

**Minutes of the Tanworth-in-Arden Parish Council Meeting
held on Thursday 15th February 2018 at 19.30 hours at Earlswood Village Hall**

Public Forum

There were 4 members of the public present together with County Councillor Horner. District Councillor Atkinson had sent his apologies.

Mr Taylor addressed the Parish Council concerning his planning application 17/03549/FUL, The Barff in Poolhead Lane. The proposal is to demolish the garage serving the Barff and erect one dwelling in its place. Mr Taylor explained that he had spoken to Stratford District Council (SDC) and his neighbours and the only objection was from the Parish Council. The plans have been amended to reduce the ridge height and the footprint of the dwelling and Mr Taylor asked if the Parish Council would reconsider their objection. It was confirmed that after the new dwelling had been built the Barff would be sold. A general discussion on the interpretation of what constituted infill then took place. Whilst the Parish Council disputed that by knocking down a building to create a gap should not be considered infill but it had become apparent since the production of the Local Plan that SDC felt it was allowable. Councillor Sheppard expressed concern over the design, she said it was a 3 storey building and also the gable fronted the road rather than the eaves fronting the road.

Jenny Buckley from the Earlswood and Forshaw Heath Residents' Association (EFHRA) spoke about the following:

- There is a 'Lakes clean-up day' on March 25th.
- Mrs Buckley requested a time line for the consultation on the draft NDP consultation paper.
- Mrs Buckley had recently attended a meeting between Warwickshire County Council (WCC), Worcestershire County Council, Redditch and Bromsgrove District Council, Parish Councils from the Arden District and EFHRA to discuss the impact of the increasing volume of traffic. Highways had said that the increased traffic was due to motorway closures and repairs. Mrs Buckley said that traffic through Earlswood was getting worse and in rush hour cars were backing up from the crossroads by The Reservoir right back to Lady Lane. There is a meeting to be arranged, date to be confirmed, between Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) and WCC which may hopefully come up with a solution. There is no budget for this work but there is money in the Safer Routes for School budget.
- Thanks were extended to Cllr Horner regarding a proposed meeting to discuss the enforcement of stopping people from parking on double yellow lines.
- The Project Manager for the work being undertaken at Earlswood Lakes has taken measures to alleviate the visibility and security issues.
- Mrs Buckley asked that the Parish Council contacts the National Trust to request that all the trees on their land adjacent to The Common are inspected for safety following the falling of a large tree across the road opposite The Reservoir recently.

County Councillor Horner reported:

- The County Council will increase its precept by 4.99% broken down as 2% for adult social care and 2.99% for the general precept.
- Despite Trading Standards having had their manpower cut by 50%, they are still achieving good results, especially against illegal cigarette sales.
- A lukewarm response was received from the Police re providing a Parish Constable. The Police will increase their precept by 6.25%.
- Councillor Horner spoke about the proposed meeting to discuss double yellow lines but said that enforcement has been outsourced last year to a large debt collecting company. Councillor O'Brien questioned if this was a good thing but Councillor Horner suggested that the Enforcement Officers would go where they would make more profit which may not be a rural area.

District Councillor Atkinson had sent his apologies and had sent in a report copied below. The report had been previously circulated to all Members so it was not felt necessary for the Clerk to read it out.

I see the minutes of the previous meeting about Enforcement Cases mentions my remarks relating to Hedgelands, Earlswood Common and the removal of hedgerows, i.e. 'one of the many complaints that are 'ill founded'. As the information I believe the P.C. is aware of, none of the authorities concerned with issues of the complaint confirm offences have been committed. Enforcement complaints do demand management time and cost to the taxpayer but in the correct manner are essential, however, when in the short term of this year 7 have been received but none upheld it must be because they are without basis, which is the point I was making. It is an issue I will monitor and periodically report to the Parish Council.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (C.I.L.) by which any new development from 1st. February 2018 will face a £ per square metre charge for various needs relating to infrastructure, schools etc. The District Council is organising training in association with WALC for Parish Councils to cover the regulations and the benefit for them. Basically if a parish has an adopted NDP then 25% of the sum due to Stratford District Council is allocated to it but if no NDP then it is 15% but capped. The training programme is very important for our community so I recommend Parish Councillors take advantage of the opportunity.

I have previously given reports about SDC' effectiveness in collecting Council Tax and Business Rates, At the end of December for Business Rates the bad debt charge was within the % target at 0.42% compared with an objective of 0.82%. For Council Tax the target is 0.41% compared with an achievement of 0.13%. By any standard a satisfactory performance.

At a recent West Planning Committee the Parish had 3 applications for consideration although 2 had contrary recommendations to that given by it compared with that of the Officers, they were The Firs Broad Lane and Allerton Poolhead Lane. Unfortunately the Parish Council was not represented to make its case of objection although the routine of officer and members' opinion had to be heard in full. One of the Councillors on the Planning Committee raised the point that in such absences does a need exist for the full hearing to occur, an issue that will be reviewed so that report composition/time can be avoided in such. Both the applications objected to by the Parish Council were Granted.

The recent sale by Orbit of the garages at Bellfield had comment by Cllr. Ross on the Tanworth in Arden Residents' Association web site concluding ' Tanworth Parish Council made several approaches through our local District Councillor and our M.P. to see if the important site -the last open space in the centre of the village - could be secured in the public interest but was rebuffed at every attempt'. Bearing in mind that 'rebuffed' is 'reject in an ungracious manner' it is in the circumstances an unwarranted claim because neither the MP, the District Council or myself had any jurisdiction over the disposal of the site, that was with Orbit Housing. There was plenty of communication with Cllr. Ross when the sale was announced in particular emails to/from him by our M.P. as well as myself and a site visit. I will give additional detail at the Parish Councils next meeting to confirm that far from being 'rebuffed' support was there but the determination of the sale was entirely Orbit's.

The Chairman then welcomed Mrs Leila Chaudry who was present in the Public Forum and was considering applying to become a Parish Councillor.

The Chairman closed The Public Forum 19.58

Minutes of the Tanworth-in Arden Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 15th February 2018 at 19.30 hours at Earlswood Village Hall

Present: Councillor Willmott (Chair), Councillor Ross, Councillor O'Brien, Councillor Instone, Councillor Jones, Councillor Cunningham and Councillor Sheppard

In attendance: Julie White – Parish Clerk

17/18/176 Apologies for absence – Councillor Keogh, Councillor Saunders and Councillor Oakley. The reasons for absence were received and accepted.

17/18/177

- **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

17/18/178 -To confirm and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 18th January 2018

It was proposed by Councillor Willmott and seconded by Councillor Cunningham that a request from Councillor Saunders, received by the clerk via e-mail, to amend item 17/18/169 to include at the start the sentence "Councillor Saunders explained that the text of the Consultation paper had been amended to meet the comments made by Councillor Ross." There were 6 votes in favour of this amendment and one abstention. Therefore it was resolved that the minutes would be amended. With this amendment Councillor Jones proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate record. Seconded by Councillor Sheppard. All those present at the last meeting were in favour. Councillor Willmott signed the minutes.

17/18/179 - Matters arising from the minutes, not otherwise dealt with – The Clerk confirmed that she had booked herself, Councillor Willmott and Councillor Oakley on to the Code of Conduct course on March 22nd.

17/18/180 - Matters raised in the Public Forum

There were no matters raised which required further discussion. The planning application for The Barff would be considered later on in the agenda in the Planning section.

17/18/181 - To note items of correspondence received-

- 6.59 – Tanworth WI – Confirm that planter on Gilberts Green to be removed at end of year and the ground to be reinstated.
- 6.71 - Quote for 'big belly' bin outside Co-op for £5766.00.
- 6.104 - John Moore - park keeper – suggesting new sign which clearly displays the closing time in park (to go on future agenda)
- 6.114 – Gill Glenwright – request for temporary Easter cross on village green (to go on future agenda)

17/18/182 - Finance

- i) Councillor Willmott proposed that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes (F & GP) Committee meeting of 4th January 2018 are adopted by the Parish Council. Seconded by Councillor Cunningham. All in favour.
- ii) Chairman's Report – Things are fairly quiet at the moment with the precept and budget being previously agreed.
- iii) Items for payment: Councillor Willmott proposed that the payments were taken en bloc. Seconded by Councillor Ross. 6 votes in favour. Cllr Jones abstained.

17/18/183 -Planning

- i) Councillor Willmott proposed that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 4th January 2018 are adopted by the Parish Council. Seconded by Councillor Cunningham. All in favour.

ii) Report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee – no report. The Clerk said that it had been reported to the Parish Office that the bungalow known as Westbrook has been demolished and the trees cleared from the area. The Clerk to report to Enforcement. The clerk also said that she was unclear how the new Terms of Reference for the Planning Committee were to be implemented and suggested that a meeting is set up between Councillors Sheppard, Cunningham and Saunders and The Clerk to discuss this.

iii) To note decision notices:

Planning Number	Address	Decision
17/03524/FUL & 17/03525/LBC	Hill Barn, Pig Trot Lane	Refusal
18/00027/FUL	The Firs, Umberslade Road	Permission with conditions
17/03783/FUL	9 Malthouse Lane	Permission with conditions

iv) To consider planning applications:

Application Number	Address	Proposal	Comment
17/03549/FUL Amendment	The Barff Poolhead Lane	The ridge height and the footprint of the building has been reduced. Plans have been updated to reflect this	Objection – The Clerk to speak to the Planning Officer. The PC agreed that they would be prepared not to fight the application on the grounds of infill. However, the PC still objects to the proposal on the grounds of the design. If the design was to be modified to remove the street facing gables the Parish Council would be minded to remove their objection.
18/00363/FUL	Beoley Lodge, Alcester Road, Beoley	Demolition of existing building and erection of replacement dwelling.	No representation
18/00028/FUL	Land off, Cut Throat lane, HH	Construction of a field stable with associated tack room and stores	No representation
	Umberslade planting	Woodland planting	Support

17/18/184 – To consider a minor amendment to the Neighbourhood Development Plan and receive any updates.

The clerk had previously circulated an e-mail from Cllr Saunders re section 5.19 – Earlswood Village Centre - of the draft consultation document. Cllr Saunders' e-mail had redrafted this section to address some concerns that had been raised. This redraft consisted of 3 paragraphs, although Councillor Saunders' preferred option was to remove the final paragraph altogether. After much discussion, in order to avoid any further delay it was suggested that the text should be amended as follows:

Earlswood village centre near the Reservoir Public House suffers from a number of drawbacks. It is essentially a busy crossroads with increasing traffic problems, especially at rush hour, identified by residents in the household survey and a history of vehicular incidents, although there have been no incidents since the recent changes to the junction. The village store, a valued facility, has no scope for expansion and there is inadequate car parking. Apparently there were suggestions in the past to use a small part of the land opposite the store to provide better parking arrangements and possibly to provide a larger store. This was not progressed apparently because the land is owned by the National Trust who did not respond.

This shortened text would be removed from the Housing section of the document and would instead be moved to a section previously called Transport which would now be renamed **Infrastructure and Transport**.

This amendment was proposed by Councillor Ross and seconded by Councillor Cunningham. All in favour.

With reference to the proposed questionnaire, Councillor Ross said that he feels it needs to be much clearer and simpler than that proposed. Councillor Ross felt that the main objective of the questionnaire had to be to find out if any of these proposals would cause residents to vote down the final document. Given the cost and the effort that he had been expended Councillor Ross felt it was better to find out that now rather than later. In addition, the questionnaire would allow residents to put forward any general ideas or practical suggestions that they think may have been overlooked by the working party. Councillor Ross agreed to put his thoughts in writing to Councillor Saunders to try and prevent any further delays.

17/18/185 – To consider a recommendation from the Finance & General Purpose Committee to adopt the revised Emergency Plan

It was proposed by Councillor Willmott and seconded by Councillor Jones that the recommendation from the Finance and General Purpose Committee is accepted and the Emergency Plan is adopted.

17/18/186 - To consider a response to A Wilkins re the Parish Council objection to 17/02765/FUL – Pastures Croft, Poolhead Lane

Councillor Saunders had previously circulated a draft response to Councillor Wilkins' query as to why the Parish Council had supported two previous applications but had objected to the latest application which was virtually the same. It was proposed by Councillor Willmott and seconded by Councillor Sheppard that the letter is sent. All in favour.

17/18/187 - To receive an update re the issue of school children crossing busy roads in the parish to catch the school bus

Councillor Ross updated the meeting. He reported that a number of residents have raised concern about the safety of school children crossing busy roads to catch the school bus. Pieces have been put on the Residents' Associations' websites and newsletters to make people aware of the situation, to see if there were any further sites of concern, to outline a number of possible options to reduce speed and to seek people's views. There have been 14 responses so far with the majority, but not all, being supportive of some measures being taken. Councillor Ross said that he has spoken with the Highways Department and there is no easy fix. One suggestion was a Distance Camera but Councillor Horner said that the cost of this would be at least £10,000. Councillor Horner further reported that he is still waiting to hear back from the Police concerning an average speed camera. Councillor Willmott thanked Councillor Ross for the update and all his work on this matter.

17/18/188 - To consider the street lighting maintenance contract for 2018/19

The Clerk reported that she has obtained two quotes but is still waiting for the quote from our current contractor. Therefore this item will be discussed further next month when all quotes are in. All in favour.

17/18/189 – Update on the new website

Everyone was pleased with how the new website is progressing. The Clerk told the meeting that Sue Bauckham, the Clerical Assistant, had put in a lot of hard work in to the production of this new site.

17/18/190 - To approve the Clerical Assistant taking the CiLCA qualification

It was proposed by Councillor Willmott and seconded by Councillor Jones that the Clerical Assistant undertakes the CiLCA qualification. All in favour.

17/18/191 - To approve the wording and costs for new signs in the park

It was agreed that there would be a sign displayed in the car park with the following wording:

Car Park

Users of the car park do so at their own risk.

The Parish Council will not accept responsibility for any damage, accident or loss.

and also a sign displayed in the Children’s play area with the following wording:

Children’s Play Area

Children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

The Parish Council cannot be held responsible for any injury incurred, howsoever caused.

Both signs to be 400 x 300. This proposal was made by Councillor Willmott and seconded by Councillor Jones. The Clerk will order these signs. All in favour.

17/18/192- Update re parish council vacancies to be filled by co-option

It was noted that there are 4 potential candidates for the 2 positions. All the candidates have been sent a ‘job description’ and also The Good Councillor’s Guide which introduces the work of local councils and the part that Parish Councillors’ play. Each candidate has been asked to apply to the clerk by e-mail or letter by February 28th. Each candidate was invited to attend tonight’s meeting but it was noted that only Mrs Chaudry was present.

17/18/193 - To approve holiday leave over 2 weeks for Clerical Assistant

The Clerical Assistant had asked for just over 2 week’s holiday later in the year. The clerk confirmed that she had no issue with this request. Therefore it was proposed by Councillor Willmott and seconded by Councillor Sheppard that this request is granted. All in favour.

17/18/194 - Items for future agenda/any other business

- New sign which clearly displays the closing time in park (future agenda)
- Request for temporary Easter cross on village green (future agenda)

17/18/195 - Work around the Parish

- Streetlight number 3 still not working
- Pot hole in Broad Lane by Arden Grange
- Gilberts Green – shoddy. Needs kerb edging.

17/18/196 - To note date, place and time of next meeting:

15th March 2018 at Tanworth Village Hall– 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 21.24

Signed _____

Chairman of Meeting _____ Date