

Minutes of the Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th February 2021

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

In attendance: Julie White (Parish Clerk), Lil Ryder (Deputy Clerk – taking the minutes)

Approximately 16 members of the public joined the meeting.

The Chairman opened the Public Forum

Tom Ross, Chair of the Tanworth Residents' Association made the following comments:

The long running saga of Cank Farm seems close to resolution and with the Parish Council's continued help. All outstanding issues are close to being settled so far as the Association is concerned.

Spitfire Bespoke Homes, through their local agent, our own Andy Wilkins, have now revised the design of the proposed houses, particularly, those fronting Well Lane. They are now much more traditional in style and more in keeping with the adjacent Conservation Area.

Spitfire have also promised to repair the damage to the embankment and the vegetation in Well Lane. Duchy Homes agreed to the recommendations made by a small committee of residents specially set up for that purpose.

Spitfire has said it will provide written assurance that they have no interest in obtaining an option to buy further land in Butts Lane. This site was previously identified and rejected in an early draft of our Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Two issues remain to be resolved.

The Residents Association has asked that footpath lighting in the development should be traditional in style and in keeping with that in the Conservation Area. It should not be low level modern lighting as proposed by Spitfire. Within Tanworth 20mph only two lamp posts are not traditional in style.

The second issue concerns pedestrian access from the new development to the village. Both Well Lane and Butts Lane do not offer safe access to the Church or the school without major destruction of the rural nature of these lanes.

At the time of the Outline planning permission Stansgate proposed new steps and a new footpath across land below the churchyard extension owned by the Summers family. There was concern expressed at the time that this would involve building on Green Belt land outside the BUAB of the village and that it might provide an excuse to build on Butts Lane at some future date. Duchy Homes agreed to revise this in line with the wishes of local residents.

There are two possible alternatives to the Summers route.

There is an existing set of poorly maintained steps level with the top of the Lay-by in Well Lane that parishioners already use to access the churchyard. Spitfire have agreed to pay for the modernisation of this access and the improvement of the partial gravel pathway. So far the Parochial Church Council has steadfastly refused to agree to this modest proposal.

This is the shortest and easiest access to the village and there can be no doubt that it will be used regardless of any other access being provided.

In passing I would like to say I am appalled by the uncommunicative and intransigent attitude of the Parochial Church Council.

The third option is to improve the existing public footpath but this would involve people with pushchairs and those with mobility problems walking further up Well Lane.

Tanworth Residents Association would ask the Parish Council to use its best efforts to get the Church Council to agree the lay-by route BUT, failing that, to suggest the upgrade of the existing official public footpath. We would ask that under no circumstances should the Parish Council endorse the new steps and path on Summers Land.

The Parish Clerk spoke on behalf of a resident regarding the gritting issues on Malthouse Lane. They understand the inability to cross the causeway and to turn at the bottom of Malthouse Lane, however could the gritter turn around in the keyhole half way down Malthouse Lane which would enable more of the road to be gritted?

County Councillor John Horner addressed the Parish Council:

- With regards to the gritting issues on Malthouse Lane; the council grit as much as possible ensuring access into and out of the village. If they were to offer further gritting services for Earlswood then they would need to offer this for all other villages. Suggest that the Parish Council purchase grit bins and a 'hand gritter'.
- The budget for Social Care has increased, both incoming & outgoing.
- Elections are still due to take place in May and the Council recommends that, where possible, the public register for postal votes to reduce contact with others.

District Councillor Dixon addressed the Parish Council:

- An increase in Council Tax will be voted upon in the coming Full Council Meeting (22nd February 2021); expecting a £5 per annum increase for a Band D property.
- Stratford District are proposing to make closer relations with Warwick District Council with an upcoming merge date of 1st April 2024.
- PSPO is still on-going.

Questions were invited:

- Cllr Burgess asked Cllr Horner about road responsibility following the merge with WDC. Cllr Horner stated that only roads built to standards would be adopted by WCC but that he will look into the two roads in question.

The Chairman then closed the Public Forum and opened the meeting

20/21/096 - Apologies for absence – Councillor Oakley and Councillor Jones

20/21/097

To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda – Cllr Burgess has declared an interest in item 7 – Finance. Suggests that Cllr Chaudry will chair that section of the meeting.

To receive written request for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) - None

To consider any requests for dispensations as appropriate - None

20/21/098 - To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21st January 2021

Proposed by Cllr Chaudry, seconded by Cllr Ross and all in favour.

20/21/099 – Any matters arising from the minutes, not otherwise dealt with

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- Cllr Saunders asked about the status on the Bellfield Car Park and the possibility of taking ownership from Orbit Housing Association. He also asked that we continue to speak with SDC planning department regarding the possible future development of the land.
- Cllr Burgess gave an update on the Clerk's position. As of yet there has been no applications from a qualified Clerk and so proposes that the Council ask Julie to stay in post for the time being to train the Deputy Clerk; Cllr Chaudry seconds this and all others are in favour.
- Applications for the Assets of Community Value have been submitted.
- The water supply issue along Valley Road has been passed over to Severn Trent Water.
- CCTV for the layby on Valley Road is now in the public consultation phase.
- Line markings in Malthouse Lane car park has been postponed until Autumn due to the adverse weather conditions and the works being carried out by the Canal & River Trust.
- Cllr O'Brien asked whether Cllr Dixon had spoken with the solicitors regarding the beaches when the lakes are low/dry. Cllr Dixon stated that unless there are signs warning the public that there is no access, then this will be a public right of way.

20/21/100 – Matters raised in the Public Forum

- To Tom Ross of the Tanworth Residents Association; there are two options. To either refer this to the Planning sub Committee or he can request space to discuss this on a future agenda.
- To the resident on Malthouse Lane; WCC are not able to grit or cross the causeway due to the weight limit and potential pollution to the Lakes. As the driver is out alone in a gritter, he would not be able to turn around at the bottom of Malthouse Lane (a Banksman would be required) and therefore WCC will not grit Malthouse Lane. The Parish Council can purchase grit bins and these would be filled by Warwick Highways but would then need volunteers to spread the grit across the road. The Clerk will speak to WCC to discuss possible location of bins as footpaths are narrow. Cllr Horner advises that the Council can hire a private contractor to grit Malthouse Lane providing they have the correct insurance.

20/21/101 To note items of correspondence received:

- 6.57 – Email from EFHRA requesting information on a footpath officer, asking whether they can do some maintenance work to the Philip Reasbeck memorial bench and whether the Parish Council have made any representations regarding Woodlands Farm.
- 6.66 – Update from WCC regarding the streetlights on The Common.
- 6.63 – Tanworth Easter Cross on the Green. With plans to erect on the 24th March and dismantle on the 7th April.

20/21/102 – Finance:

Cllr Burgess hands over to Cllr Chaudry and abstains from all financial decisions.

- To agree and authorise the monthly payments – Cllr Willmott proposes that these are accepted en-bloc, and Cllr Doidge seconds this. 9 votes in favour and Cllr Burgess abstains.
- To consider obtaining a payment card – looking at the research presented, Cllr Chaudry proposes that the Parish Council apply for a Cash Plus Freedom prepayment card and Cllr Adams seconds this. 9 votes in favour and Cllr Burgess abstains.
- To consider a grant application from 1st Tanworth in Arden Scout Group – Cllr Willmott stated that the Scout Hut currently had a hard wood floor and that we should support this application. Cllr Chaudry proposes full grant approval of £762.50, Cllr Willmott seconds this proposal. 9 votes in favour and Cllr Burgess abstains.
- To consider a grant application from Earlswood Village Hall – Cllr Willmott suggested that again we should support the efforts by the village hall committee during the pandemic and proposes a full grant approval of £500, Cllr Chaudry seconds this proposal. 9 votes in favour and Cllr Burgess abstains.

20/21/103 – Planning:

Report from Chair of Planning – Cllr Saunders acknowledged the two recent successes with planning applications. The designs for Cank Farm are improving. One of the conditions of the Cank Farm development was that they needed to donate £30,000 to Tanworth in Arden Primary School for the development of their playground. This is no longer possible due to insurance and so Cllr Saunders proposes finding another community project for these funds. Cllr Burgess seconds this and all Councillors are in favour.

To receive the planning list – The list from 22nd January – 18th February was received.

To receive the decision lists – The list from 22nd January – 18th February was received.

To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan – The NDP will be discussed at the March meeting.

20/21/104 – To Consider the use of Social Media

After conducting some research, the Deputy Clerk circulated a brief pros & cons list regarding the use of Facebook. It was suggested that a team work together to share the responsibility of the upkeep of social media, and to monitor the posts and comments shared by the public. Cllr Ebbutt proposed the use of Facebook and Cllr Adams seconded this. Cllr Brougham and Cllr Doidge abstained and all others were in favour.

Cllr Saunders also suggested putting together a list of residents emails to keep updated that way, subject to GDPR guidelines.

20/21/105 – Earlswood Leisure Park

i) Work by the Canal and River Trust:

The Trust are undertaking necessary and safety critical repair works to the reservoirs in accordance with the Reservoir Safety Act, and plan to commence on the 29th March 2021 through to September 2021.

As part of the works, the reservoir pools are required to be lowered to ensure the safety of the dams during the construction process. The Trust need to have completed the drawdown process prior to bird nesting season and therefore requested access to a small parcel of land off Malthouse Lane car park, to undertake the necessary enabling works.

To undertake the works, the contractors will require access through the car park with a 40T crane to place the pumps and generators in the parcel of land between Terry's and Engine Pool. The access to the reservoir will be closed. This will continue throughout the whole project programme.

It would be beneficial for the path from the car park to the reservoir to be utilised to store trackway which will be later used to access across the reservoir bed. This will be securely fenced off and an operative will be available throughout the check the security of the fencing.

As a crane is required to place the pumps and generator in position, it is envisaged a few branches may need to be trimmed back to allow the crane to slew the pumps into position.

A full pre-site survey between both parties has been undertaken. We will undertake a full photographic survey and issue a copy to you for your approval prior to works commencing.

Current programme for the enabling works is envisaged to begin w/c 15th February 2021, with the main reservoir construction programme continue thereafter on the 29th March.

- It has been agreed that CRT will return the park to the current condition once the works have been completed and will compensate with saplings for the wildlife area.
- Car Park has been closed on selected days to ensure the safe arrival of the necessary equipment as without closure there was chaos with members of the public taking no notice to the large vehicles.
- Cllr O'Brien stated that a number of residents were upset as there was no consultation from CRT.
- Cllr Willmott suggests reminding CRT that their legal access is only 10ft wide.

- Cllr O'Brien commented that as they have already removed some of the play area fence, that it is replaced with a metal one and that the bench is carefully unbolted and moved as it has already been damaged.

ii) Update on the wildlife area including the delegated decision to flail a pathway – Pathway has been flailed and received recommendations of the removal of some trees which are a safety concern. Any concerns regarding security to houses have been assessed and omitted due to the number of private gateways onto the land. The rush in getting this work done is to ensure that the work was done prior to nesting season.

Discussions are already in place for CRT to provide some saplings for the area as compensation for the works being carried out by the park. Investigations are also being done to establish what can come provided by the Woodland Trust. Suggest having a community planting event and possibly a 'Memorial Woodland' with the chance to sponsor a tree. Cllr Doidge questioned the maintenance and on-going costs for this area. The works will be included in the groundman's duties.

iii) To discuss security arrangements for the park – Research is on-going for finding a security company which fulfils the needs of the Council. Cllr Saunders is appalled at what the park keepers go through currently. Cllr O'Brien wonders whether a Pay & Display and Security contact could be combined.

iv) To discuss the implications of the Earlswood Craft Centre car park becoming Pay & Display – currently hard to tell what the implications have been as the traffic fluctuates but there has been an increase in roadside parking around the Craft Centre car park.

20/21/106 – To consider a letter from the Tanworth in Arden 1857 Inclosure Award Trust

The Trust wrote to the Parish Council asking for payment of the outstanding debt of £7,500 and offered to waive any interest from the debt in lieu of all administration costs that have been accrued by the PC over the years. Also, the Trust states that they are not interested in taking over ownership of the park in Malthouse Lane as has been previously suggested. Cllr Willmott proposes to accept the Trust's position on the park and a line will be drawn under this matter and the park will remain under the ownership of the Parish Council. Cllr Willmott also proposes to accept that any interest that would have accrued is kept by the Parish Council and that the Parish Council pays the outstanding debt of £7,500, Cllr Burgess seconds and all are in favour.

20/21/107 – To Receive Working Party Updates:

- i) Earlswood ASB and Traffic Issues – Ewen Cunningham circulated his report during the week. No questions relating to the report.
- ii) Crime Prevention Working Party – Cllr Adams circulated his report during the week. No questions relating to the report.

Cllr Adams would like to thank Sargent Stacey Naughton for attending the CPWP meeting.

The first recommendation from the CPWP is the purchase of approximately six wildlife cameras to be placed around the Parish to help identify the fly tipping offenders. Councillors were in favour of this suggestion but there was some discussion on the policies surrounding this usage and the reliability of the cameras themselves. Cllr Adams confirmed that once they had received the support of the Council, the CPWP would liaise with SDC to produce a policy document. Cllr Dixon confirmed that SDC use wildlife cameras at fly tipping hotspots and frequently move them around the district. He did state that they do not always work, but have helped to identify offenders.

Cllr Adams reminded the attendees that any fly tipping offences should be reported to the Police, not just those obstructing the highways.

Cllr Burgess proposes that the Council allocates £600 for the purchase of six wildlife cameras. Cllr Doidge Seconds this and all in favour.

20/21/108 - Any other business/matters for future agenda

- Cllr Burgess would like to thank Resident Pete Lees and Cllr Saunders on their hard work relating to the Bellfield Car Park.
- Cllr Burgess stated that Cllr Oakley had been absent for the last two meetings and is still to return his office keys. Cllr Burgess proposes that a letter is sent to Cllr Oakley advising that the keys are to be returned or replaced by the end of the month. Cllr Ross seconds this and all are in favour. It was noted that this is the second set of keys that have been lost by Cllr Oakley as a set was lost in 2013. Cllr Willmott suggests that a lock is changed for security reasons. It was agreed that this should be at Cllr Oakley’s expense should he fail to return his set of keys.
- Cllr O’Brien would like to add the matter of the beaches and PSPO to the next agenda, along with the matter of security patrols.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed _____

Date _____

Planning List for Period --22.01.21- 18.02.21 APPLICATIONS

Application No	Address	Proposal	Comment
20/03580/FUL	Hardwick House, Broad Lane	3 detached houses	Objection: Apart from re-siting the garages the applicant has made no attempt to meet the reasons the District Council refused the earlier application. The height and design of the houses together with the overall scale are totally out of sympathy with the character of this part of Broad Lane. The Parish Council remains particularly concerned about the impact on Church View cottage. There is inadequate detail to satisfy us that the existing landscaping of the street frontage can or will be protected - especially given the example of the applicant's destruction of trees and hedges along the frontage of the adjoining development
21/00047/Tree	Wakeley Cottage, The Green	T1 & T2 Leylandii Trees fell, T3 Damson Tree fell	No representation
20/03592/FUL	Abbey Farm, Earlswood Common	Ground floor orangery extension	No representation

20/02132/FUL	Thirk Hill, Danzey Green Lane	Replacement dwelling	Objection: We are unable, from the information supplied, to assess the size of the proposed house compared to the original but it seems to us excessive and not therefore consistent with para 145 of the NPPF and therefore we object. If you can provide the information we will reconsider.
21/00140/COUQ	Ashford Barn, Ashford Lane, Hockley Heath	Conversion of modern barn to residential use on adjacent land to owners existing residence. New or replacement window openings to be created to provide adequate natural light and ventilation to all habitable rooms.	<u>No representation.</u> <u>Comment</u> - The PC suggests that an air source heat pump would be more suitable as it seems retrograde installing new oil heating.
20/03660/FUL	The Spinney, Broad Lane	Proposed 2 storey side extension, first floor side extension, single storey rear & porch to the front	No Representation - The councillors are still concerned about the impact on the Green Belt. Should any further technical consultation responses identify any objection to this application, then the Parish Council reserves the right to revisit this application.
21/00009/FUL	Furlong Field, Penn Lane	Single Storey side extension and dormer windows to front	No representation – comment - suggest that the window adjacent to Haystacks is replaced by a roof light.
21/00294/TEL28	Earlswood Pumping Station, Malthouse Lane, Earlswood	Installation of fixed line broadband apparatus	Information only