

## Welford-on-Avon Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7:15 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr S Carter, Cllr J Hockaday, Cllr M Stanley, Cllr N Appleton, Cllr D Holmes, Cllr D Jones

**In attendance:** Clerk - Mrs I Wibberley, District Councillor M Perteghella

**Public:** 39

**Public Participation:** There were 3 registered speakers who wished to speak on the subject of the Headland Road playing fields/park. The Clerk read out the response of two of these who were unable to attend.

Villagers raised the following points:

- the park should be available for all the children in the village
- children should have access to the playing field as well as the play equipment
- 3 generations of families had used the playing field/park over the past 60 years
- Residents could not understand why the school had locked the gate and stopped access
- Safeguarding outside of school hours, in the evenings, at weekends, and in the school holidays was felt to be the responsibility of parents and not the school
- Would additional funding be required if the matter was to go to Court
- The predominant use over the last 60 years had been by the community
- Access to the field encouraged community adhesion and the wellbeing of children
- KCSiE permitted shared use of school facilities subject to appropriate safeguarding arrangements
- Could the playing field be designated as a “green space” or taken back into control of WCC
- A letter to the Allotment Trust from WCC dated 17 October 1957 was read out *“it is suggested that the council should acquire the land edged red having an area of 1.515 acres; of this 1 acre will be used as a combined playing field for the school and for junior and infant children from the Welford on Avon district who will have use of the land after school hours and in school holidays.”*
- Villagers wanted to know key contacts and what they could do/who they could lobby on this matter
- Some parents were afraid to speak out because of fear of repercussions for their children
- Villagers queried how the security fencing had been financed and whether this was from S106 money which was intended to benefit the whole community
- Villagers questioned the planning permission and funding for the hall which they believed to have been granted on the basis that community access would be granted. They requested that the PC raise this matter with Enforcement
- Villagers wanted to know how to support the PC. Petitions had been initiated
- Would WCC/the school be willing to attend a meeting with the village

The Parish Council confirmed the following points in response to questions and comments raised:

- The land was owned by WCC who had delegated certain powers to the school & governors



She mentioned the public open space (POS) at Kehlstein. She had asked SDC to take on this space rather than the developer's management company in order to prevent management issues which had arisen previously with similar developments. Cllr Carter advised that he had been involved in discussions with the developer and that based on these the Parish Council were satisfied with the proposal to pass the POS to the management company. Cllr Perteghella would inform SDC accordingly.

Cllr Perteghella would be writing to the school about access to the playing fields.

**5. Planning**  
**5.1 Report of Planning Notices received from Stratford DC**

Item	Reference	Decision Date	Decision
Churchbank House Church Bank Binton Road Welford on Avon Warwickshire CV37 8PS - Proposed new dwelling and detached garage	APP/J3720/W/2 3/3331582	09.05.2024	Appeal allowed

**5.2 Planning Applications Previously Considered (in May 2024)**

Reference	Consultation Expiry Date	Address	Proposal	PC Decision
24/01075/TREE	4 June 2024	Graveyard Extension, Blundells Croft, Welford-on-Avon, CV37 8EP	-G1, x21 no. large-leaved limes (Tilia platyphyllos) - reduced 20 metres to 12 metres and reshape the crown, width reduction from 6 metres wide to 4 metres wide; trees are presently 20 metres high.	Object
24/01027/VARY	30/05/2024	Millfield Caravan Site, Mill Lane, Welford-on-Avon,	Removal of condition 3 of planning permission S81/1019 dated 9th March 1982 to allow for permanent use of land as caravan site. Original description of development: Renewal of temporary planning consent for use as seasonal caravan site between 1st March and 31st October in any year.	Support
24/01065/FUL	30/05/2024	Meadow Bank, Duck Lane, Welford-on-Avon, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8QD	Conversion of existing loft area within existing bungalow to provide residential accommodation	No representation

**5.3 Planning Applications Received From SDC for Consideration at June 2024 Parish Council Meeting**

Reference	Consultation Expiry Date	Address	Proposal	PC Decision
<a href="#">24/01199/TREE</a>	14/06/2024	The Mill Mill Lane Welford-on-Avon Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8EW	-T1, willows x2no.: Reduce by estimated 5 metres, to previous cut points. -T2 conifers : Cut top approximately 5 metres, to previous cut points. Also cut back	On hold pending advice from Tree Officer

				side to green shoots, length varies in places but estimated between 3 to 5 metres. -T3 poplar. Reduce to previous cut points, approximately 6 metres	
	<a href="#">24/00776/FUL</a>	21/06/2024	Welford Hill Farm Long Marston Road Welford-on-Avon Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8AE	Change of use to extend domestic curtilage and replacement of existing lean-to with detached garage outbuilding with ancillary floorspace above	Object

**5.4 Planning Enforcement**  
None discussed

**5.5 Other planning matters**

Cllr Appleton advised that he had been approached by the owners of The Laurels who were looking to replace the hedge in front of their property. The existing hedge was dying. This property was in the Conservation Area and visible to local residents. SDC had confirmed that planning permission was not required.

**6. Finance**

**6.1 Approval of items requiring payment**

Item	Base	VAT	Total	Bdgt
Clerk Salary	£582.40	£0.00	£584.20	7
Clerks Phone O2 (paid by DD)	£12.99	£2.60	£15.59	8
Donation Millennium Trust - monthly	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00	15
Lodders Solicitors	£1295.00	£259.00	£1554.00	12
A J Wilkes	£90.00	£18.00	£108.00	27
SDC (dog bins emptying)	£427.50	£85.50	£513.00	8
Graham Tidman	£179.67	£26.36	£206.03	27
JJW Gardening & Maintenance	£220.00	£0.00	£220.00	27
Microsoft	£39.20	£7.84	£47.04	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£2,782.62</b>	<b>£399.71</b>	<b>£3,182.33</b>	

**Receipts** – £ nil

**Transfer** - £ nil

Proposed – Cllr J Hockday

Seconded – Cllr M Stanley

**6.2 Any Other Finance Matters**

The clerk was requested to contact Mr Wilkes to ask him not to carry out future hedge cutting without prior authorisation.

It was agreed that the authorised limit for expenditure with Lodders solicitors on the matter of school/community playing field advice be increased to £10k. It was noted that Parishoners appeared to be supportive of this.

2023-24 accounts

The clerk reported on the findings of the internal auditor. Specific issues raised were:

IW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updating of asset register/insurance policy to include new picnic benches</li> <li>Review risk register/financial regulations to include debit card usage</li> <li>Review alternative bank accounts in light of the grant money received for Synder Meadow</li> <li>Review risks associated with playground equipment in the light of restricted access</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that these matters would be discussed at future Council meetings and appropriate actions instigated.</p> <p>The Annual Governance Statement was reviewed. Councillors confirmed their approval and authorised the Chair and the Clerk to sign.</p> <p>The Accounting Statements 2023/24 as set out on the AGAR form had been reviewed by the Clerk/RFO, Cllr Lake and the internal auditor. They were approved by the Councillors. The Clerk was authorised and instructed to submit all the signed documentation to the external auditors.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the exercise of public rights had commenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 in order to meet appropriate timescales.</p>	<p>IW</p> <p>IW</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Project Updates from Councillors</b></p> <p>Cllr Appleton reported that work on the village website was ongoing.</p> <p>Cllr Holmes advised that remedial work at Cress Hill was being done.</p> <p>Cllr Stanley advised that he had received the plans that were prepared in 2014 for traffic calming measures from Cllr Hockaday.</p> <p>Cllr Stanley advised that some residents had indicated to him that they/their children were too scared to be identified as objecting to the playing field closure because they were worried about the possible consequences. He had also been informed that the children had been spoken to about this matter in school assembly.</p> <p>The councillors asked the Clerk to pass on their thanks to Graham Tidman for repairing the bus shelter.</p>	<p>IW</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>It was noted that a letter about the playing fields had been distributed by hand to villagers. A message would be drafted for the website advising that discussions had re-commenced with WCC.</p> <p>At the Annual Parish Meeting residents had advised they got most of their village information from Welford Matters. Councillors noted that there was a low response rate to articles in Welford Matters. Welford Forum (facebook) was more active. Few parishioners appeared to look at the Village website.</p>	<p>NA</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>None</p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Dates of Future Meetings</b></p>	

WELFORD ON AVON PARISH COUNCIL JUNE 2024

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024 - Planning Committee Meeting, Memorial Hall</li><li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 – Full Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall</li></ul> |  |
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Meeting closed at 21.30