

Local Government Act 1972

Parish of Radway

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www.radwayparishcouncil.org.uk

Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly, Radway Parish Council

Thursday 16th May 2024, Radway Village Hall.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm

APM 2024/ Page 1

- 1 To Accept Apologies for Absence & Acceptance of Apologies:**
None.

Present: Cllr. Simon Hooker, Cllr. Penny Gardner, Cllr. Tim Smith-Vincent, Cllr. Colin Mathews, Cllr. Clare Rankin, Cllr. Chris Mills, 4 members of the public.

- 2 Approval of Minutes 21 June 2023.** Proposed: Cllr. Simon Hooker,
Seconded: Cllr. Penny Gardner.

- 3 Matters arising from the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.** None.

- 4 Parish Council Chairman's Report** – Councillor Tim Smith-Vincent, outgoing Chairman of RPC. Appendix A.

- 5 County Councillor Chris Mills:** Appendix B.

- 6 District Councillor Malcolm Littlewood:** Email reports circulated to PC prior to the meeting. Appendix C.

- 7 Issues of Particular Local Importance:** Thanks were expressed for the work of the Parish Council for the benefit of residents and the village.

The new street lighting project was discussed.

Thanks were expressed for the cutting of the grass in the playing field and churchyard.

- 8 Other Matters Raised by an Elector of the Parish:** None.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Appendix A: Cllr. Tim Smith-Vincent: Chair's report for 2023/24

Achievements

Successful volunteering morning
Handrail for Jacob's ladder agreed with WCC and currently being installed.
Grant application to CNL for Jacob's ladder and King John's Lane.
New website.
Replacement community marquee
Replacement picnic benches and additional grit bin

Future issues

Replacement street lighting
Improvements to King John's Lane

Planning

Building applications approved for Church Cottage, Grange Cottage, The Grange Stables and Millstone Cottage

An application from Applecross Fields was withdrawn and The Glebe Field application refused.

Decision by Stratford DC on the anaerobic digester still outstanding.

Financial

Significant cost pressures being faced. Precept increased by 4%.

Electricity unit cost has increased by 48.48%.

Excellent internal audit report for 2023/4.

Summary

The above reflects the quality of the people who make up the PC.

We have excellent Councillors who give up a lot of their time outside of attending meetings to make all of the above happen. The PC clearly demonstrates that it works collaboratively with the County and District Councils, and has been successful in accessing grants/funds from a wide variety of sources.

Our Clerk provides great support and ensures the PC operates legally. With ever increasing bureaucracy an extremely important role.

I am confident that PC will continue to be successful in the future.

Appendix B: Cllr. Chris Mills. Warwickshire County Council. Annual report to Parish Councils

There was a tax increase of 4.99% for 2024/25 and planning an assumption of a 2.99% annual increase in future years. The increase was the maximum that WCC could take but significantly below the inflationary and demand pressures that as a Council had to absorb. The increase is to support the rising cost of £26m for Adult Social Care, totaling £226m per year. There is also an increase of £18m for SEND and an extra £8.9m for home to school now totaling £28m per year, driven in part by SEND and pressure on school places.

A significant long-term milestone has been reached for Warwickshire with the news in the Chancellor's spring budget that the County Council is to be one of three councils to be awarded a Level 2 Devolution Deal. The deal will give the County increased powers to tackle two key agendas, levelling up and climate change-through devolution of its own Adult Education budget and strategic oversight of the UK Prosperity Fund. The investment Zone brings thousands of new jobs, £2bn of economic growth and £180m of Government investment with reinvestment into Advanced Manufacturing sector.

[WCC launched the Sustainable Futures Strategy and its delivery plan outlining how the Council will collaborate with partners to mitigate climate change and work toward fulfilling the Counties net zero commitments. Warwickshire County Council once again, ranked 7th of 21 Council's against the sustainability West Midlands Benchmark.](#)

There is also an emphasis on investment:

[Warwickshire County Council made an investment of £1.5m in apprenticeships, benefitting both young career-seekers and employers.](#)

A £100m investment in the Warwickshire Property and Development Group (WPDG) and £50m for the Warwickshire Investment Fund (WIF) demonstrating WCC's commitment to support the recovery and growth of Warwickshire for the benefit of residents and communities.

£20m investment in school places.

£25m investment in significant expansion of Resource Provision to support those with SEND in mainstream settings.

[Warwickshire County Council opened four new SEND Resourced Provisions in Warwickshire offering enhanced specialist support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.](#)

[There has also been a focus on domestic abuse by Warwickshire County Council. The report from the Director of Public Health for Warwickshire reported that over 17,000 women and over 7,000 men experienced Domestic Abuse. The report recommended that WCC Education Services promote in any training relating to violence against women and girls. Linking with Coventry and Warwickshire Suicide prevention strategy and supporting child victims of domestic abuse.](#)

Despite the challenges, the Council remains in a relatively solid financial position. Our financial position compares favourably with other councils and benchmarking shows that we are a relatively low-cost Council in most areas with average or above average performance and strong financial resilience indicators, therefore we are not in immediate S114 territory.

The Council's approach has been dynamic, flexible and can do. We continue to focus on collaboration, partnerships and working with communities as well as committed to protecting services and the most vulnerable residents in our society.

Appendix C. Cllr. Malcolm Littlewood.

Cabinet.

During April Stratford on Avon District Council Cabinet brought to Full Council a small number of items;

1. Gateway Site Framework Master Plan. The aim of the project is to revive and rejuvenate the area roughly between Windsor St and the railway station and make it more attractive to visitors.
2. Supplementary Planning Documentation regarding Open Spaces.
3. The Ecological Emergency [Biodiversity]

Major Planning Issues

I do not have an up-date on the Anaerobic Digester application again. Progress is slow and hopefully coming to a conclusion.

Policing

Please see attached an updated document listing the preferred ways to contact the Police in our District. The police encourage all residents to report any policing issues directly to them so please make this information available on your Parish Notice Boards/Social Media/Websites; thank you.

Congratulations to Philip Secombe at being re-elected for the third time as PCC.

HUGS 2

The cost of heating homes has stabilised somewhat by the Government capping energy bills. The fact is however that even in South Warwickshire there are those in fuel poverty, a need to improve insulation in old properties, and inevitably, Winter is coming. The HUGS 2 scheme, that is Homes Upgrade Grant -2 is available for those that can benefit from insulation and boiler up-grades. **Funding is available to houses which don't use mains gas for heating.** The Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 (HUG2) funding is provided by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to help make cold homes more energy efficient and reduce fuel bills for heating.

Upper Lighthorne Medical Centre

NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) has awarded St Wulfstan Surgery the contract to deliver GP services to Upper Lighthorne.

After persistent lobbying from local parishes and SDC, Upper Lighthorne was finally recognised as an area needing additional primary care provision due to the new housing development, which is part of Stratford District Council's core strategy and will see 3,000 new homes built over a 10-year period - potentially increasing the local population by more than 7,000.

St Wulfstan is rated Outstanding by the CQC and was rated the tenth best practice in England, and first for practices with over 10,000 patients.

The new branch practice is set to open in summer 2027 as part of the new village centre. The new premises are part of a joint development with Stratford District Council.

Sir Jeremy Wright MP, Member of Parliament for Kenilworth and Southam who's strong support for the much needed facility helped to bring a successful conclusion to the campaign organised by local people, said:

"I am pleased to see the ICB has now awarded the contract to supply GP services from the new facility to St Wulfstan Surgery who already look after the patients in Southam and surrounding areas."

"This is an important step towards providing medical facilities on site at Upper Lighthorne."

Stratford-upon-Avon Unveils New Look Christmas Markets for 2024

LSD Promotions in collaboration with Stratford-on-Avon District Council, and Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council, announced a fresh look for the Christmas Market in 2024. Responding to feedback from local residents and businesses, and safety and security needs, the markets will feature an all-new layout designed to enhance visitor experience while helping to minimise disruption to the town.

"The revamped, smaller markets footprint will allow for Wood Street, Union Street, High Street, and the Bridge Street roundabout to remain open, aiming to maintain a better flow of traffic and reduce congestion compared to previous years, allowing both residents and businesses to navigate the town. Boasting 200 high-quality stalls, the markets remain some of the largest in the West Midlands, promising a truly special shopping experience.

Taking place over two consecutive weekends, on 7th & 8th and 14th & 15th December, the extended duration allows visitors to experience the markets on what are traditionally the most popular days, and the midweek traffic congestion in the town will be significantly reduced."