

Welford-on-Avon Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 7:15 p.m.

Present: Cllr S Carter (in the Chair), Cllr M Lake, Cllr J Hockaday, Cllr M Stanley, Cllr D Jones, Cllr D Holmes

In attendance: Clerk - Mrs I Wibberley

Public: 10 young people & 2 parents (pre meeting)

Public Participation: Prior to commencement of the formal Planning Committee Meeting Cllr Carter advised that the plans for the Synder Meadow Pavilion had been updated following the public consultation meeting. He outlined the plans to those attending, noting that approximately 6000 sq ft been allocated for teenage equipment. He confirmed that the Parish Council could allocate £10k for this equipment and that it might be possible to increase the sum up to £20k. The Parish Council were proposing that the group of youngsters would work with 2 volunteer mums (Eve Lee and Donna Lamb) to develop the plans. The Parish Council suggested that they might need to organise themselves into a smaller group to facilitate this.

On behalf of the village youngsters Barney Street explained that some parents were hesitant to permit their teenage children going round the village because of traffic. Cllr Stanley explained that the Parish Council been working with WCC over the past 18 months to try to identify measures which could be taken to slow traffic down. It was also hoped that if this could be achieved then cars might choose to find another route rather than come through Welford. He explained that traffic regulations had changed over recent years and that various options such as 20mph speed limits, flashing speed warning lights, speed humps, and road narrowing all had restrictions, eg. Narrowing too close to junctions. Highways dept were primarily interested in areas where there had been accidents however the Parish Council's focus was on preventing accidents. Some outline plans/ideas had been developed such as central islands/refuges to facilitate crossing the road, single lanes in areas so drivers have to give way, and mini roundabouts. A further meeting was due to take place with WCC to discuss these proposals. It was noted that many of these measures would involve very large sums of money which were not available to the Parish Council – eg approx. £110k to install traffic lights on the bridge.

The youngsters were keen to be able to use the proposed new facilities such as the tennis court and the Parish Council noted that a booking system might have to be put in place. They were also seeking an under 11s football team and junior cricket club. Cllr Carter agreed to contact the football club and the cricket club, noting that one of the conditions of the Parish Council funding an all weather pitch was that they introduce a youth team.

The youngsters also asked if it might be possible to establish a Youth Club, perhaps running once a month at the Memorial Hall or Bowls Club. They suggested activities such as cinema night, games night, disco night. The Parish Council thought this was an excellent idea and were very keen to support this but noted that it would need volunteers/leaders someone to run it. They suggested that the youngsters ask their parents to help them find a leader. It was also noted that there would need to be age restrictions for a Youth Club. They recommended that the group find out how many children there were in the village within each age group.

Item		Action
1.	Acceptance of Apologies – Cllr N Appleton, Cllr D Jones	
2.	Declarations of Interest – None	
3.	Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the meeting held on 24 th October 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed – Cllr J Hockaday Seconded – Cllr M Lake	
4.	Planning Applications There were no planning applications received for consideration.	
5.	Other Planning Matters No planning matters were raised.	
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>6.1 Action list This was reviewed in detail. The clerk would update.</p> <p>6.2 Pavilion open meeting Cllr Carter reported that this had been well attended. Unfortunately the timing had meant that some of those who worked were unable to attend. The flyer circulated to all households did contain an email address and some comments were received via that method. Cllrs Carter and Hockaday reported back that most people were glad to see something happening and were supportive. The plans would be updated and revised following the consultation with changes including amended emergency vehicle access to allow turning circle, lighting in car park, including a running track and boules pitch, and cycle shed/area. Some changes had been made for disability access and there had been changes for security measures. Once the Committee had agreed the revised plans the planning application would be submitted to SDC. It was agreed that a separate section on the Parish Council website would be created for this project.</p> <p>6.3 Financial matters The Millward invoice for £1194.00 was approved for payment. Proposed – Cllr M Stanley Seconded - Cllr D Holmes. This would also be formally reported at the full Parish Council meeting in December.</p> <p>6.4 School playing fields Further complaints had been received from local residents regarding access to the school playing fields. The Parish Council was anxious to have this matter resolved but needed legal advice. WALC had been approached but needed to see the relevant documents. The clerk would check with Cllr Appleton to see if these had been sent.</p>	<p>IW</p> <p>NA/SC</p> <p>IW</p>

	<p>6.5 Footpaths Cllr Stanley reported that he had received a quotation from Limebridge for various footpath repair works (Frog Lane to Pool Close, Church Lane to Binton Road, bridge at Hunts Hall, Headland Road to High Street) totalling £7,950. It was agreed that the clerk should obtain a breakdown between the various paths. Cllr Lake advised there was £4k for footpath maintenance in the budget, plus £2k for general village maintenance. Cllr Holmes thought he had a contact who would also be able to quote. It was noted that the Financial Regulations for the Parish Council stated that 3 quotes would be received for all matters over £3k, however the Parish Council observed that Limebridge had historically always been significantly cheaper than other contractors. It was agreed that the Parish Council would attempt to get a second quotation.</p> <p>6.6 Traffic lights on Binton Bridge Cllr Hockaday questioned whether it might be appropriate to carry out a survey of village opinion about traffic lights during the period of 13 April to 10 May 2024 when the bridge was scheduled to be open. A number of residents had raised the issue of permanent lights on the bridge in Welford Forum. It was noted that Cllr Pemberton appeared keen to pursue this idea however the cost was estimated at c£110k and was not a priority for WCC because there had been no accidents/near misses.</p> <p>6.7 The proposed closure of Binton fire station was noted. Councillors would need to consider the effect on this on the village.</p> <p>6.8 Shakespeare Inn Cllrs Stanley and Carter had met the publican and explained the position of the Parish Council and the NDP policies which were relevant. He had received a number of complaints from locals and the SDC Enforcement and Listed Building Officers were now involved regarding matters such as the smoking shed, lights, noise, and the bouncy castle. The Parish Council re-affirmed that they remained supportive of a thriving village pub and had identified the Shakespeare as a Community Asset, but were not prepared to pursue discussions on social media.</p> <p>The meeting discussed whether it would be appropriate to have an agenda standing item ref Welford Forum and report matters in the minutes. Councillors also considered whether they should communicate more via social media but noted that replies had to be instant to be effective. The clerk would ascertain whether it might be possible to open a Parish Council facebook account.</p> <p>6.9 The Holt footpath Cllr Stanley reported that the footpath to this development was very slippery. He had contacted Cllr Perteghella and the residents who had raised concerns. He had been advised that there were issues relating to Duchy Homes who had fulfilled all their obligations to set up a management committee and allow the development to be signed off. The banking and</p>	<p>IW/DH</p> <p>All councillors</p> <p>IW</p>
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	footpath etc were supposed to be maintained by Duchy Homes. The Parish Council could not resolve this matter as it was not an area of their responsibility, however Cllr Perteghella might be able to raise the matter with SDC planning dept.	
7.	Dates of Future Meetings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th December 2023 - Full Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall • 19th December 2023 – Planning Committee Meeting, Memorial Hall 	

Meeting closed at 21:15