

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT WILMCOTE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025– NO. 132**

**1. Present:** Cllr. McMillan, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Boyes, Cllr. Shilvock, Cllr Hession.

**2. Apologies:** Cllr Ray, Chairman, attending family funeral and Cllr Mahon due to work commitments – both approved.

Cllr Hession agreed to Chair the meeting on this occasion and made the public aware of the following rules at the request of the Clerk.

Extracts:

*Meetings of the Parish Council are **not** public meetings. Members of the public have a statutory right to attend as observers. Agenda item No 3 is set for public participation. Members of the public should not be involved in decision making and the Council should not make any instant decisions at the behest of members of the public on items not included in the agenda.*

*It is completely unacceptable for councillors to face personal harassment or intimidation in public. Disorderly conduct at meetings: The Chair has the right to suspend or close the meeting if this happens.*

**3. To receive written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary interests in items on the agenda:**

There were no requests.

**4. To approve for signature the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd January and Extraordinary meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

These minutes were approved by all members present and signed by the Chairman.

**5. Public Participation:**

Mr Remrod wished to speak regarding the parishioners having lost faith in the parish council over the SWLP consultation, his request was that all Councillors should stand down Cllr Hession agreed that all Cllrs should stand down and proposed a vote to that effect seconded by Cllr Stewart, the only other Cllr present with no specific interests. The Clerk intervened advising Cllr Hession that such a vote could not be taken as only two of them did not make a quorum, Cllrs cannot be forced to resign and two of the Cllrs had sent apologies as they were unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Hession did not proceed with the vote and a large number of parishioners attending acted in a disorderly manner despite having been made aware of the rules for parish council meetings at the start of the meeting. As a result Cllr Boyes was not prepared to put up with the harassment and resigned there and then. The other two Cllrs did not speak or react either then or when asked by Mr. Remrod to leave the room towards the end of the meeting.

For information:

Other reasons for a vote not being possible are that the SWLP was not an item on the parish council meeting agenda and items raised under public participation cannot lead to a vote and members of the public cannot call for or force a vote, or take part in any voting.

The Parish Assembly meeting items following the Chair's report, Issues of Particular Local Importance and Matters raised by an Elector of the parish were specifically for parishioners to raise concerns etc. and put forward proposals to the parish council for consideration at a later date. No issues or matters were raised.

Eventually we were able to continue with the remainder of the parish council business on the agenda.

## **6. County & District Councillors reports:**

There were no District or County Councillor reports available.

## **7. Planning Applications:**

There is currently only one outstanding application: 25/004119/FUL Dunroaming, Gospel Oak Lane, Pathlow: Siting of five additional static caravans, four touring caravans, demolition of existing day room and conversion of existing stables into day room.

CLLrs had provided their comments to the Clerk ahead of the meeting and were in agreement that this application should be refused on several grounds in particular over development, the original permission being granted for one mobile home and one touring caravan for Mr & Mrs Fury and their descendants only. Inefficient sewage facilities are already a major concern.

Application No. 24/00891/VARY. Notification received that the applicant has appealed the District Council's refusal.

## **8. Correspondence:**

All correspondence received and previously circulated electronically was taken as read.

## **9. Mary Arden's House:**

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust are taking steps to open Mary Arden's Farm on selected dates throughout the summer for free community open days. There will be an article in the April Parish magazine offering more information.

## **10. Willow Wood Play Area:**

The March inspection report did not raise any new issues.

## **11. Parish Council Grant Fund applications:**

Cllr Shilvock reported that three applications had been received, only one electronically, so she produced a document of scoring and amount allocations advising her recommendations. This was passed to Cllrs ahead of the meeting for their opinions and the application documents were available if required.

The recommendation was as follows:

Village Hall to receive £420.00 towards a replacement dishwasher.  
St Andrew's Minnows to receive £180.00. They have limited funds.  
St Andrews Church to receive £400.00 with the proviso that this money is spent to maintain the church yard in Wilmcote and that grants from charities are sought for the maintenance of Billesley.

All Cllrs approved Cllr Shilvock's proposals that were seconded by Cllr Stewart and the Clerk was asked to pay the grants as above.

## **12. Community Speedwatch update:**

Cllr Hession invited Mr. Yates to speak on this subject. Two new members have joined the team recently and Mr. Yates asked anyone else interested in joining to contact the parish clerk.

## **13. Matters arising since the Extraordinary meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February:**

Two parishioners had expressed an interest to the Clerk regarding the vacancy for a parish councillor.

The faulty light on Glebe Estate was replaced by E.on at the end of last year.

The phone kiosk on The Green is due to be decommissioned and a member of the parish has expressed an interest in taking this on as a library. We will have to wait for SDC to confirm it will be available for purchase before proceeding further.

A new Lease has been prepared for the Willow Wood play area and is awaiting agreement/approval from Councillors.

Cllr Ray had asked for the following to be read out at the meeting on his behalf:

*"Dear Liz*

*I have been a councillor on Wilmcote Parish Council for several years and the chairman in recent years. As a parish council, we are likely to become further engaged with the SWLP plans as they are developed. It is a good time for me to retire from Wilmcote Parish Council, and it is the right time for a younger person to lead the council through what will be a very busy and demanding period. My plan is to retire as from the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May. This will give time for current councillors to plan. My thanks to you Liz for the help and support you have given me over my years on the council.*

**14. Items for the agenda for the next meeting:**

Annual accounts  
New Willow Wood play area lease for signature.  
Update on telephone kiosk on The Green  
Railings adjacent to station – Network Rail contact.

**19. Date of next meeting:** 21st May 2025 Annual Parish Council meeting followed by ordinary Parish Council meeting.

No further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm