MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2015, 7.30 pm in the VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ROOM

In attendance : The Chairman of Warwick District Council, Cllr Michael Doody.

Present : Cllrs Smith (Chairman), Eldridge, Eassom, Knott, Moore, Tunkle, C/Cllr Mrs Compton, D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher, D/Cllr Mr Whiting and the Clerk.

1. Apologies were accepted from Cllr R. Coates.
2. No declarations of Interest.
3. No public present. The Chairman of WDC Cllr Doody was welcomed.

4. The previously circulated minutes of the meeting held on 8th July were approved.

a) Matters Arising – The beech hedge mentioned in item 8 has now been actioned.

5. PLANNING – status report previously circulated. Application 15/0857 now granted, no decision as yet re application no 15/ 1111.

The response from the Planning Department regarding the enquiry about the procedure adopted regarding TPO's indicates that there is no requirement for consultation with the Parish where a tree is in the conservation area but does not have a TPO. When TPO trees are to be felled a site notice is displayed at the site, but no notice is displayed for any other work to a TPO tree.

a) Neighbourhood Plan feedback – The Chairman reported on progress to date, which has slowed due to the holidays but expected further consultations will take place shortly with the expectation of another public meeting in December. The Chairman advised that a grant of £5400 has been awarded from Localities to develop this further. The Chairman has also received an offer of help from AECOM, an organisation retained by the government to provide technical support to Neighbourhood Planning efforts free of charge. Their support will be coordinated with the planned continuation of the relationship with Kirkwells.

D/Cllr Mr Peter Whiting updated Councillors on the current situation of the Local Plan following the concerns raised by the Inspector. It seems likely that the current submission will be suspended whilst further consultations are held with neighbouring authorities and the Inspector regarding housing numbers. He added that the proposals for expansion of villages were unlikely to change a great deal and felt positive that the current hiatus will be resolved. A meeting will be held at the end of the month for further discussions.

6. FINANCE – status report previously circulated. Balance in account at 1/9 = £5613.54. The final vat refund re the playground now to hand, and payment of the 2nd part of the precept/concurrent expected shortly from WDC. The annual audit return has now been returned and approved by the auditors and the relevant information posted informing the public of their rights to view the documents.

a) Payments were approved for:

Grant Thornton – Audit charges	£240.00	vat £40.
Fairways August /September		
Maintenance for play area etc.	£556.20	vat £92.70
Clerk's sundries August/September	£ 55.57	
RBL annual grant	£50.00	

7. PLAYGROUND/MEMORIAL GROUND/VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK

The annual ROSPA inspection due shortly. Cllr Coates carried out some minor maintenance, and a new padlock has been fitted to the top gate – replacement key sent to Fairways. Overflowing bins have occurred during the summer holidays which have been monitored regularly. It may be necessary to replace the one near the bottom gate. No other maintenance problems.

The overgrown hedge bordering the Memorial Ground area needs attention and it was agreed that this maintenance should be carried out a s a p. Clerk will advise the occupier of Yew Trees before the work commences.

VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK – Details circulated regarding highway boundaries. Cllr Eassom reported on a recent meeting with a WCC Highways engineer, who thought some changes to the access could be proposed, further consultations are needed and C/Cllr Mrs Compton will arrange another meeting with the engineer.

8. HIGHWAYS/TRANSPORT/VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

Cllr Compton remarked that to date there has been no information on when Woodcote Lane is to be resurfaced, as promised, and also mentioned a new "lengthsman scheme" from WCC – as recently circulated - and Clerk will make further enquiries.

Action needed for an overflowing gulley into Warwick Road,.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE - Overgrown ivy at the Anchor – clerk to action.

Quotes received discussed and accepted, for various areas.

The Elms bank = £250.

Bus shelter hedge, and overhanging foliage near the old school house=- £240.

Hedge adjoining Yew Trees. = £180.

The overgrown hazel tree back of the bus shelter needs work, but permission may be necessary due to its siting in conservation area – to be reviewed later.

9. COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Doody, Chairman of WDC commented on how fortunate this area is in being represented by C/Cllr Mrs Compton who he has worked with for 28 years, also D/Cllrs Mrs Gallagher and Cllr Whiting who are very hard working Councillors who serve their constituents well . He was particularly proud that there has been no increase in council tax

for 7 years. Cllr Doody intends to visit all Parish Councils during his year of office.

C/Cllr Mrs Compton reported on the difficulties arising from having to cut the Adult Social care budget by 5 million. The main concern for WCC is the new proposals for a West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), with many areas in and around Birmingham expressing their wish to join this proposal. Following a debate Councillors voted by a majority of 10 not to join this scheme feeling it would be more advantageous to create a Coventry and Warwickshire Combined Authority – despite Coventry being committed to joining the WMCA. A cross party working group of councillors has now been established to consider the way forward following this vote.

D/Cllr Mrs Gallagher reported on the Spa Centre winter programme. The ENGLAND BOWLS championships were a great success bringing in a great deal of revenue to the area. A review of sports/leisure centres is taking place - further details in due course. Cllr Mrs Gallagher requested that local residents who are eligible should be reminded that TRAVEL TOKENS are still available. Details will be circulated on the website and Link.

D/Cllr Whiting has already updated on Local Plan as item 5. Budgets are to be tighter, with more scrutiny for social housing finances.

a) Details about WDC's Heritage Open Days circulated.
Referring to the NALC reaccreditation scheme it was agreed to apply for the Quality Award, the Clerk will register.
b) WRW Forum meeting is on the 24th September. No report re Neighbourhood Watch

10. The production of the annual Parish Directory was discussed and will be actioned by the end of the month.

11. Cllr Moore commented that the production of the Link was admirable.
There was no other business and the meeting closed at 9pm.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Doody for taking the time to visit the Parish and wished him well in his year of office.

12. Date of next meeting – 13th October, 2015.

Signed……date……