

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 24th MAY 2021

Two members of the public, plus those on Zoom

Cllr Keavy

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2019 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Parry, seconded by Cllr Gordon and carried unanimously as a true record of proceedings. There was no meeting in 2020 due to Covid restrictions.

The Chair Cllr James made the following report :-

It's been a difficult year with Covid , this is the first time the council has met in person for over a year . As council however we have achieved a significant transformation of the playing field with over £40k investment . We have upgraded the streetlights to LED to save electricity costs, and we have delt with the core strategy and reserve sites. Thanks to Cllr Edwards and two or three core volunteers' villagers who were isolating were able to be supported collected food and prescriptions.

i. Report of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

I am presenting the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The balance carried forward from last year was £63562.

Total receipts for the year amounted to £24624 including grants of £9270.

Total payments for the year amounted to £59975 resulting in an excess of payments over receipts of £27334.

The end of year reserves amount to a total of £37228 with £20262 allocated to the general fund, £5000 to the playing field, £10000 to village appearance, street lights and footpaths, £1200 to the election fund and £766 to the Transparency Act IT fund.

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.

5. County Councillor's report

Cllr Parry the outgoing County Cllr filed the following report:-

A summary of the year in bullet points

COVID-19

- Weekly reports on COVID-19 Status provided since May 2020:
- Infection rates per 100,000
- Hospitalization
- Testing Information
- Advice and Guidance from Public Health Warwickshire
- Vaccine Rollout

WCC INVESTMENT

- Extra £3M for Birmingham Road improvements in Stratford-upon-Avon, added to original £2.7M
- £20M to rebuilt and expand Kineton High School plus 12.8M boost for Stratford High School
- Free School Meals during Covid
- Free Laptops to children in need during Covid
- Additional PPE Provision to Nursing and Care Homes
- New £1M Green Shoots Community Climate Action grants for community projects – community electric vehicle charging points considered – opportunity for Moreton Morrell Village Hall?
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2017-2021 ACTIVITY

- Elected as your county councillor in 2017
- Out of £140k Road Safety budget since 2017 for the Wellesbourne Division, new signage and white lining for MMPC, plus a new bus shelter
- Delivered Community Grants to boost Village Hall equipment – table tennis table, outdoor gym equipment and new lighting
- Pledge to support Penny-Anne O'Donnell if elected as your new County Councillor
- THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

District Council

Stratford on Avon has officially been officially recognized as the fourth worst hit area economically in the UK due to its reliance on the tourism and hospitality sectors. This has had a serious impact on the council and required budget cuts across its operation resulting in the transfer of £2m+ reserves in order to deliver a sustainable five year operational budget plan.

- Covid Community Hub and support in delivering food parcels to shielded residents

- Worked closely with Public Health Warwickshire in the supply of PPE, Contact Test and Trace, Test Centres and Vaccination Centres
- Provided advice and support to local businesses for being Covid compliant
- New Licences for pavements and outdoor areas
- Benefits and Revenues Team distributed more than £40m in business grants
- Over 43,000 green bin permits issued
- Transformed Land Charges system
- Licensed first electric taxi in the district and first electric boat
- Worked closely with residents in respect of housing needs support
- Represented applicants at Committee in respect of planning applications.

Penny-Anne O'Donnell outgoing County Cllr filed the following report:-

Covid19

On Saturday it was announced that the UK had exceeded 60 million vaccinations (1 st & 2 nd doses) administered. According to various sources, the UK is in the top 5 worldwide per vaccination per 100 people worldwide (based on a minimum 1 million population).

The rate of infections across the district are continuing to level off at 9/100,000 from 12 last week, the over 60's rate has fallen to 2/100,000 (3 last week) with 2 cases over the last seven days. Other districts rates in Warwickshire for all ages are Nuneaton & Bedworth 15/100,000, North Warwickshire 14/100,000, Warwick 9/100,000 and Rugby 25/100,000. Warwickshire overall 14/100,000. England 21/100,000.

There have been no further Covid related death across Stratford District this week, total now 141 from the start of this second wave (28 th August 2020) 37 occurring in care homes, 91 in hospital, two in a hospice and 10 at home and one in a communal establishment, out of a total of 1,045 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now increased to 673 from 672 last week with a total of 4,320 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 309 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 1,274.

We still have no Covid cases at Warwick Hospital and no ITU beds occupied by Covid Patients.

The reflection of the catch up post Covid pandemic is seen by the 86% bed occupancy for general and acute admissions. In the region only University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire currently has any Covid patients with 4 patients and one of these is in ITU. They also have a 95% bed occupancy for general and acute admissions.

In Warwickshire 65.2% of under of the population have been vaccinated with at least one vaccine dose. 23.8 % of under 40's,

75% of 40-49 year olds,

88.3% of 50-59 year olds ,

92.3% of 60-69 year olds

96.2% of 70-79 year olds

and 96.7% of 80 years and over.

As Wellesbourne division falls between Stratford Upon Avon and Kenilworth and Southam for comparison 70.6% of constituents have been vaccinated with at least one dose and in Kenilworth and Southam 71.1%.

As we know Care Homes are key in protecting our most vulnerable residents regarding Covid and in Warwickshire 95.3% of Care Home Residents and 85.8% of Care Home staff have been vaccinated with at least one dose.

Green Shoots Fund applications now closed

It's great news for the environment as community and voluntary groups submit 105 applications to fund new schemes to reduce carbon emissions and address the climate emergency.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2129/green-shoots-are-set-to-spring-up-across-warwickshire-as-first-round-of-innovative-1-million-climate-change-funding-closes>

Dementia Action Week 2021

Warwickshire County Council and partners are raising awareness of the challenges facing people who are living with dementia as mark of national dementia actions week 2021.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2120/supporting-people-affected-by-dementia->

Memory Suitcases @ Warwickshire Libraries

Specially developed memory suitcases are available to loan from Warwickshire County Council & libraries to help support people living with dementia and their carers.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2123/memory-suitcases-available-from-warwickshire-libraries-support-people-living-with-dementia>

Volunteering @ the Commonwealth Games

Looking to do something different and make a difference?

Applications to volunteer for the Birmingham 2022 Games open on 1 June.

Be part of the Commonwealth Games Collective and let's make history together next summer. Find out more: www.birmingham2022.com/volunteering
#B2022 #VOLUNTEER

Serious food crime tool launches

A new tool to protect businesses from food crime – and the threat to consumer health – has been launched by the Food Standards Agency, supported by Warwickshire County Council's Trading Standards.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2122/new-tool-launched-to-protect-warwickshire-from-risk-of-serious-food-crime>

Artists to support Countywide Arts Project

Creative Giants, in collaboration with Warwickshire County Council and the five districts and boroughs, are inviting artists and designers to reimagine public spaces across the county.

Find out how to get involved:

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2124/warwickshire-our-spaces-call-out-for-artists-to-support-countywide-arts-project>

Cars and Kids Don't Mix campaign launches

The Road Safety Education Team have recently worked with Safety Engineering and Warwickshire Police's safer neighbourhood teams to re-launch the popular Cars and Kids Don't Mix campaign.

Read more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2121/warwickshire-residents-are-reminded-that-cars-and-kids-don-t-mix>

EU Settlement Scheme

With less than 50 days to go before the EU #SettlementScheme deadline, protect your family's rights in the UK by applying by 30 June 2021.

Apply today: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families#mids>

The Big Ask

Children and young people across Warwickshire are being urged to have their say on their hopes for the future, in the biggest ever survey of its kind in England.

Find out more: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2130/children-and-young-people-urged-to-share-their-hopes-for-the-future-in-national-survey>

Meet Jade, Firefighter at Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

"If someone has to call the fire service out it's a pretty bad day for them, so you're helping somebody out when they really need it.

Read more of Jade's story: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/news/article/2127/this-is-community-spirit-meet-jade-firefighter-at-warwickshire-fire-and-rescue-service>

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue is recruiting full time and retained firefighters – if interested, details can be found on the county council website.

Round 3 of the Safer Streets fund.

The Home Office has confirmed that a third, £25million round of the Safer Streets Fund will launch on 24th May. This round of the fund will be focused on improving the safety of public places, with a particular focus on areas of potential concern to women and girls. Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) and Local Authorities in England and Wales, and the British Transport Police, will be eligible to bid. It is a requirement of the fund that key bidders consult with either local or national VAWG (Violence Against women & Girls) stakeholder groups and also engage with local organisations that hold responsibility for groups of women and girls, such as schools, universities, or local businesses.

In preparation for the launch of the fund two (Warwickshire) partnership meetings have been held to discuss potential bids, the latest on 18 th May. This was attended by representatives from the WCC Community Safety team, Targeted Youth Support, the Community Safety Partnership, Fire and

Rescue, all five District and Borough Councils, the Office of the PCC and the Police. The group considered a report prepared on non domestic violence in public places showing hotspot locations and discussed a number of potential projects. These included:

- education projects and work with young people,
- a central community safety interventions pot which could be used to fund improvements in areas of concern identified through local consultation,

- work around the night-time economy,
- specific, larger scale targeted projects in areas highlighted in the analysis or based on local knowledge.

Finally, the issues of speeding was in the top three concerns residents raised in my election survey. Only this weekend when walking I felt incredibly vulnerable to speeding cars on the rural lanes and have noted a number of people chancing or misjudging their speed and distance at junctions recently.

These situations are accidents waiting to happen. Speed is a factor in some accidents, that is true, but there are many other factors involved in accidents too e.g. drink, drugs, being distracted, losing concentration, driving when tired, road conditions etc. As we emerge from lockdown and spend more time driving potentially it is worth ensuring that our driving environment is as distraction free and focused as possible. Please be careful out there.

6. District Councillor's report

Cllr Parry filed the following report :-

Green Waste Collection

The charge for green waste collection service commenced in April and over 43,000 permits have been issued to date across the district.

Environmental Health & Licensing Team

The EH and Licensing Team continues to receive new applications for temporary licenses for outdoor meetings and events. These have doubled in recent weeks as plans following lockdown restrictions are scheduled to ease. The Team is working through these as well as they can but are currently overloaded with a continual flurry of applications. Whilst the Licensing Act is fit for purpose, the Team will be responding positively in terms of granting licenses for events, meetings and pavement/roadside extensions where current legislation and Covid regulations permit.

New Era for Land Charges Service

SDC has transferred its Local Land Charges Register (LLCR) to HM Land Registry (HMLR) on 10th May which follows the completion of a challenging project over the last two years to data cleanse and digitise approximately 95,000 records held in a variety of paper and digital formats.

Benefits of the new system will be faster response times to search requests and a foundation to enable officers to work with more accurate data, accessible systems and continuously improve its processes. SDC will continue to be responsible for updating and maintaining the LLC register to provide replies to CON29 enquiries which are currently being turned round in less than three weeks and will continue to improve once the rush before the stamp duty holiday ends.

The initiative is part of a national transformation programme that will eventually see all 314 registers held by English local authorities transferred to HMLR under the Infrastructure Act 2015.

Planning

The planning teams continue to be swamped by householder applications for extensions which reflects the increase of homeworking during Covid and the new hybrid model of working that is being adopted by many businesses to look at greater flexibility of working routines amongst staff combining a mix of office based with home working routines. As a result applications are taking around five weeks to be validated which reflects the volume and also staff shortages.

As a member of Cabinet, I have been allocated Planning portfolio which also includes enforcement, land charges, building control, planning and development.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are currently undertaking a Scoping and Call for Sites consultation, which runs from Monday 10 May until Monday 21 June 2021. This is the first stage in a long process and the consultation asks a series of questions about what issues the new Local Plan should cover, and seeks your views on how we should tackle these issues.

In particular, it seeks your views on where in South Warwickshire new development should be located and how best we should accommodate growth. At the same time, we are also running a 'Call for Sites' inviting suggestions for potential sites to be allocated for a variety of land uses

Further details and the public consultation can be accessed via the dedicated website at www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp

The plan is being developed in two separate parts,

- Development Strategy and Strategic Policies (Part 1)
- Detailed Policies and specific site allocations

Part 1 will establish a robust and flexible framework, setting out where and how much development should take place across South Warwickshire. It will include the core principles and strategic policies that can provide the context for more detailed policies to follow.

The plan period is the length of time the policies in the Local Plan should remain valid for and it is our joint view that the Plan should run to 2050 and establish a flexible, robust and long-lasting framework for development across South Warwickshire.

The South Warwickshire Local Plan will replace the strategic policies in the existing Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy and Warwick Local Plan. Remaining policies in these plans will continue to have effect until they are superseded in due course.

In terms of the Call for Sites this is for land areas of more than one acre which could accommodate around 10 homes. From Moreton Morrell's perspective it is anticipated that land off John Taylor Way and Brook Lane are likely to be put forward by the respective landowners.

There are no other areas which will impact on the parish, however there are investment plans for the employment site at the Wellesbourne Campus which will clearly bring new and exciting employment opportunities to the area.

7. Community representative's report

i. Warwickshire College

WCG filed the following report:-

Farm

Lambing was very successful this year with over 900 lambs turned out into the fields. Most of the ewes lambed within the first 3 weeks and all the ewes and lambs are doing well despite the slow grass growth throughout April and early May. The virtual lambing event was well received and images from the farm were published in over 150 articles Nationwide. Hopefully we will return to hosting an 'in-person' event next year and welcome the public back.

The Wheat and Barley look strong, despite the lack of rain throughout April, both crops have just had their second dose of fertiliser. We are currently planting the wildbird mixes around the farm. These provide feed for the farmland birds over the winter and we will shortly be moving onto replanting our pollen and nectar mixes.

Estates

Estates are progressing the electrical rewire project of the Cotswold Court building at Moreton Morrell using the FE building condition improvement grant. Works will commence on Monday 14th June and will be completed by the end of August. This will involve some disruption to staff and services housed within this building as we need to ensure safe working.

Staff and Students

We are delighted to be able to announce that in April WCG were granted Bachelor degree awarding powers, which will enable us to develop and award our own honours degrees from 2021 onwards. This awarding power builds on the Foundation degree awarding power that we have held since 2014. Many of our degree students study at Moreton Morrell College and this new awarding power should allow us to expand our offer in the coming years to grow this aspect of our provision.

Jane Benefield, our lead floristry lecturer at the College has been nominated for a Times Education Supplement Further Education award. The awards celebrate those making remarkable contributions to the FE sector and the World Skills Hero award recognises the dedicated professionals who go the extra mile to support the talented competitors who take part in regional, national and international skills competitions. Jane has led the floristry department at Moreton Morrell College for 10 years and in that time has supported more than 80 students to take part in WorldSkills competitions, so we believe her to be a worthy nominee for this award.

On May 6 we were able to stage a British Eventing Official competition once more, with 280 competitors taking part. Around 20 of our own students were on hand to support on the day with dressage and show jumping stewarding duties. We were delighted to have 2 of our students taking part in the competition - Jasmine Holmes and Francois Heyns, who are both in their final year of our Equine Performance Coaching degree.

Agriculture students have been progressing with field work as much as the weather allows with making improvements to the grassland areas scarifying and rolling, particularly in some of the equine fields where the wet weather has made the ground particularly rutted. The next major fieldwork to be done by the students will be making haylage, timing again will be very weather dependant

Countryside management students have been busy in parts of the estate making improvements to areas of habitat and clearing some non native species from the woodland to encourage more native wildflower species to thrive.

Animal Management students have been busy catching up on missed practical sessions and are now able to undertake some of the additional enrichment activities we had planned. Mainly with the ease of lockdown we have been able to visit some zoo establishments, namely Chester and Bristol, whereby the students have undertaken enclosure comparisons and brought back ideas for projects to work on this term in order to spruce up some of ours at Moreton Morrell. We are also pleased that our conservation study tour to Wales is able to go ahead where 30 Level 3 Animal Management students will be able to conduct beach surveys, clean ups and also enjoy some costeering and other water based activities.

With the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions, we have been able to plan more fully on-site events during the summer term. This includes the first college tours since last October, which will take place on May 20th in small covid-safe groups. Then on June 24th, after the expected lifting of all restrictions, we are planning an in-person Open Event, allowing applicants who have not yet been able to visit the college the opportunity to look round and chat to tutors. Numbers will still be limited to ensure we maintain covid safety

ii. The Villager

Jane Cleeton filed the following report:-

Firstly, Thank you to the PC for the Grant, Pete Gibbins for Editing & Printing, Naomi Monks for distribution, Claire Monks for the PC updates & finally WCG for there sponsorship.

The current balance is £342.

There are regular articles from John Moverley for the Church, NP&AWi, DC Anne Parry & until recent elections CC updates. I hope that our new CC Penny O'DONNELL will also give updates

The nature stories from Steve & Linda are most welcome.
That concludes my report, if you have any questions please just ask.

iii. Village Hall

Mike Harwood filed the following report:-

We regret the hall has not been used for most of year due to Covid 19 restrictions.

We have adhered to regulations as recommended by ACRE with numbers reduced to 25 to meet social distancing.

The hall was not used recently for Local Elections due to social distancing issues.

The hall has been maintained, heated and cleaned periodically as well after an event. Repairs were needed to roof caused by adjacent tree damage. The tree has now removed. Further overhaul of the roof, gutters, etc. Is being undertaken shortly.

We have gratefully received grants in the last year from the Local Authority in respect of Covid 19 Community Funding.

We are now undertaking tests of the electrical circuits and emergency lighting which is required periodically.

They will also be reviewing supply issues which have given apparent overload problems in past. We also wish to review forms of heating as we wish to provide speedier heating for smaller events in the colder months.

We will be holding a committee meeting next month to discuss such matters as:

Management and future meetings
New committee members
Advertising, events and use of hall.
Future improvements and expenditure.

We are keen to welcome prospective new members for our committee.

Finally we look forward to the safe opening of the hall.

iv. Community Café

Jo Boulton filed the following report:-

We have not met since March 2020, and so there isn't really anything to report as to any activity. I am sure I speak for us all when I say how sad I was at the loss of one of our regular attendees, Anne Smith, last August. The cafe will not be the same without her presence. She will be missed.

With regards to restarting our meetings, we normally only meet in term time and so I suggest that we plan to meet next at the start of the Autumn term in September. I plan to contact regular attendees beforehand to assess how keen everyone is to get together again.

v. Village Gym

Owen Pettiford filed the following report:-

The update for the Moreton Morrell Fitness Club is pretty simple - we haven't been running since the first lockdown (March 2020).

I have taken them on-line and 7-8 people in the village attend on Monday at 6:30pm.

Not sure when we will start in person again at the college. Perhaps July or August.

Are the PC happy to fund once we start again ?

vi. Moreton Morrell Parochial Church Council

John Moverley filed the following report:-

Thank you for the opportunity to present this brief report on certainly a turbulent and unprecedented time since the last report in 2019. There has been so much tragedy and challenge and the effects will be long lasting. Whilst we have done our best to maintain services during the period, sadly we had to cease these for a short while for all the right reasons during the strict lockdown. However we were determined to ensure your church remained open every day for private prayer and reflection and we have seen many villagers take this opportunity.

During much of this time, we also were without a vicar but very fortunate to have a band of people who have helped in so many ways to ensure things ran as smoothly as possible. As you will almost certainly know, we do now have a new vicar in Lynda Lilley and I know she is looking forward to getting to know as many as possible as restrictions ease. The church has faced a serious financial challenge with the loss of regular income sources and in 2020, we faced the danger of using all our reserves. Thankfully a grant application to the Diocese proved successful and helped and we have been grateful for a number of donations to help mitigate matters. The situation on annual income and expenditure though remains very difficult especially with the loss of room income during the period and collections. Also we have had a ceiling fall in the building which needs attention as resources allow.

However we remain very optimistic as things hopefully return to more normal, room bookings re-start and we have plans for further fund raising events and activities. Speaking of fund raising, we record the excellent support given to a variety of fund raising activity in late 2020. This included a very successful craft fair held in the church and surrounds and a carol concert, although of course the latter had restricted numbers

due to the pandemic. We also held a really successful evening of carol singing in the churchyard – a true community event.

This report would not be complete without mention of Remembrance Sunday and we do value the support of the Parish Council in laying a wreath and indeed the village in supporting on this special day. The service prior to assembling at the memorial had to be cancelled in 2020 but it was good to see so many villagers in attendance for the short ceremony leading up to the two minutes of silence.

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 y for their support towards its maintenance. It is so much valued and vital. Thank you

Finally I would mention that on Sunday July 4th at 10.30am, we will be holding a very special service. We want to make this very much a village event for us to say thank you for all those who have helped us all get through the pandemic. We hope as many from the village will feel able to join us for this special service whatever their beliefs or none. Thank you and of course if you need any further information about your church, please do contact me.

8. Matters of Interest

None.

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