

**Minutes of Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council  
Annual Parish Assembly**

**On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April via Zoom**

**Present:** There were approximately 13 members of the public and Councillors present together with Julie White, Clerk and Lil Ryder, Deputy Clerk who took the minutes.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Adams, Cllr O'Brien and Cllr Ebbutt

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2019**

The minutes of the previous Parish Assembly were circulated via email. It was proposed by Cllr Willmott and seconded by Cllr Brougham that they were a true and accurate record of the meeting, and could now be signed by Cllr Burgess when he is available to visit the office.

**3. Summarised report from SGT David Ebbs, read by Julie White. *Appendix 1: Full Report***

**4. Presentation on the Neighbourhood Development Plan from Cllr Mike Saunders**

Work is ongoing with the Neighbourhood Development Plan, taking guidance from Stratford District Council and amending the documentation where necessary. The Parish Council consulted with 108 additional bodies and have submitted all current documents to the District Council three weeks ago. The next step is for the District to examine the documents, consult with the public and appoint an independent examiner who will look at any outstanding comments that have not been met, which we expect to be very few!

**5. To receive the Parish Council Annual Report (Chairman) *Appendix 2***

Question from Ewen Cunningham, EFHRA, regarding the camera in Malthouse Lane. Why is there little to no evidence of Police action from the camera, when the PC were required to go through SDC in order to get it authorised? Is this teething problems, or a sign of the service we expect to receive?

Cllr Burgess responded, stating that as this is a temporary camera, the recordings are only reviewed when a call comes in via 101 or 999. This will change once the permanent camera has been installed. The PC have received an invite to be shown the control room at SDC to have a look and discuss the issues with the team down there.

**6. To receive a Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31/03/2021**

Cllr Willmott talked through the accounts from the previous year. The precept has increased this year, but are still below the average. This is to cover items previously provided by District and County Council.

**7. Reports from:**

**A) County Councillor John Horner *Appendix 3***

Councillor John Doidge asked whether there was an update on the merging of the two districts. This question will be put to District Councillor Tony Dixon.

**B) District Councillor Tony Dixon**

Firstly, regarding the increased precept to cover items previously provided by District and County Councils; Parish Councils now have access to CIL money to help with these matters.

Returning to the CCTV; there have been a few incidents recently which demonstrates how well monitored the fixed CCTV cameras are. This will come to the Parish soon.

Councillor Dixon reported that the PSPO was passed through council and will come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021.

In 2020, SDC and WDC councils agreed to try and work towards a merger. The councils have now agreed to work towards this merger, with a target date of 2024. District Elections are due in 2023 and there is a possibility that the Councillors will be asked to stay on for an additional 12 months to coincide with the merger. There are already some shared aspects which will help to save money, which is one of the main objectives. The principle area which has received most attention is the work towards the next Core Strategy, or Local Plan as it is more widely known. This is something that requires review periodically, the current ones currently expire in 2028/2029. These would usually require 5 years of work, but as the District Council is working towards a merger and joint report with Warwick District Council, they have started a few years early in the hope of having something prepared by the merge. The first consultation document went through Council and will be out in May. Whilst the first, it is an important stage of the whole process. One half of the document is a request for sites for development. The other half is discussing where the growth should be located over the coming years.

A part of the Local Plan is to combat climate change, currently over 50% of the working population in Stratford District Council commute out of the District, to go to work, most of which is done by car. This will mean looking at how public transport facilities can help determine the location of the growth.

Cllr Willmott responded, stating that CIL money is unpredictable and so is not budgeted for.

Cllr Brougham questioned whether there was a possibility to reduce the speed limit along the minor roads in the Parish as the roads are used regularly for the commuters passing through. Cllr Dixon stated that speed limits are a County matter and would also need the support from the Police.

**8. Reports from the Residents' Associations**

A) Tanworth in Arden Residents Association *Appendix 4*

B) Earlswood and Forshaw Heath Residents Association *Appendix 5*

**9. Reports from Representatives of Local Organisations *Appendix 6***

Roy Willmott from the Earlswood History Society advised that they hope to get back to normal meetings within a few months.

Signed by the Chairman..... Date.....

## **Appendix 1**

### **Warwickshire Police Report Tanworth in Arden PA - 20/04/2021**

#### **Introduction-**

Firstly, please accept my apologies for not being able to be present at this meeting, unfortunately another operational commitment on this date has made this impossible and due to Annual Leave, there are no other members of staff free to attend. Both I and the beat manager are disappointed in this as we are looking forward to meeting you all.

Two new members of staff have joined the safer neighbourhood team for Alcester. Myself Sergeant David Ebbs who has taken responsibility for community policing across the Alcester and Shipston on Stour areas.

Also joining us is PC Caz Wright who is now the beat manager for Alcester North. Both of us have knowledge of the area having policed here for many years as response officers. We both look forward to working with you all to make a real difference in the area over the coming months and years.

Please excuse the brevity of this report. Today marks only Caz and my self's second working week in post and as you can imagine we are busy acquainting ourselves with all of the issues at hand.

#### **Crime patterns-**

A report is generated monthly detailing crime statistics across Stratford District. Volume and violent crime remains low in the Alcester North area.

Concerns were raised at the Arden JPC in relation to metal thefts in the Tanworth Area. This has been researched and on present information this appears to be an isolated incident.

Vehicle crime continues to be a concern and residents are urged to follow the crime prevention advice recently issued as part of our weekly newsletter, which has been added to the bottom of this report for reference.

#### **Earlswood Lakes-**

I have spoken with the District council and the PSPO approval hearing is scheduled for 19/04/2021. Subject to the order's approval the printing of fixed penalty notices is being facilitated. Signage relating to the order will be placed in the area with enforcement planned from 01/05/2021. Further updates on this will be forthcoming from the district council.

I note concerns have been raised regarding the safety and security of the lakes during the proposed works. Keir construction have confirmed to the Canal and River Trust that they will be conducting security patrols each day until midnight.

In the immediacy we have put out a tasking for force wide resources, such as roads Policing units and response units to be in the area when able and will look to utilise the fantastic support we receive from Special constables in this regard as well.

Work has been initiated with partners to try and provide option on long term solutions to the issue of Antisocial behaviour to the community but this is in its infancy and we will provide further updates when able.

#### **Catalytic converter theft protection advice –**

Did you know a thief can steal a catalytic converter in a matter of minutes? Most vehicles have catalytic converters, which can be stolen for the value of the precious metals or illegally re-sold. We've seen a recent spate in catalytic converter thefts across the county. Thieves tend to target hybrid cars – including models such as the Toyota Prius, Honda Jazz and Lexus – as the value of their converter is higher and they can be accessed more easily with a jack. The simplest way to prevent catalytic converter theft is to put your vehicle in a garage or secured area if you have one. Alarms, lighting and CCTV can also help to deter thieves.

**Other ways to protect your vehicle include:**

- buying and fitting a protection device specifically to cover the catalytic converter
- installing motion-activated lighting if you park your vehicle on a driveway, but if this isn't possible, park it in a well-lit, busy area
- using your vehicle's alarm or installing a Thatcham approved alarm, which should activate if the vehicle is tilted or lifted. Alarms that can alert you via mobile devices are extremely useful.
- ensuring your dashcam is set to detect movement
- looking out for anyone 'working' or acting suspiciously under vehicles (particularly in busy car parks)

In addition, if you are going to be visiting somewhere for a long period of time (e.g. a supermarket), we would advise you to park so it is difficult for thieves to lift your vehicle. Marking kits can also be purchased which assist police investigations as converters can be tracked back to the vehicle they came from if located. Please call 101 to report any incident and always dial 999 if you see a crime in action

**ALCESTER POLICE NORTH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM**

Team email -	<a href="mailto:Alcesternorth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk">Alcesternorth.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk</a>
Sgt 1685 David Ebbs	<a href="mailto:David.Ebbs@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk">David.Ebbs@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk</a>
PC 497 Caz Wright	<a href="mailto:caz.wright@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk">caz.wright@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk</a>
PCSO 6273 Aadila Hussain -	<a href="mailto:Aadila.hussain@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk">Aadila.hussain@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk</a>
PCSO 6330 Sanjay Singh -	<a href="mailto:sanjay.singh@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk">sanjay.singh@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk</a>
PCSO 6350 Brooke Taylor	<a href="mailto:brooke.taylor@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk">brooke.taylor@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk</a>

Alcester Police Office Phone Number - 01789 444816 (not to be used for emergencies or priority calls. Always report incidents on 101). Online reporting services are also available on our website - <https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/>

Twitter -	@AlcesterCops
Facebook -	Alcester Police
Instagram –	southwarwickshiresnts
Website -	<a href="https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/">https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/</a>

We do not monitor our social media pages, so please do not use them to report incidents or to pass on important information. Please call us on 101, 999 or use the online reporting forms as required.

## Appendix 2

### Parish Assembly Chairman's Report April 2021

The first thing that I feel I need to say in my report is to thank my predecessor, Cllr Roy Willmott, for the unstinting time that he has given to the Parish over the past 18 years as Chairman. Much of the work that he has done has been behind the scenes but, with his quiet determination he has got things done. Thank you Roy.

This year we have lost our Deputy Clerk, Sue Baulkham, who has relocated to Leicestershire. Sue did sterling work on our behalf and was a great support to our Clerk, Julie White. Thank you Sue. Sue was replaced in January by Lil Ryder who, despite have no knowledge of Local Government work, has been keen to learn and is making a very good impression. Welcome Lil.

The Parish Council owes a huge debt to our joint park keepers, John Moore and Neil Guest who have had a particularly trying time over the past twelve months. With the increase that we have seen around the Lakes in ASB they have had to put up with a lot and, for this, I thank them for their forbearance through these difficult times.

The past twelve months have been both unusual and difficult as I am sure you can appreciate. As a consequence of the first lockdown we were unable to hold our Parish Assembly in 2020, although reports from various organisations were published on our website.

The last face to face meeting that we were able to hold was March 2020. Subsequently we held our meetings remotely via zoom and we will continue to do this until our AGM on May 6<sup>th</sup>. After that date we will go back to face to face meetings. I for one see this as a backward step. Attendance at our remote meetings has been much enhanced and the danger is that we will lose the interest of our new found audiences. We will look at the possibility of holding hybrid meetings in the future – that is face to face for the Councillors and any of the public who want to attend plus streaming the meeting for those who would prefer to participate online.

Although in general, the zoom meetings have been positive they have also shown how chaotic, at times meetings can be. In particular I refer to the August meeting which descended at one point into farce. Hopefully we have learnt our lesson from that experience.

Since I have been Chair I have endeavoured to see that the Parish Council becomes more proactive and less reactive, although this is easier said than done because of the constraints placed upon us by higher authorities.

The main issues that we have been involved with this year include:

- Finalising the NDP and thanks for this must go to Cllr Saunders in particular for the hard work and long hours that he has put into this.
- We were made aware that Orbit Housing Association were planning on selling the unofficial car park in Bellfield for possible development land. Working with residents of Bellfield and TiA Residents Association we were able to help persuade Orbit to change their mind on this project.
- This prompted the Parish Council to look at other amenities in the parish to see if they could be regarded as Assets of Community Value (ACV). To this end we registered the Bellfield car park, The Bell (although this had already been done by CAMRA), The Reservoir Public House and the Village Stores Earlswood. These are all now on the register of ACV's held by SDC.

- Coinciding with the first lockdown and period of good weather, Malthouse Lane and the Lakes were subject to unacceptable levels of anti-social behaviour. Working alongside Earlswood and Forshaw Residents Association a working party was set up to look at possible solutions to these issues. Although there is still a long way to go many of the identified issues have been addressed. In particular a Public Space Protection Order is about to be served on the area. In addition CCTV is in operation at the Lakes end of Malthouse Lane that is monitored 24/7 and we wait to see what impact this has. A CCTV camera has been approved for Valley Road and will shortly be going through the planning stage. More secure gates have been installed at Malthouse Leisure Park to restrict access when the park is closed.
- As a result of increased reports of fly tipping, particularly in the Tanworth area we have set up a working party, chaired by Cllr Adams, who are looking at ways to address this issue. Working with the police and SDC they have a plan to install mobile cameras to monitor the identified hotspots.
- With more 'younger' councillors now part of the PC you will notice that we have recently set up our Face book page which appears to be growing in popularity.
- We have also identified our Parish Priorities, that is those areas that we feel that we should be pursuing over this year. They are: Completion of the NDP; addressing ASB and Crime across the Parish and looking at ways in which the council can contribute to improving our environment whether that be investigating the possibility of installing chargers for electric vehicles or creating biodiversity on the land it is responsible for. As a consequence, in conjunction with the Earlswood Wildlife Partnership (EWP), a working party has been set up which meets regularly on Tuesday afternoons to create and maintain a wildlife area in part of the Leisure Park. Thanks for this must go to Cheryl Roberts and Tony Philps.

The Parish Council has responded to concerns from the community on many issues. Very often the solutions have a cost. For example, the two CCTV cameras with back office charges cost in the region of £54k this is money that the PC has to find. We have historically had one of the lowest precepts for the whole of Warwickshire and so, this year, we have asked for it to be bought up to close to the average for the County.

The increase will mean that for a Band D property, Council Taxpayers will pay £61.08 a year to the Parish Council compared to £39.15 last year. This equates to an annual increase of £21.93 or 42p per week which is still below the County average.

Increasingly, in the future, it seems that if we want anything doing, we are going to have to pay for it ourselves out of the precept.

Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to our Clerk who, again, has done sterling work on behalf of the Parish Council. She is the public face of our council and she always works in a cheerful and fully professional manner. She has been a great help to me and has guided me through some difficult times. What I have done right is under her guidance, what I have done wrong is due to my own mistakes.

Thank you

## Appendix 3

### County Councillor Annual Report

The last year can be summed up in three Cs – Covid-19, Climate Change and Council Tax.

We seem to be coming through Covid-19 due to the success of the vaccination programme. Warwickshire was mentioned by the Minister of Health a couple of weeks ago for running the most successful vaccination programme in the country. I congratulate the GP and NHS staff running the various vaccination clinics across Warwickshire.

Covid-9 did affect the County as we were in the middle of a staff reorganisation and this became more difficult to complete. As a consequence the delivery of small road improvement schemes pretty much came to a complete halt for 12 months. A new end to end delivery team started working in April and we should see schemes completed more effectively in future.

Climate change is becoming more apparent as this is the third winter of unusual rainfall. Most of the focus of politicians and the media is on actions to slow down climate change. The problem facing the County and individuals is that we are already feeling the effects of climate change and even in the most optimistic scenario these are here to stay. If the scientists are correct this country can expect wetter, warmer and stormier winters into the future with the odd very cold snap. This will mean even more rainfall and more flooding than we have seen recently. The increasing size of cars adds to the problem as when they try to pass each other on our narrow lanes the verges get worn down and the wheels run off the edge of the tarmac and rut the soil. Water runs down this new channel and gets under the tarmac and breaks up the road surface. The result is higher roads maintenance costs or poorer roads. This is just one example of the effects of climate change.

Like last year the Government calculated its grant aid to local councils on the basis that they would raise tax by 2% for the general precept and up to 3% as an adult social care levy. Given the pressures we are under from Covid-19, Climate Change and Children's Services the County followed guidance and raised the general precept by 2%. As Warwickshire is relatively wealthy compared to other areas we have fewer people eligible for Adult Social Care Support and an increase in levy of only 1% was approved. As a consequence, we raised council tax by 3% this year.

John HORNER  
Tel. 01926 842068

## Appendix 4

### Report to 2021 Parish Assembly from Tanworth Residents and Neighbourhood Watch Association

The Chairman Tom Ross writes:

Our Association continues to support the work that is being undertaken on the community-led Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Association remains committed to working with the Parish Council to settle the remaining issues over the proposed development at Cank farm. The site's new owners Spitfire Homes has engaged Andy Wilkins, a local resident experienced in planning matters, to liaise with the community. There are two issues remaining to be settled.

The Association has suggested that lighting should be of a traditional, but ecologically sound, kind similar to that in the Conservation Area.

The Association also feels strongly that, despite what was provisionally set out in the outline permission granted in 2012, any safe and accessible pedestrian access from the development to the village should not involve new steps and a path being cut across the lower field in Butts Lane owned by the Summers family. This would be entirely inappropriate in open countryside Green Belt.

The Association remains committed to supporting residents on Broad Lane in their efforts to make the stopping places for school buses safer. There are major concerns about the speed and volume of traffic at peak times. Parking near the school, in the Bellfield and general congestion in the village centre remain a problem.

In normal times our volunteers would deliver our newsletters to 600 households in the part of the parish south of the M42. Despite there being no AGM in 2020 because of Covid it is gratifying to note that a number of households have found ways to pay their annual £3 membership subscription. 2020 was the ninth year of our new website at [www.tanworthresidents.org.uk](http://www.tanworthresidents.org.uk).

Tanworth Residents Association thanks the Parish Council for its continuing help and support through the year and looks forward to continued co-operation with it and other Residents Associations over planning matters and other issues of mutual concern.

## Appendix 5

### Earlswood and Forshaw Heath Residents' Association

You may recall that, due to Covid-19 restrictions last year, we took the decision to cancel the 2020 AGM and to extend the duration of the current committee until the end of March this year. The six months' extension last summer was in line with the action that was being taken by other membership clubs and associations, with the logic being that we anticipated being out of lockdown controls by the spring.

For obvious reasons, this unfortunately has not happened and we find ourselves having passed the previously revised cut-off date of 31 March 2021. We have no indication so far as to how other members' clubs and associations are conducting their affairs but, on the basis that none of the membership has made any comments to the contrary, we are extending the life of the current committee by another six months, with the hope that by the beginning of October, we can hold a meaningful AGM and election and get back to the "old" routine.

We are still in need of a Membership Secretary. Cheryl has been covering this position, whilst also being Treasurer, but will be standing down at the year end. However, she will be happy to give training to anyone who takes up the post and there is a written guide for support. She will continue to be the Treasurer, if elected, after that date and will be happy to support the new Membership Secretary in any way she can. If you feel that you would have the time to help, please get in touch.

As we are not in a position to hold a meaningful AGM at the moment, we thought that it would be useful to give an update of where we are currently, from the point that the current Committee was formed. The main points are;

- The current committee was formed in April 2020 after the resignation of the then Chair, Jenny Buckley;
- During April and May 2020, we decided that we needed to do something about the various anti-social behaviour, drugs and traffic issues that were prevalent and, to that end, produced a large matrix of the issues being brought to our attention. From that, we worked out what we thought that we needed to do to alleviate them;
  - A) We put our proposals to the Parish Council and asked the PC if they would join us in dealing with these issues. The PC was supportive of what we were planning to do;
  - B) This resulted in a Working Party (WP) of three members of each of the RA and the PC, with one other independent member making up the WP, which commenced the process in May 2020. This WP has since increased by the addition of a representative from Tidbury Green PC;
  - C) Since then, we have worked in accord with each other to promote our vision locally and promote it to the public authorities with whom we have interacted;
  - D) The plan still has a way to go but everyone should see it coalescing over the next few months;
  - E) The Working Party has produced monthly updates for the PC and published them on both the RA and the PC websites prior to each Full Council Meeting –and will continue to do so until the project is finalised. All the historical monthly updates are still available on the website;
- We have spent £400 on updating the RA website and hope that you find it a worthwhile use of funds, given the additional information that it now disseminates;

- We have reviewed around 70 planning applications made to SDC and submitted comments on those that we either object to, or support. Of those, we objected to 7 and supported 1. Of those 8, the PC objected to 3 and made no representation on 5, while the District Councillor objected to 3 and made no objections on 5;
- We have decided that we are not going to produce regular hardcopy newsletters for all households in the area. This is for three reasons:
  - a) The news section of the website, to which anyone can subscribe, is updated almost daily with relevant information;
  - b) The membership should not have to bear the cost of printing newsletters for non-members; and
  - c) We have collected email addresses for most members so can email newsletters and other information quickly at no cost. We will, of course, continue to provide hardcopies of any digital newsletters to members who have not provided digital contact details;
- We have reviewed and updated all the RA's policies –Constitution, Redaction, Code of Conduct, Aims and Objectives, Complaints Handling and Data Protection, which we believe is compliant with current legislation, including GDPR;
- We have been conducting monthly Committee meetings on Zoom;
- We have been transferring our data steadily into the Cloud, so that it can be accessed easily by all members of the committee. We have been digitising all the back catalogue of documents that we have access to and we now have a library stored in the Cloud. This process continues;
- We are now including and representing those members who live within the Solihull MBC area of Earlswood and have recruited a representative (Lizzie Evans) from there and have been making representations to both SMBC and to Tidbury Green PC. TGPC has been very supportive of our input and we thank them for that;
- Our finances are as follows:

BALANCES:	Current	Deposit	Cash	Total
	£	£	£	£
14/04/2020	1307	5427	23	6757
08/02/2021	1181	5427	47	6655

Notes:

O The opening balance at 14/04/2020 included the income from the successful “Swim with Sharks” fundraising function that we had just prior to that date;

O The main items of expenditure since 14/04/2020 have been;

- The updating and rebuilding of the website at £400; and

- The production of two hardcopy Covid-19 newsletters (650 copies of each) which were distributed to all the households in the RA area at £163;

O The difference between these adjustments to the current bank account balance is made up, primarily, of membership subscriptions and donations, with the current membership standing at over 150 households;

O The deposit account balance hasn't changed over the period but we may need to consider changing banks as the bank's conditions are changing and look like being less favourable going forward.

We hope that this short update has been of benefit. We cannot operate without membership funds, so thanks to all who support us and, consequently, the community at large. If you have time and would like to become a Committee member, we are always happy to consider new members. If you

have any questions, or issues concerning it, or the operation of the RA, please do get in touch with us, either through our email addresses which can be found above, or on the “contacts” page of the website, or in writing. If you are writing, you are welcome to post your correspondence to:

Chair: Ewen Cunningham, Copperfield, Umberslade Rd, Earlswood, B94 5QA

Vice-Chair: Sarah Adams, 91 The Common, Earlswood, B94 5SJ

Secretary: Kate Clark, 93 The Common, Earlswood, B94 5SJ

Yours sincerely,

Ewen Cunningham

Chair

DRAFT

## **Appendix 6 - Reports from Representatives of Local Organisations**

### **REPORT TO PARISH ASSEMBLY FROM THE CHURCH WARDENS APRIL 2021**

2020 was a difficult year for all of us, and a very sad year for many of us. When covid restrictions allowed, the Church was used for services on Sundays, for school services on Fridays in term time and for private prayer and reflection on Wednesday mornings. There were a few small weddings and, sadly, several funerals. Our twice weekly livestream services, on Sundays and Wednesdays, have proved really popular as people can watch them at home. When possible, we have continued to hold the monthly Little Ones Service for pre-school children and their carers, in the churchyard or broadcast online. There are many new babies currently in the Parish!

The church has also had an active team of volunteers throughout the Covid crisis, who have had their own lists of people to maintain telephone contact with, providing them with an opportunity to talk, or make other requests for more practical assistance.

We were, after some delay due to covid restrictions, able to complete the refurbishment and regilding of the clock faces and replacement of the oak louvres above. This work was funded by the Friends of St Mary Magdalene and a grant from the Parish Council. The comments received at the time from many people let it be known that this was a worthwhile and most welcome project.

Also, in 2020 we had the news that our vicar, the Reverend Paul Cudby, would be leaving our church after 14 years of service and moving to a bigger Parish in the Oxford Diocese. For the many people who have loved his ministry at weddings, baptisms, at our school services and other events in our church, through his sermons and his counselling, his leaving is a great sadness.

When a vicar retires or leaves the Parish for another post, it is usual for there to be an "interregnum" which normally lasts for a year or more. This is a period for the Parish to reflect on the direction in which its Church should move forward, the nature and extent of ministry and pastoral support it is likely to need and how to develop its outreach to the community in the years to come.

Together with the five members of our lay ministry team and with the Archdeacon we are striving to sustain and develop the richness of the ministry, through livestream services on Wednesdays and Sundays, and to develop the extent of our pastoral support. Three of our lay readers are licensed to officiate at funerals and, with the help of visiting priests, we are also holding monthly communion services in our church and arranging baptisms and weddings. There is a service in church for the school every week in term time. All services in church are subject to current covid restrictions, so classes take turns to attend the church, which is then livestreamed to each school classroom, so that all the pupils can watch the service and participate in it. Current information may be found on our church noticeboard, Facebook page and website.

We are moving ever closer to being ready to begin the construction work to transform the west end of the interior of our church building so that we can provide a range of opportunities for services, for musical events, and for community uses which are accessible to everyone. This may take place in the Autumn 2021.

Because the vicarage is currently empty, the Birmingham Church of England Diocese is proposing to let it on a short lease during the interregnum. All the rental income will go to the Diocese, not to our Church. Any letters to the Church during the interregnum should be posted or delivered by hand to one of us as Church Wardens.

If you have any problems or know someone who is in need of help, please do not hesitate to talk to us.

All good wishes Pat Saunders Tel. 01564 742406 and Phil Terry Tel. 01564 742049

DRAFT

## **Earlswood Allotment Association Report 2021**

The association had a successful and productive year the weather conditions were changeable but on the whole favourable for most crops.

The restrictions put on our personal lives during the last year meant many more hours were spent on our plots as the allotment became a haven out of the house while also taking care of daily exercise. The result of this being that the whole site is looking neat, tidy and well-tended. However, on the downside the restrictions meant that we were unable to organise any work parties or hold any social events.

We renewed our annual membership of The National Allotment Society and participated in the Kings seed scheme which in addition to offering a generous discount on seeds purchased by plot holders, also pays the association a commission based on the value of the total order.

At the end of the growing season three plots were vacated and all of these have now been taken on for the new season and there are no vacant plots.

The association would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support during the year.

Linda Fryer  
Chairman

## **Tanworth Educational Foundation**

Tanworth Educational Foundation supports both St Patrick's Academy and Tanworth in Arden Academy, the objective of our foundation is to promote and advance the education of the children in the Parish of Tanworth-in-Arden. This encourages various fields, not only academic, but provides the finance for the projects and enhances the growth of the individual child.

Every June the headteacher of both academies submit requests of their various projects and present this to the trustees of the TEF, which the trustees then consider and then also take into account their financial situations and any forthcoming expenditures and will award grants accordingly.

In 2019/2020, both schools were awarded £20,000. We plan to continue with these grants in the future. The TEF have various properties and land, and plan to keep them in good repair to ensure that the best use of its assets are obtained. A full copy of the 2019 accounts are available for public perusal.

## EARLSWOOD VILLAGE HALL

This year has been like no other year – not just for the Village Hall but for us all personally. Little did we think that our income from room hire for January-March would be our last until well into 2021. Thankfully, the Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) from Stratford District Council Business Grants Section, has helped to keep us afloat. Our utility bills throughout the year have remained pretty much the same as freezers, fridges, low level heating, flushing of toilets etc have all had to be maintained and remained operational. All of this is expensive in a building the age of our Village Hall.

However, on a more positive note, the Committee and friends have taken advantage of the closure by carrying out much routine maintenance and improvements to the building and grounds. Our kitchen refurbishment was completed at the end of March so that we now have a fully functioning industrial style kitchen.

Our smart new signs, based on a design from local artist Peter Bayley, have been erected at the front of the Hall and the village flagpole is being installed in April 2021.

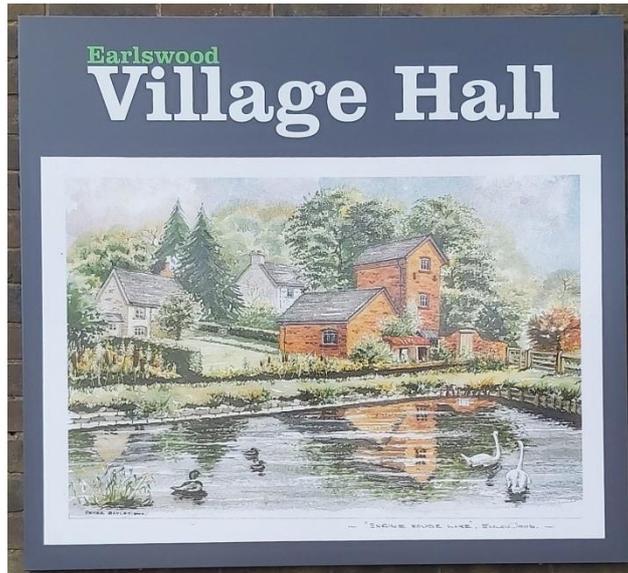
The Village Hall has tried to support the local community by moving the book swap outside each day and setting up another in the telephone box on Malthouse Lane. Feedback and use have been very positive so that we now have over one thousand books in stock!!! The telephone box book swap will continue and the Village Hall box will move back into the entrance lobby.

May saw the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V.E. Day and, whilst we could not open the Hall to the public, it was well decorated and raised spirits and formed a backdrop to many outside, socially distanced gatherings along Shutt Lane. Christmas Eve again saw carols, songs and drinks outside at the front of the Hall with many locals dropping by to share season's greetings, all socially distanced.

We look forward to slowly reopening from April 2021 and are delighted that all but one of our regular groups will be returning plus a couple of new groups.

Once more, thanks to the continued support of the committee and friends as well as the local community. We approach re-opening in a better position than we were at the beginning of lockdown 1 with EVH continuing to be at the centre of the community.

Rob Parlett (Chairperson).



### **The Earlswood Historical Society**

Chairmen's Report for the Tanworth in Arden Annual Parish Assembly 2021

I hope you are well and keeping safe.

Last year we just got the March 2020 meeting in, just before the national lockdown hit and closed everything down.

The May 2020 meeting should have been a talk about "Stories Granddad Told" by Vanessa Morgan, but this was cancelled, hopefully we can re-schedule this for early next year.

So, after a year and a half break, we are hoping to be able to restart meetings on 12th July 2021. This meeting will be a chance for members to reacquaint with each other followed by a short talk (TBA).

Other meetings this year will be 13th September (TBA)

On 8th November we are hoping that Max Keen will return with one of his talks / re-enactment on the English Civil War. They are always good entertainment and of course educational.

Next year we hope to return to our normal schedule, the second Monday in the following months. January, March, May, July, September, and November.

If any one wishes to come all meetings will start at 7:30 PM, in Earlswood Village Hall. Please contact me for further information.

### **The Earlswood Museum**

This also has been closed since March 2020. Due to space limitations, we don't anticipate opening it until next spring

Regards  
Roy Willmott  
Chairman  
Earlswood Historical Society

## Tanworth-in-Arden WI

Like many other organisations in Tanworth affected by the covid virus outbreak, the WI has been unable to meet since lockdown started in March 2020, except for a very jolly picnic in August, socially distanced of course.

Not being technically minded, (what's zoom?), our main means of communication has been via email and our chatty Lockdown Times bulletins. This was a newsletter to which our members contributed with photos and tales of the ups and downs of life coping under the limitations of lockdown.

With the easing of restrictions in June we are hoping to be able to reinstate our busy and varied programme monthly meetings, our WI Extra activities- anything from crafts to walking, poetry, and of course enjoying meeting up for a meal! The annual soup and pancakes get together in February had to be cancelled together with the Spring fashion show, and our AGM, scheduled for November finally got done in March 2021.

We are looking forward to meeting up with old friends soon, and hopefully welcoming some new ones. We meet on the second Monday each month at 7.30 in the village hall. Why not come and check us out, you might be surprised!

For further information please contact our secretary Sue Coates on 74 2751

Sandra Woore, President.