

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16th MAY 2022

Three members of the public

Cllr Edwards.

3. Chairman's report

It's been another interesting year with Covid continuing. We had to cancel VE day celebrations but managed to hold a great party in the park event in September. The Queens Jubilee is coming up and we should also be able to get more done this year.

The end of year reserves amount to a total of £43002 with £19242 allocated to the general fund, £8000 to the playing field, £2000 to the local parish plan, £10000 to village appearance, street lights and footpaths, £1200 to the election fund , £766 to the Transparency Act IT fund and £1794 in unspent CIL payments and grants.

The accounts, cash book and bank records etc have already had their internal audit by Jim Thornton of Ashorne with no issues and will be subject to external audit in the coming months.

Cllr Parry proposed and vote of thanks to the Clerk for all the work on the accounts.

5. County Councillor's report

Cllr O'Donnell filed the following reports:-

Annual

It has been an unusual first year as your County Cllr as we navigated a pandemic and unfortunately I was called away to support family unexpectedly due to illness . I am extremely grateful for the patience and kindness you showed.

A brief summary of the past year is below followed by a recent update.

Since May 2021 I have provided regular reports on COVID-19 Status including Infection rates per 100,000

Hospitalization

Testing Information and returning to the New Normal advice.

Advice and Guidance from Public Health Warwickshire

Vaccine Rollout & Booster

2021-2022 Activity.

I have the role of **Cabinet Support for Special Educational Needs** within Children's services and work closely with my health colleagues as we try to simplify and streamline the SEND support experience for families and children. I receive regular enquiries from families and residents around SEND issues.

Building upon the findings and advice from the 2021 Ofsted and CQC SEND inspection there is a drive to:

Reduce Autism diagnosis waiting times,

Reduce the number of Education and Healthcare plans (EHCP) by making mainstream classes more supportive to Special Educational Needs.

Cut the number of EHCP tribunals.

I Chair the SEND Panel Where we link with Parent Carer Voice and receive regular updates from the SEND lead officers.

I sit on the **Corporate Parenting Panel** which supports young people within the Care system and as they leave. Also on the panel there are a core group of inspirational young care leavers who have become apprentices supporting other young people navigating the care system within Warwickshire.

I also sit on the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Health and Social Care** where two themes this year have been Ambulance service and waiting times especially within the rural areas, which continue to rise to a worrying degree.

Inconsistency of Menopause services and support across the county.

I introduced the **Wellesbourne Chairs meeting** where Parish Chairs and Cllrs attended a Zoom meeting with Minor Highways lead Graham Stanley to establish where support was needed and what I could contribute funding through my delegated budget. Our next meeting will be announced shortly. Graham is sadly off sick at present.

County Councillor Grants:

I was thrilled to support the Playing field Community Workshop day £1,250
Plus The Village Hall Management Committee £1000 towards a new backstage/meeting room.

Afghan Resettlement

WCC lead in providing a comprehensive package of support for the first tranche of Afghan nationals arriving in the UK.

Within the Wellesbourne division many families were accommodated within hotel accommodation with medical checks, school placements and DWP paperwork being completed allowing adults to seek employment. The search for suitable housing continues.

The local community shone through their generosity and support.

I was thrilled as a newly elected Cllr to be involved in the programme establishing wrap around support.

Ukrainian Support

Ukrainian Support Project

Warwickshire CAVA is collaborating with WCC to establish a directory of offers of help & support from local organisations to signpost to those involved in supporting Ukrainian guests & host families

There is a specific email for residents with any Ukraine related enquiries to contact
Warwickshire.gov.uk/news-1/information-ukrainian-guests-hosts-sponsors-residents/

Regular report

I do hope you are enjoying this glorious spring weather and increased joy of the Birdsong during Nesting Season.

One of the highlights of being a County Cllr is the ability through grants to support fantastic local initiatives. Do not be shy ..please do apply!

Cllr Grant Funding

The 1st round of the Cllrs Grant Fund launched on 18 of April. The deadline is Sunday 29 May, 5pm. All applications should aim to build community capacity and improve the health & wellbeing of people living in Warwickshire in both urban & rural areas.

👉 <http://ow.ly/JhKi50IUvHw>

Covid Boosters

The Spring Booster programme is underway with Coventry and Warwickshire for people of 75 and those with weakened immune systems. To book if not already contacted via your GP please go to www.nhs.uk or call 119.

Business Minister Visit.

Business Minister Paul Scully visited the county to hear about how the RSC and tourism attractions are faring post pandemic.

Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton

Exciting news to hear that the Commonwealth Queen's Baton will pass through every district and borough and a route can be found on the WCC Website.

New SEND School opens in Warwickshire

A new multimillion academy for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities SEND opened in Ash Green. It is a positive start in the drive to educate SEND children within their communities and reduce the lengthy travel to out of area placements.

Hate Crimes

Report it Polite Respect cannot become a thing of the past and bad behaviour and unacceptable prejudice will not be tolerated.

The law protects everyone against prejudice or hostility that is directed towards them based on their disability, gender identity, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Hate crime is never okay. Don't tolerate it. Always report it:
<https://www.reportthatenow.com/>

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee event map, put Moreton Morrell on the Map literally for the Queen's jubilee celebrations.

Looking to celebrate the #PlatinumJubilee this summer?

Nextdoor has launched a Jubilee Events Map where you can pin the details of a Big Jubilee Lunch event you're hosting, or browse & discover other local Jubilee events happening in your neighbourhood <https://tinyurl.com/2sppmm2e>

Commonwealth Games engagement sessions

Warwick and Leamington residents and businesses are encouraged to attend the latest engagement events to find out more about what the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games means for them.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2903/get-set-for-the-commonwealth-games-in-warwickshire-at-the-latest-engagement-sessions>

Phishing Awareness

Protect yourself from phishing emails! Always questions unsolicited requests for your personal or financial information in case it's a scam. NEVER automatically click in a link in an unexpected email or text!

Read more: <https://www.cybersafewarwickshire.com/beware-bogus-bank-phishing-emails?rel=search>

6. District Councillor's report

Cllr Parry filed the following reports :-

Annual

Covid

Stratford District Council has continued to deliver all its services throughout the last 12 months of the pandemic and staff have worked throughout this time, either from

Elizabeth House or a mix of working from home and in the office to take into account social distancing and provide an effective hybrid solution.

Stratford District Council Merger

A huge amount of time has been dedicated to exploring the opportunity of a merger between SDC and WDC but talks were brought to a close last month as WDC were not willing to actively proceed with the due diligence of Milverton Homes, a wholly owned subsidiary of WDC which was set up in 2021 and plans to develop affordable homes. It also transpired in February that an additional £100 million borrowings were planned to add to their existing loans of £305 million. The changing economic landscape with rising interest rates and increased development costs prompted the need for additional due diligence to be commissioned.

However, a number of positives have emerged from the joint working arrangements which commenced in 2021 which includes the development of a South Warwickshire Local Plan and a joint waste contract plus legal services and business rates collection.

Council Tax Rebate

SDC's Rates and Revenues Team have been swift in paying out all the various Covid government grants to businesses which has helped to create 130 new jobs and protect 700 jobs across the district. SDC has already made its first payments to those Direct Debit payers who have paid their April Council Tax instalment – a sum of £2.7million to 18,400 households. Other payments to those not on direct debit are now commencing.

Boundary Commission

The next local elections for the district will be held in May 2023 which will include boundary changes, however, it is my plan to stand for election in the ward which will include Moreton Morrell, if selected.

Planning

There have been a number of planning applications in the parish over the last 12 months and where possible I have tried to give the PC as much support and guidance as possible.

123+ Waste Collection

The new 123+ waste collection service will be launched on 1 August 2022 and follows extensive work by SDC over the last 12 months. Residents should have heard about the new service and will be receiving the dedicated food caddies ahead of the launch together with lots of information to ensure everyone is prepared.

Residents will be provided with a small 7 litre caddy and a larger 23 litre external food waste bin. The small caddy is designed to be kept in the kitchen for collecting food waste, which can then be transferred into the external food waste bin for collection.

Regular Report

South Warwickshire Merger Talks End

Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) and Warwick District Council (WDC) formerly ended political merger talks at their respective Full Council Meetings last week (Wednesday 11 May).

Whilst there was a clear strategic logic to the merger, the move to bring matters to a close reflects the different approaches in respect of financial risk and borrowing by the two councils, which raised the need for further due diligence in February 2022 and WDC's Milverton Homes subsidiary, following the production of their five-year budgets (Medium Term Financial Plans, MTFP).

There were no showstoppers identified in the initial reports from Deloitte and the Local Government Association (LGA) carried out in late 2021, however the LGA identified that due diligence be carried out on Milverton Homes using the latest financial information available, which was duly commissioned on both Councils in March 2022 with the completion of findings then scheduled by the end of April 2022.

Due diligence reports are a normal part of informing mergers and acquisitions processes and in light of the whole world's economic situation changing in February with rapidly rising interest rates, inflation projections and development costs, together with financial uncertainty, there was a potential substantial risk to residents, which needed further clarification.

The context for the latest due diligence request was the very high level of WDC borrowings, and at circa £405 million pounds, this showed a £100 million pounds increase since the initial Deloitte's report five months earlier. In addition, WDC's MTFP also reported it would have to make cumulative savings of £7.2m compared to SDC's £2.05m. In comparison SDC has very limited borrowings and takes a very prudent approach to finances.

As council tax payers, residents are entitled to expect that SDC follows best business practice to ensure that any merger would be in their best interests; a merged Council means the sharing of both reserves and debt and as a member of Cabinet we did not feel it was prudent to expose our residents and council tax payers to that level of debt.

It was equally important to each Council that it ensured its financial planning, potential for cost savings and risk management strategies were clearly understood and would provide a sound financial basis for a merged South Warwickshire District Council and its residents.

Unfortunately, the timing of the availability of the latest due diligence reports on Milverton Homes Ltd compounded the issue, as there was a reluctance by its Board to agree and issue a Non-Disclosures Agreement (NDA) to the auditors until the end of May at the earliest. This would have meant that the due diligence exercise would not have been completed until well into June.

We were also concerned as a Cabinet that this vital financial evidence was unlikely to be forthcoming before receiving a decision on the proposed merger from the Secretary of State, in which case there would have been limited options for us to withdraw at that point if necessary.

All of us at SDC were still keen to progress with the merger, but in view of the forecast delays to the Milverton Homes due diligence work, we invited WDC to join us in writing to the Secretary of State requesting the decision on the merger be deferred until these latest findings had been completed in June.

It was disappointing that WDC were not willing to pause the merger process for a few weeks at this critical stage of the talks, as they refused to be joint signatories of the letter we sent to the Secretary of State. It was fully understood by us that in writing to the

Government unilaterally asking to extend the process that this would result in WDC calling off the merger, which it subsequently did.

Despite the outcome this does not mean the end for the positives that this process has generated; both Councils have learned a lot and wish to carry on as good partners.

Whilst the merger exploration costs were £320k of which SDC's share is £162k; the savings achieved as a result of the merger process today are circa £271k, giving a net benefit to SDC taxpayers of £110k.

In addition to these savings to date, work has already resulted in the successful development of shared services which will be continued resulting in further savings of £1.335 million over the next five years. This includes the new 123+ scheme Waste Contract for the two Councils to be launched in August as planned and the development of the South Warwickshire Local Plan in addition to legal services and business rates collection.

The decision to explore the proposed merger was progressed following cross-party agreement at meetings of both Councils in December 2021.

There are no changes for SDC and WDC residents as both Councils remain committed to delivering great value services.

123+ Waste Collection

Food caddies for the **new 123+ waste collection service** have started to be delivered to residents across the District, in preparation for the launch of the new service on 1 August 2022.

Two food caddies are being delivered to over 62,000 residential households across the District, together with an information booklet explaining how the new waste collection service works and what you need to do. Residents will be provided with a small 7 litre caddy and a larger 23 litre external food waste bin. The small caddy is designed to be kept in the kitchen for collecting food waste, which can then be transferred into the external food waste bin for collection.

The approximate dimensions of the food caddy and food waste bin are as follows:

- 7 litre food caddy - 235mm (height) x 250mm (width) x 225mm (depth)
- 23 litre food waste bin - 390mm (height) x 290mm (width) x 340mm (depth)

The external food waste bin is designed to be stored outside and has a lockable lid to contain any smells and prevent vermin getting in. The food waste will be collected every week which will also help to prevent smells.

This will be a change from the current collection service where food waste can be put in the garden waste bin as part of the subscription service. The new service will see the food waste taken to a different facility for recycling from 1st August 2022.

If you already have food caddies - you can continue to use them.

Unfortunately there is not an option to opt-out of receiving the new food caddies, but if you already have one and don't need the second ones please return them to the District Council offices in Stratford-upon-Avon.

For more information about the new 123+ waste collection service please visit: [123+ Waste Collections | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

What is the new 123+ service?

The new service includes:

1. A new food waste collection every week, using a small kitchen caddy and larger external food waste bin.
2. A recycling collection, every two weeks using your existing wheeled bin for paper, card, food and drink cans, glass bottles and jars, aerosols, food and drink cartons, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays.
3. Your refuse bin collection is changing from every 2 weeks to every 3 weeks.

+ Garden waste collection every 2 weeks via a subscription service.

The full 123+ waste collection service starts on 1st August 2022.

Why are we introducing a 123+ service?

The end of the separate waste contracts for Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council in 2022 provides an ideal opportunity to work together. We are introducing a new joint waste and recycling collections approach to deliver the 123+ collections service. This will help us deliver a more efficient collection service that minimises environmental impact and benefits from economies of scale by sharing resources.

The new 123+ waste collection service will:

- Reduce waste and increase recycling this will improve the environment and help tackle climate change.
- Make the services more effective and efficient through joint working, minimising mileage travelled on collection rounds and reducing environmental pollution.
- Help keep service delivery costs as low as possible.

For further information please take a look at the FAQs on the website: [123+ Frequently asked Questions v1 \(stratford.gov.uk\)](https://www.stratford.gov.uk/123-frequently-asked-questions-v1) or contact myself.

7. Community representative's report

i. Warwickshire College

WCG filed the following report:-

Farm

The 2022 lamb crop was very successful with plenty of strong healthy lambs born and they are growing well. We are currently fly spraying and worming the ewe and lambs and will start shearing at the end of the month.

We are currently in the process of overseeding some of the pasture with herbs and legumes. This should provide many benefits including; improving soil structure, reducing the use of fertilisers, benefits to carbon sequestration and improving the biodiversity of bird and insect species.

The Wheat crop is looking in good condition and we are now exploring which crops will be best to plant in the autumn. In the next few weeks we will begin planting the wildflowers and wild bird mixes for the environmental stewardship scheme.

The finished cattle continue to be sent every 2 weeks as per the plan and the recently converted calf induction shed has working well to increase the number of cattle and improve the welfare conditions.

Estates

The Estates department has recently completed some essential roof repairs to one of the student accommodation buildings and also carried out works to improve the ground drainage systems around the Equine department. The Equine unit has suffered in recent years from areas of standing water and it is hoped the improvements will reduce the volume of water and hence improve the area for the animals and users of the area.

The team is currently in the process of planning for the summer work schedule for Moreton Morrell College. We have a relatively short period of time each summer to improve the facilities whilst there are fewer students on campus. This year we will be carrying out improvements to the Feldon student accommodation building amongst other minor works.

In the run-up to the Queen's Jubilee, we are participating in the Queen's Green Canopy project and will be planting a tree at every college, including one at Moreton Morrell on Wednesday 25th May.

Staff and Students

Carpentry students at Moreton Morrell College are using their skills to make products to raise funds for a charity appeal which is supporting those living in Ukraine. The products include planters and bird boxes, which are being made to order using 'off-cuts' and the students giving their time freely to maximise the funds raised. Level 3 carpentry students held a stall at the college's annual Lambing and Animals Weekend, in aid of Oxfam's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Over £800 in orders were taken.

Owen Shaw, a bricklaying student at the college, was victorious in the regional Guild of Bricklayers competition, held at Rugby College recently. Owen won the junior category and will now compete in the National finals.

More students from Moreton Morrell will be participating at the end of this month in the Skillbuild competition, aimed at awarding the most skilled construction trades students across the country.

WCG became a member of the Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA) network in May. The network aims to raise awareness and provide resources for employers, so that they can play their part in tackling domestic abuse. This is part of WCG's long-term commitment to creating a healthier environment for its employees.

A Moreton Morrell College tutor has been named as one of the baton bearers for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Kevin Redmond will be tasked with carrying the baton through one leg of the Midlands tour as part of Queen's Baton Relay. He coaches as part of the Leamington FC Academy of Sporting Excellence at Moreton Morrell College, while also teaching on the Level 3 Sport course. As part of his work with Leamington FC, he additionally supports the club as its lead disability coach and runs training sessions for children of all ages at Aylesford School.

ii. The Villager

Jane Cleeton read the following report:-

Thanks to Warwickshire College Group for their continuing sponsorship, Thanks to Pete Gibbins in the print room @WCG for putting the Villager together & delivering to me.

Thanks to Naomi Monks for delivering to all homes. I have increased her wages by £5 to £25.

iii. Village Hall

Mike Harwood filed the following report , and was read out by Jane Cleeton:-

This year has been again affected by the COVID pandemic, and therefore the main involvement has been the maintenance and upkeep of the hall with overhead costs increasing.

We were fortunate to receive further grants from the District Council for community facility support of £21,000.

This year we have held meetings to endeavour to attract new members to the committee and to seek new ideas for the use of this community asset.

A management committee has been formed to assist organisation of future events and communication with other community groups. Bookings for hire of the hall have been recently received. We are pleased and surprised to receive £5000 from this state of Josie Watts and have asked her daughter how she would wish us to spend money.

iv. Village Events

The party in the park in September was discussed and all agreed was a great event , the theme will be repeated for the Jubilee celebrations will continue of 5th June , this will be discussed in the main meeting.

v. Moreton Morrell Parochial Church Council

Ann Mousley and John Moverley filed the following report:-

The Church is an integral part of the village and, through our activities in the building itself or the adjacent facilities or indeed within the community, we aim to continue to strengthen that role. Just some highlights as examples in the past year have include the Village Remembrance, a service followed by the act of remembrance itself. We were so pleased that so many attended in 2021 – an important time of village coming together to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom both in the world wars and conflict subsequently. Just before Christmas we had a well-attended event of Carol Singing in the churchyard complete with mulled wine! Back in July 2021, we held a service of thanksgiving for those who were helping us get through the pandemic and this co-incided with the introduction of the rainbow bench in the churchyard which we are glad has been very well received. There has been a successful carol service and further strengthened links between church and school.

Aside from these mentioned, there have been many other activities. The holding of successful craft fairs in the church and the Room, quiz nights, games days and much more. Events such as these are seen as so important. Yes they provide a very important

and needed fund raising role but above all they emphasise the importance of church and community.

I have mentioned the churchyard – a great asset to our village and it is so good to see many take advantage of it as a place to rest and take time out from our challenging world. We thank the Parish Council for their support towards its maintenance. It is so much valued and vital. Thank you.

Looking forward on June 24th there is to be a memorial service for Mme Looi, who was an inspirational Christian and worshipped at our church whenever she was in England from her home in Norway. Thanks to her support, the completion of The Room came much sooner than we could ever have envisaged. We are expecting people from across the world to attend as she made so much impact to so many. Following this on the Sunday, June 26th, there is to be a Barn Service (more information will be available in the next Parish Magazine)

vi. Allotments

John Moverley filed the following report:-

The allotments at Moreton Morrell are very important and I can report that in the current year we have 100% occupation and a waiting list. The introduction of quarter and half plots has promoted much interest and it is good to see such a range of people now involved. As you know, they are managed by the Moreton Morrell Allotment association. The annual rent for the plots as a whole is paid half yearly to the Parish Council out of rents collected from the individual plot holders, each of which enters into contracts of occupation.

It all works well. However in the last year, we have had to make significant expenditure to the gate and posts at the main entrance to the Brook Lane site. This could not be done in house. We have also made some running repairs to the gates at the plots near the pub. The hedging along the path near this site also needs some professional attention. And now the gate at the far end of the Brook Lane site needs real attention. We will seek to address these when funds allow but I was wondering if the Parish Council might be prepared to make a grant to these costs if the budget allows. I am acutely aware of the many calls on budgets but if some contribution was possible perhaps to allow us to engage professional help for one of these tasks, it would be much appreciated for a community asset

Finally if any member of the Council would like a tour of the allotments, please do get in contact

The request for a grant was discussed and it was resolved for the clerk to ask John for the amount he was considering and agree off line.

8. Matters of Interest

None.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.