



Leek Wootton & Guy's Cliffe Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday, 5 January 2021, remotely via Zoom

Present: Councillors Coates (Chairman), Eldridge, Elsy, Kirkwood, Knott, Maisey, Tunkle, C/Cllr Redford, D/Cllrs Redford, Wright and the Clerk

Lockdown 3

Before the meeting started, the Chairman referred to the current COVID-19 lockdown which was announced on 4 January 2021 and comes into law at 00:01 on Wednesday, 6 January. He reiterated his concerns about the vulnerability of some residents in the Parish and the Chairman asked all Councillors to keep an eye out for anyone who is isolated or may need support and report it to the Chairman or Clerk.

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| 1. | Apologies for absence Cllr Allison [received after the meeting] |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest None |
| 3. | Public Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None present |
| 4. | Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1. The minutes of the parish council meeting held on Tuesday, 3 November 2020 were approved and signed.4.2. Matters arising not on agenda: None |
| 5. | Speeding and Response Vehicles <p><u>Community Speed Watch Group</u> - Lockdown 3 has stalled the CSW group. Required forms, completed by volunteers, have been collected to be forwarded to the Police, but community activities will not be happening during Lockdown.</p> <p><u>Mobile radar operated speed signs</u> – Inquired from County Highways about possibility of mounting equipment on street signs. Highways Group is looking at possible locations, lamp stands and/or telegraph poles. Siting of signage needs to take into account site-lines, which are not available in many locations with posts in suitable locations. Highways Group to look into the required sight-lines. Hill Wootton has particular problem with sight-lines due to bends and hill.</p> <p><i>Cllr Eldridge to investigate required sight-lines and height of equipment and apply these to potential locations</i></p> <p>County/Cllr Redford happy to attend sites for walk through with County Highways to discuss these. This will be the next stage once the Highways Group has established a selection of sites.</p> <p><i>Cllr Kirkwood to liaise with County Highways and County/Cllr Redford, as necessary</i></p> |
| 6. | Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground Car Park Nothing to report. Remains on hold whilst funding grants are frozen |
| 7. | Progress Reports for information <ul style="list-style-type: none">7.1. Playground (Cllr Coates) Trampoline has been installed and well-used. Installation took ½ day. |

Initial: RC

Laurel still needs work. Clerk to contact contractors about completing this when visits start again in March.

Clerk to ask contractors to complete this job in March

RoSPA Safety Inspection Report flagged the following:

- A faulty cradle seat on the swings. The cradle is currently tied up for social distancing, but we have purchased a replacement which will be installed when the swings are released.
- A nick in the woodwork on the junior play equipment. Chairman has attempted a repair which has failed, and will remedy in better weather.
- Play bark levels were low. Playground installers suggested rotovating the playpark to 'fluff up' woodchip. This was done by a group of Councillors. It has worked well and should be carried out a couple of times next year, including September, pre-inspection.

7.2. Leek Wootton War Memorial Recreation Ground (Cllr Coates)

Tree work on bank of Warwick Road to be done next Tuesday, 12 January. This will involve traffic controls. All relevant trees will be taken out – to be paid for by Trustees.

7.3. Leek Wootton Village Hall Committee (Cllr Eldridge)

EGM in December. Shut down due to COVID-19 regulations.

Moss to be cleared, gutters repaired and install anti-blocking on gutters.

7.4. Leek Wootton Sports Club

No report

7.5. Warwick Rural West Community Forum (Cllr Kirkwood)

No action in past two months and nothing coming up.

7.6. Community Engagement:

7.6.1. Annual Parish Assembly

An APA via Zoom will not be easy. A discussion followed and the Chairman agreed that the Chairman's Report would be circulated door-to-door again.

Clerk to monitor advice from WALC regarding legislation about this meeting

7.6.2. Parish Summer Fête

The Chairman has spoken to the Vicar about setting an aspirational date for the 2021 Parish Summer Fête and he is happy for the Churchwarden to choose a date. The Chairman feels it would be beneficial to have a date to look forward to in May/June, in the hope that it will be able to go ahead.

7.7. Community Maintenance:

- WCC Highways (Cllr Kirkwood)
Severn Trent Water [STW] – camera down and cleaned sewer adjacent to new school – there is damage and roots. Some work done, more required towards sewage works. Also cleaned sewer from old school through The Hamlet to sewage works, which had 10% soap and sediment in it and is now running clear. No problems with flooding at Old School since cleaning.
Foaming at cattle brook has been flagged up with STW, District Environmental and County Highways. STW is of opinion that foaming is not unusual. An investigation into what is being deposited in the watercourse (following suggestion that there may be raw sewage) has been instigated.
Water leak in Hill Wootton Road – reported to STW. STW attended site a few days ago and it is still running. [UPDATE: 07/01/2021 Road closed and workmen in attendance at this location]
NEW ISSUE - Bollard – refuge on Warwick road promptly repaired and replaced
NEW ISSUE - Hedge at entrance to The Elms – County Highways have investigated land ownership and are of the opinion that part of the hedge has been planted on WCC owned land and has written to the resident to remove it on

Initial: RC

15 December. The occupier has 28 days to comply. The concern is that a hedge in this location will grow to cause an obstruction to sightlines when exiting onto Warwick Road.

Skew Bridge, Hill Wootton Road/B4115 – No progress on signage

County/Cllr Redford to inquire about progress

Blocked drains at Skew Bridge – County Highways cannot jet in this location without a traffic management scheme in place. Awaiting further action.

Considerable ponding and icing is a concern.

County/Cllr Redford to inquire about progress

Ivy and leaves on Woodcote Lane – Leaves are now clear, but ivy still there. Cllr Knott happy to cut this back.

Cllr Knott to cut ivy back

County Highways' Radar operated sign on Warwick Road – still no action.

Fly-tipping on B4115 – Domestic waste.

**Clerk to send map to District/Cllrs indicating location of fly-tipping
District/Cllrs to report for removal**

Rubble Heaps on B4115 – Large rubble heaps near Gaveston roundabout have been brought to the Council's attention. The Chairman spoke to a haulage driver who was tipping there. There is some concern that there is a watercourse in the vicinity. A discussion followed.

[UPDATE 07/01/2021: Chairman spoke to a Chartered Surveyor for the haulage firm Bush Haulage who confirmed that the site has an S2 exemption and the Environment Agency and County Council are aware of their activity and licenses are in place. The surveyor indicated that the rubble would be crushed and cleared early next month.]

District/Cllr Redford is happy to look into the matter with WDC

- Grounds Maintenance Contract – Nothing to report
- Other

Footpath only roundels – Cllr Eldridge has put up signs on the tink-a-tank, in Hill Wootton and on the B4115.

8. County and District Councillors' reports

8.1. Warwickshire County Council

County/Cllr Redford has today released £4,000 for resurfacing works on footpath W179a in Leek Wootton. [runs from junction of Church Lane and Church driveway up tink-a-tank to field and out onto the golf course]

Coming up to budget time. The Government has allowed a further increase of up to 2% + 3% for social care. It is not confirmed that the full increase of 5% will go ahead.

The Government has given WCC £1,4000 on winter grant scheme of which they have to use 80% on children, families, people in need for food, heating, lighting bills, etc.

8.2. Warwick District Council

Current budget is being looked at. Will be signed off by February.

A significant amount of work to be done to protect services in place. WDC is not in as bad shape as many Councils.

Lockdown 3 grants will be made available. As soon as details are available these will be circulated.

Cllr Knott asked about HS2 and B4115. Discussion is taking place with the Councils, Highways and HS2 to find various solutions. Decisions are not set in stone, but observers are reacting at every stage. Sir Matt Worthington to meet with all parties.

Media releases are all being forwarded via the Clerk.

COVID-19 – there have been 95 COVID-19 deaths at Warwick Hospital and infection rates have reached 356 per 100,000. Not at full capacity within the hospital, but difficult times ahead. 3 deaths in last 24 hours.

Initial: RC

WDC has opened a lateral flow clinic in Pound Lane, Lillington for people without symptoms to have a test. It is a good idea for as many people to be tested as possible. Asked to circulate to community and encourage people to distance and sanitise.

Clerk to forward to The Link magazine for publication

9. Planning

9.1. To note planning decisions made:

- None

9.2. A report on the progress of current planning applications:

- W/20/1402 - Kenilworth Rugby Football Club, Warwick Road, Kenilworth, CV8 1FE - Full Planning Application for the relocation of Kenilworth Rugby Football Club including the construction of a new clubhouse, sports pitches, landscaping, earthworks, parking, access and ancillary facilities – NO OBJECTION but concerns about traffic and speed in the area – PC Comment (Sent 14/10/2020)
Cllr Eldridge wrote to the County Highways representative about the Council's concerns with traffic, but has received no response
- W/20/1559 – Fieldgate House, 24 Hill Wootton Road, Leek Wootton, Warwick, CV35 7QL - Remodel and extensions to existing dwelling house; erection of extensions at single storey, two storey and first floor level at the front/side of dwelling house, and first floor and two storey extensions at the rear, changes to the external facing materials to introduce render, stone and zinc – NO OBJECTION (Sent 29/12/2020)

9.3. To consider new planning applications:

- None

9.4. Any other planning related issues.

Cllr Kirkwood asked about a property with electric gates on Warwick Road – Cllr Eldridge clarified that WDC Enforcement has responded that the wall may be a little too high for permitted development, but it was not sufficient for them to take any action. No response was given to the concern that the gates have been installed at the back of the pavement without allowance for a vehicle to pull off the road while they open. This is a concern because County Highways and the Parish Council objected to the planning application (W/19/0785) on this basis and objections were withdrawn when the plan for the wall was removed from the application. Enforcement maintains there are no grounds to take action - the wall and gates have been installed under permitted development. The gates appear to only be closed overnight. The Council is of the opinion that this is inconsistent.

Cllr Eldridge to circulate the email from WDC Enforcement

10. Finance

10.1. The DRAFT Budget proposed keeping the precept the same as last year, to include the Public Works Loan Board loan repayment in place and to again ring-fence this towards the War Memorial Recreation Ground car park.

The 2021/22 Budget was approved unanimously [Proposer: Cllr Knott/Seconder: Cllr Kirkwood]

10.2. The Financial Report for Nov/Dec to 5 Jan 2021 was noted.

Clarification on the tree works payment arrangements: the Village Hall will not be contributing as it is not involved in this project – confusion caused by the fact the Village Hall used the same contractor.

10.3. The following payments were approved:

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| Clerk's expenses + refund | Vch 084 | £30.00 |
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11. Parish Council Administration

11.1. Training

Initial: RC

A discussion took place about training available for Councillors. District/Cllr recommends that, in view of new planning rules coming, someone considers attending training about Planning

ALL Councillors to consider training that would be useful (see www.walc.org.uk)

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| 12. | Correspondence for information No comments |
| 13. | <p>Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda</p> <p><u>Broadband</u></p> <p>Two projects (a) get Hill Wootton up to a comparable speed and (b) fibre to premises through CSW Community Fibre project.</p> <p>(a) <u>Hill Wootton</u> - Openreach were under impression that Hill Wootton had fibre broadband to the village, which it doesn't, and is now investigating alternative route and had projected installation by March, however this may not happen due to lockdown regulations.</p> <p>(b) <u>Community Fibre project</u> – Cllrs Knott and Elsy understand more about this now. There is a grant from central Government through County, which the parish would qualify for of £1,500 per household. Some online literature online says WCC may top this up to £4,000. Money provided in vouchers can be used to pay the provider to carry out works. We need to have enough people expressing an interest in order to start getting quotes from Openreach. So far, we do not have enough people to get a quote. A discussion followed and it was decided that it would be a good idea to communicate the advantages of joining a project. Explain to the community the current situation, irregular coverage, download and bandwidth issues and the advantages of future-proofing and invite expressions of interest.</p> <p>County/Cllr Redford to investigate additional County funding.</p> <p>Cllr Knott to draft flyer for community distribution throughout community and forward to the Clerk to design flyer to go out with <i>The Link</i> magazine.</p> <p>Clerk to add <i>Broadband</i> as a regular heading to future agendas.</p> |
| 14. | <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, 2 February 2021, remotely via Zoom.</p> |
| 15. | <p>To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:</p> <p>15.1. Personnel issues –</p> <p>15.2. Legal issues –</p> |

Signed: Richard Coates (Chairman)

Date: 2 February 2021

Initial: RC