

**Minutes of the Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council (PC) Emergency Meeting
held on Tuesday 4th August at 7.30pm via Zoom**

Present: Councillor Willmott (Chair), Councillor Brougham, Councillor Chaudry, Councillor Jones, Councillor O'Brien, Councillor Ross, Councillor Doidge, Councillor Ebbutt, Councillor Adams, Councillor Burgess, Councillor Saunders, Councillor Oakley

In attendance: Julie White, Parish Clerk

Approximately 32 members of the public joined the meeting.

20/21/020 - Apologies for absence – none

20/21/021

- **To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda-** None
- **To receive written request for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)-** None
- **To consider any requests for dispensations as appropriate-** None

Councillor Oakley asked for it to be placed on record that he was very concerned about the disorderly behaviour at the last meeting and lack of control from the Chair. He was also concerned that he had requested a copy of the recording of the meeting to learn that it had been deleted. The Clerk explained that she decided to record Zoom meetings for minuting purposes and as Zoom storage was at the limit, she deleted it as she had no further need to keep it. Councillor Oakley said that there are rules that recordings and they must be kept for a reasonable amount of time. The Clerk said that this is not her understanding, but she will check on this. Councillor Brougham said that he had been abused at the last meeting and he too had asked for a copy of the recording to learn that it had been deleted which he felt was perhaps very convenient.

20/21/022- To receive the results of the supplementary survey of Malthouse Lane and agree a course of action based on these results.

The results of the questionnaire had been previously circulated. The results of the 2nd survey showed that of the 46 responses out of 64 surveys distributed:-

- 25 voted to close the causeway for a trial period (54%)
- 20 voted to keep the causeway open (43%)
- 1 spoilt paper

Ewen Cunningham, Chair of the working party, explained the rationale behind conducting the 2nd survey. He explained that as 53 households had voted for either full or partial closure of the causeway in the original survey, it was felt prudent to find out if these were from the people at the bottom end of Malthouse Lane who are most affected by the anti-social behaviour (ASB). The results of the 2nd survey had shown that the majority of those who had voted to close the causeway in the original survey were not from the bottom end of Malthouse Lane.

Councillor Burgess said that realistically, if a temporary closure was applied for now it wouldn't take effect quickly and there would be little point in closing the causeway during the winter period. District Councillor Dixon said that it was very likely that a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) will be in place before Christmas and that may do the job rather than looking to close the causeway. County Councillor Horner supported Councillor Dixon and suggested that any measures were introduced incrementally. The PSPO will work providing that it is enforced. Councillor Horner also stated that closing a road is difficult if there isn't overwhelming public support to do so. However, Councillor Horner suggested a 3rd

solution of gating the causeway. He said that in Wyre Piddle a 'b' road was reclassified as a white road and all vehicles were prohibited except for residents.

Councillor Oakley endorsed the comments of both Councillors Dixon and Horner and reiterated that he wanted to help the minority of residents who suffer the most. However, Cllr Oakley wanted people to be aware that whatever the PC decides to do, people must understand that there is a legal procedure requiring Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Highways and the Canal and River Trust (CRT) to act and this can be lengthy and out of the PC's control. Cllr Oakley referred to the CCTV camera which was promised by Stratford District Council (SDC) 18 months ago and through no fault of the PC has not been delivered. Councillor Adams confirmed that a lot of work is happening behind the scenes on the CCTV, but due to the location there have been several obstacles. There is a meeting of Thursday to see how things are progressing. Councillor Adams said that he could update the PC after the meeting on Thursday. Councillor O'Brien asked that a temporary closure is asked for but this will take time and in the meantime the PC should get on with putting up a camera as soon as possible.

Councillor Willmott made the proposal that the PC contacts WCC Highways to explore the possibility of a 2 month closure of the causeway around the Easter period next year. This was seconded by Councillor Oakley. There were 9 votes in favour of this proposal. Councillors Adams and Saunders voted against the proposal and Councillor Ross abstained from voting.

Councillor O'Brien asked if a camera could also be considered. Councillor Adams explained that the PC is not yet in the position to be able to make a decision on a camera as several factors need to be addressed.

20/12/023 – To consider Councillor Burgess' action plan for Earlswood Leisure Park and agree a course of action

Councillor Burgess had prepared a document of recommendations for the park which had been previously circulated. He said that the safety of Parish Council employees is a priority. He suggested that security gates are placed in the keyhole in front of the barriers so people can't access the park when it is closed. If the PSPO comes in to operation a pedestrian gate could be placed across the public footpath. There could be some way of making this accessible for residents out of hours, possibly via a fob or code. Both of these measures will protect the park keepers and cut down the ASB. Lockable pop-up barriers could be placed on the strip of tarmac outside the house next to the park to prevent parking when the park is closed. By closing the gates the need for ANPR could be negated.

It was also suggested that a private security company is employed to lock the gates to take the pressure of the park keepers. It was also suggested that places are marked out in the car park.

Councillor Burgess outlined the possible costs involved:

- Security gates for the park - £1200 - £3000 plus VAT
- Gate for public footpath - £600 plus VAT
- Marking out of 40 parking spaces - £620 plus VAT
- Retractable posts - £50 each + VAT

District Councillor Dixon said that wanting to gate a Public Right of Way would not be permitted. Councillor Burgess said that he had discussed this with WCC who had confirmed that if there is a PSPO in place then there is no issue with gating the footpath. WCC had also said that the PC could apply to permanently extinguish the path to reduce anti-social and criminal activity.

Councillor Oakley proposed that the park is secured with gates and once the PSPO is in place a gate is placed on the public footpath. He also proposed that the car park is marked out with 40 parking spaces and retractable posts as necessary are purchased. Councillor Brougham seconded the proposal. 11 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

20/12/024 - Any further updates from the Working Party – no further updates

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.40

Signed _____ Date _____

DRAFT