involved with the setting up of the new mass vaccination site located at Stoneleigh which opened this week and complements the vaccination facility in Birmingham at Millennium Point. Figures change daily but we appear to still be on track for the target of 15million people being offered the jab by mid-Feb. The 80+ cohort receiving their first jab is over 80% nationally with a little regional variation. This is excellent news as, when the vaccine becomes fully protective, it should reduce by up to 80% the number of Covid cases in hospital.

Other news

We are focusing on the budget at the moment and as you are aware, these are difficult times. We will do our utmost to retain all the services you currently receive. We have been supporting our businesses and have paid out over £6m in grants since December. We are just about to start payments of the business rates relief scheme.

We are currently experiencing significant rain and that is falling on sodden ground. We need to all be alert to flooding issues and blocked drains. If you have a blocked drain please contact me on 07988485050 or email markcargill@warwickshire.gov.uk. The jetter lorry is needless to say very busy but if there is an emergency case we can prioritise them.

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Disclosure of interests

Cllr MG has declared an interest in item 4d

Cllr JV has declared an interest in item 4h

Cllr MM has declared an interest in item 8c

3. Confirmation of the Minutes.

Minutes signed as a true record of the Meeting held on January 4th 2021.

4. Ongoing matters.

a) Kinwarton Farm Shops forecourt

GF and MC happy to write to landowner on behalf of KPC. WCC and SDC unable to assist as it is not land owned by either. ZIC to send copy of letter sent to landowner in 2020.

b) Captain's Hill service road verge

Cllr Cargill proposed sharing the cost of 6 wooden bollards between KPC and his community safety budget. Consensus agreed amongst Councillors to pay £1500 by KPC towards bollards.

ZIC to await further updates on bollard progress from ACJ and MC.

c) Community speed checks/signage on Kinwarton Farm Road

Currently suspended due to Coronavirus lockdown.

d) Pastures Residents Association dog bin request.

Response received to offer to provide 1 large black dual purpose bin. Offer rejected by Pastures RA, following consultation with residents. Request to take over emptying and maintenance of current 5 bins re-made. Concern raised by Councillors that the current bins on site are not hygienic for the disposal of dog waste and replacing them with large black dog bins would mean there are a disproportionate and unnecessarily concentrated number of bins provided by KPC on The Pastures site, compared to the rest of the Parish. Following reconsideration, Councillors agreed to re-make their offer of provision of 1 black bin. ZIC to respond to Chair of RA.

e) Lowering pavement on Seymour road to enable w'chair access

Awaiting update from ACJ. ZIC to follow up.

f) Newsletter

Published on all noticeboards and website.

g) Hedge trimming in Kinwarton

Contacted Limebridge regarding hedge section near mini roundabout on Kinwarton Farm road, and about moss removal on footpath between Wain Close and Seymour Road. ZIC to follow up.

Still awaiting response from ACJ (WCC) regarding hedging near Kinwarton shops on Kinwarton Farm Road. ZIC to follow up.

h) Precept 2021 and budget.

Precept. Feedback from sub-committee to Council. Request submitted to Stratford District Council for Precept of £30,000. Councillors agreed that sufficient savings and financial strain on SDC from Covid-19 does not warrant raising the precept. However, there will be significant expenditure on tree maintenance predicted for the forthcoming financial year.

Budget for financial year 2021-2022 reviewed and agreed unanimously by Councillors. Monthly review of expenditure against annual budget will be presented to Council by ZIC.

i) ZIC annual review.

Proposed salary increase. 40 hours at £11.30 per hour, point 11 on pay scale commencing January 2021. Councillors agreed unanimously. ZIC to inform Accountants.

j) Litter bin between main road and Fenwick Close.

Councillors agreed for ZIC to order black bin. ZIC and MM to liaise over exact location of bin.

k) Marla Tubes

GF researched land ownership. Land marked as WK497725 on map is owned by Alcester Estates Ltd, care of Ladders Solicitors, 10 Elm Court, Arden Street, Stratford upon Avon. CV37 6PA. The land marked as WK454654 is owned by Stratford District Council. Councillors have agreed that no further action to be taken at this time.

5. Planning applications

GF and MC have objected to the planning application no. 20/01461/FUL, as requested by KPC. Thanks extended for their support in this matter.

6. Financial Matters

a) Accounts for payment

ZIC salary	£324.90
Printer ink	£25.98
Limebridge (hedge tree work, part payment as works are incomplete. £200+VAT remains)	£1200 (inc VAT)
CPRE annual membership	£36
Street Lighting	£163.12
Home working allowance (31 weeks)	£186
Npower electricity (2 separate invoices)	£752.49

7. Correspondence

Martyn Davey – Great Alne amenity mowing request of £34 plus VAT per cut, which equates to £326.40 in total for each Council. Council in agreement to pay for the shared mowing.

8. AOB

a) Vacancy on Kinwarton Parish Council

Informed Graham Rospin (SDC Senior Electoral Officer) of vacancy and he advised advertising vacancy asap to give residents of the parish the opportunity to request an election to be held to fill the vacancy if that is what they want. Advertised on 14th January (notice boards and website), closing date 3rd February. ZIC will be advised 4th Feb of outcome and if no election called, co-option can take place.

b) Annual planner.

ZIC preparing draft annual planner to be shared with Councillors.

c) Church donation.

£500 to be donated to Kinwarton Parish Church towards maintenance. Proposed MG, seconded CA.

d) Mowing at St Mary's Park

Offer received from MOP to provide a quotation for mowing season at St Mary's Park. Councillors agreed to gather quotations for forthcoming season, for 2 cuts per month including the play park area. Cuts to commence mid-March, until October or mid-November, depending on how wet the ground becomes.

e) Climate Action

Cllr KR requested that Councillors consider actions which could be taken by the Council to play a part in tackling climate change.

Next meeting will be held on Monday March 1st 2021.