

Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly, Radway Parish Council

Parish of Radway

www.radwayparishcouncil.org.uk

Wednesday 21st June 2023, Radway Village Hall.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Page: APM 2023/Page 1

- 1 To Accept Apologies for Absence:
Cllr. Penny Gardener, County Councillor Chris Mills. Apologies accepted.

Present: Cllr. Tim Smith-Vincent (Chair), Cllr. Simon Hooker (Vice Chair), Cllr. Colin Mathews, Cllr. Clare Rankin. Four members of the public. District Councillor Malcolm Littlewood.

- 2 Approval of Minutes 1 June 2022. Proposed: Cllr. Smith-Vincent, Seconded: Cllr. Simon Hooker. Signed and dated by Cllr. Smith-Vincent.
- 3 Matters arising from the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.
None
- 4 Parish Council Chairman's Report – Councillor Tim Smith-Vincent, Chairman of RPC. (Appendix A).
- 5 County Councillor Chris Mills Invited to Speak (Appendix B)

District Councillor Malcolm Littlewood Invited to Speak (Appendix C).

A member of the public commented that District Council has given a grant to the local Food Bank.

- 7 Issues of Particular Local Importance

The Parish Council recently received a letter concerning the potential establishment of a dog walking field, nearby. If the project becomes a planning application, it will be considered by Tysoe Parish Council.

The Parish Council may consider the wilding of a small stretch of verge in the village. Residents raised safety issues associated with visibility at the nearby junction which were noted by the Parish Council.

8 Other Matters Raised by an Elector of the Parish

A resident commented that the Volunteering Day after the Coronation appeared to be popular. They asked if this may be an annual event. The PC responded that it would consider this. For the event, litter pickers were borrowed from the District Council.

A resident sought an update on King John's Lane: The PC explained that the project involved the British Horse Society and the Warwickshire County Council's Bridleway and Footpath's Officer. The project did not come to fruition.

A resident thanked the PC for providing the 2 new picnic benches. They suggested replacing the other 2 picnic benches that remain. Positive comments were received regarding the accessibility of the new benches.

A resident raised the matter of traffic on the local roads, particularly the large agricultural vehicles, some of which appear to be travelling at excessive speeds. The resident raised the question of whether the PC could write to local farmers to highlight these issues and ask for their cooperation in reducing this. Additional comments were made about the large horse boxes. Discussions took place about weight limits on the roads. This will be taken up with Highways at the County Council.

Cllr. Colin Mathews outlined his role as a volunteer warden for the Cotswold AONB with a particular interest in public footpaths and Rights of Way.

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

Appendix A. Parish Councillor Tim Smith-Vincent.

Parish Assembly 2023

Personal matters

Helen – RTA in July

Sophie – Resigned in January

Simon – joined in January

Peter – Didn't stand again for election in May

Colin – our latest member

Malcolm Littlewood – our new Ward Member

Matters completed

Resurfacing the hard standing area of the recreation ground and the installation of the basket ball hoop. A total of just under 20K was raised from grants and fund raising towards the cost of these works.

Interpretation panel installed in the old graveyard. Grants totalling 1450 received toward the restoration of the old graveyard.

Provision of new benches in the recreation ground.

The Council continues to financially support the village hall and Chamber's Trust and supported Tea, Chat and Play and the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Overall income and Expenditure

The total income for 2022/23, including the opening balances was just under 68K. The expenditure totalled £37,430.00 leaving an end of year balance of £30,566.00.

Matters to be addressed

Street lighting

New website

Jacob's ladder hand rail

Appendix B. **Radway Annual Parish Assembly Meeting 21st June 2023** **County Councillor Annual Report**

2022/23 has also been a challenging year for Warwickshire County Council and the residents of our County. Sudden unexpected expenditures created by the cost of living and the on-going Covid-19 crisis created real challenges for people experiencing financial hardship. Therefore, WCC received many calls asking for assistance. The Council were able to help through the WCC's Household Support Fund who support the most vulnerable residents. £421 million was also made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. The objective of the Household Support Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with expenditures, specifically food, energy and water bills. This phase of the grant runs from 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023. Warwickshire has been allocated £3.47million, which is being distributed through the existing Local Welfare Scheme. Also, since October 2022, WCC have spent £1.81m on vouchers and grants to community groups and charities plus additional grant to Act on Energy's Warm and Well programme which supports residents with boiler repairs, servicing and fuel debt management. The grant and voucher scheme included:

£569k to children eligible for benefits related free school meals for food support. £926k as part of the November/December utilities promotion £250k in grants to community groups and charities. However, the largest spend for WCC is Adult Social Care @£200m per year. Furthermore, WCC paid £2.8m to increase capacity in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). One of the main challenges for the Council has been the displacement of refugees. Warwickshire has a proud history of support for refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and most recently, Ukraine. Several Afghan refugees have been helped by WCC with an Employment Package part of the Fair Chance Employer Program. Similarly, the Council oversaw The Afghan Resettlement Scheme, Afghan relocation Scheme and the Afghan Refugee Scheme. There was a total of 147 refugees who were accommodated at Walton Hall, Wellesbourne. WCC were able to assist with GP registration, school places, benefit claims, housing, and childcare

In summary, Warwickshire County Council rose to the occasion during 2022/23, they were able to assist in supporting the neediest of our residents in these very unsettling times. Even though the number of unexpected problems has created an extra financial burden on Warwickshire County Council, they were nevertheless able to set the Council Tax at 3.94% which is less than the Government have allowed Councils. WCC were not prepared to take more Tax than was needed from our hard-pressed residents. That being, the increase in the Council Tax will generate an extra £3.849m to provide funding to help with the cost-of-living crisis.

Chris Mills
Kineton and Red Horse

Appendix C. Ward Member Report.

As a first time elected member of SDC I am currently in a period of intensive training to ensure that I have the up-to-date and relevant knowledge to represent the residents of the Ward. This means that I may not be quite as responsive as I would like in the next month or so for which I apologise in advance.

Stratford District Council is no longer under the control of the Conservative party; with Liberal Democrats now holding the majority of seats:

- Liberal Democrats 25 seats,
- Conservatives 12 seats
- Green Party 3 seats, and
- Independents 1 seat.

This is a new era in SDC's history with a non-Conservative administration for the first time since the inception of the Council on 1 April 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972 by the merger of the municipal borough of Stratford-upon-Avon, Alcester Rural District, Shipston-on-Stour Rural District, Southam Rural District and a majority of Stratford-upon-Avon Rural District. As a consequence the Conservative minority opposition group are now providing constructive criticism and holding the Lid-Dem cabinet to account.

The legacy of the last administration to the current is a sound financial position which has been at the heart of the proposals for 2023/24. All current services were intended to be maintained. A sound financial strategy over the next 12 months, including savings of over £1.3m, together with interest accrued on solid investments, will enable the Council to continue its service provision.

Included are extra provision proposed by the previous administration in the 2023/24 Budget:

- Increased funds to support initiatives that will tackle problems caused by the dramatic increase in the cost of living for some of the district's residents with a further funds earmarked for the following year.
- Funds to support energy and financial advice following on from the £50,000 support successfully provided in 2022/23.
- Staffs to be recruited to support the processing of benefit applications so that benefit claims are paid promptly to those most in need.
- Resources for Housing First and temporary accommodation to be boosted.
- Additional resource to support planning for self and custom-build housing and managing the delivery of First Homes.
- Additional posts for environmental planning to support the Council's commitment to safeguarding the district's environment.

Planning applications dominate my workload with some casework. I am asking all Parish Councils to assist me in the planning function by sending me in advance their comments on planning applications in their parish and indicating support, objection/no objection, or no representation so that where my assistance is needed I am aware at the earliest time.

The major planning issue that many have asked me about is that of the application by Acorn Energy to build an Anaerobic Digester Plant for commercial gas production within Tysoe Parish. I have made my position clear on this matter and will continue to object to planning permission being granted which I believe is the majority sentiment within the Parishes of the Ward and along the routes of supply and delivery of bulk gas into Banbury and beyond. Currently although I am in regular contact with the Senior Planner for this case, I am unable to provide any further information as to progress with this application whilst the Officer awaits the commissioned report on the sustainability of the application. I will update Parish Councils as new information emerges.

Looking forward, there will be Parliamentary constituency boundary changes for the next General Election. This means that some Parishes of Tysoe Ward (Tysoe, Oxhill, Compton Wynyates, and Whatcote) will be within Kenilworth and Southam constituency, and the other Parishes will remain in Stratford upon Avon constituency. The boundary for Stratford on Avon District Council remains the same.

Malcolm Littlewood, Tysoe ward, Stratford on Avon District Council