



## Thurlaston Parish Council

### DRAFT Minutes of Meeting 2/2020/2021 held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 as a Virtual Zoom at 7pm

<b>Present:</b> Parish Councillors:	John Bretherton (JB) Chair Helen Creery (HC) Keith Boardman (KB) Stephen Lewington (SL)
Parish Clerk:	Sylvia Jacques (SJ)

Residents attending: Six plus One Journalist

1. Welcome by Chair.

Visitors muted.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests. None.

3. Apologies and Acceptance for Absence. None.

4. Borough and County Council officer's reports and representatives from other organisations.

JB read the report sent from Cllrs Howard Roberts, Peter Eccleson and Deepah Roberts. Copy at end.

HR asked to follow up on Beech Drive trees. Send email prompt.

5. Residents Matters

- The Thurlaston Bus Shelter is in need of repair (Action 2021.002). Woodworm, wet rot, roof heavy with moss. Preservation treatment needed. SJ was asked to obtain three quotes, this proved difficult with not knowing suitable contractor. It was decided that if the quote is acceptable, subject to the details provided by KB, to proceed. The second shelter on the Coventry Road to be checked for damage. To ask our repairs person to give an opinion.
- Dog litter bin is too small and causing a problem in the village with extra use of bins for coffee cups, probably from walkers from Draycote reservoir. SJ has checked cost of a large bin and the cost is shared with the RBC. Proceed and identify position. The current litter bin will be refurbished and identified as the dog litter bin.
- A resident asked for advice on a lighting issue. This has now been resolved by the resident.
- An update on car parking – The presence of the extra police in the village seems to be having a positive impact. The Police will have a base in the Village Hall.
- A resident of Biggin Hall Lane attended to discuss a problem with vans looking for the Golf Club and Storage World warehouse. This is being investigated by the Parish Clerk who has been directed to the right person. Ongoing. Another point raised was how to apply to RBC to adopt this road, as it is unadopted at the moment. Ongoing.
- Discussed a proposed development in the village, pre application, SJ to arrange for a TPC site visit and follow-up meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes – meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.  
Approved: Proposed by KB, seconded by SL and passed by TPC
7. Actions Review (updates to the actions listed in the Agenda Notes)  
JB asked if there were any additional updates to the actions – there were none except where covered elsewhere in the agenda.
8. Finance & Clerk (SJ)
  - TPC has received acceptance of the new precept figure for 2021/22.  
The I/E projections for the remainder of the current year (to end of March 2021), that was circulated to TPC prior to the meeting, has been updated by SJ. The Landscape Partnership company to be paid in the next few days and this is probably the last of the invoices for the current year. The VAT will be claimed this week.  
Decision: Records accepted – no queries raised.
  - Cheques payments and signatures – formal proposal to pay invoice.  
Two new cheques to be signed and four cheque payments made since the last TPC meeting – no queries raised. Old cheque to KB, asked to be paid into bank.  
Some progress made with the bank towards setting up an on-line account since the last meeting and more hopeful of reaching a conclusion, SJ to contact bank.
9. Strategic Planning (KB)
  - R20/1026 submitted to RBC. No feedback received yet.
  - Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Climate Emergency (CE). KB has received no feedback from TPC's comments on the Air Quality SPD which we submitted in Nov 2020. He explained he had written to Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP about the lack of recognition of the Climate Emergency declaration within Local Plan. This has particular relevance to the proposed Symmetry Park development and the fact that the scheme will not reduce the carbon footprint of the area. KB requested that we would welcome Mr Wright's support in encouraging RBC and Borough Councillors to recognise the issue and to ensure LP developments should not be allowed to proceed unless aligned with the CE and net carbon reduction targets.
  - Subsequently Mr Wright has asked KB whether we have received an update from RBC. KB proposed he should draft a paper on the CE issues for discussion by TPC Councillors prior to submission to Mr Wright and RBC's Chief Executive.
10. Village Design Statement (JB) No progress.
11. Planning subcommittee (HC)
  - R20/0366 – Leam Valley Golf Centre: Approved with revised access.
  - R20/1085 – The Latch, for prior approval by neighbours
  - R20/1026 – Framptons/Tritax. No decision
  - R20/1030 – Thurlaston Meadows, Main Street (bungalows) no decision
  - R21/1026 – Beaconsfield, Main Street. Ongoing
  - R21/0152 – Thurlaston Meadows, Main street (extensions, new entrance, parking) Ongoing

- Agreed that TPC will communicate with residents on R21/0152 and will consult Neil Pearce on the co-dependencies between R20/1030 and R21/0152 and the draft response for R21/0152.
  - To consult Neil Pearce. Proposed by KB and seconded by JB.
12. Trees Update (SJ/NL)
- Updates:
- Trees on Beech Drive (SJ) NL to continue pursuing the chase.
  - Updated Trees Maps (SJ) SJ to continue the chase.
13. Policy and Procedures (KB)
- KB agreed to integrate the Communications Policy and the Publications Policy.
14. ICT (KB)
- KB summarised the updates to groups on the website.
  - KB has uploaded all Parish Council minutes from 2007 to the current.
15. Councillors' reports – for any other items not covered elsewhere on the agenda (All)
- Annual Village Meeting (AVM) agreed to hold remotely by Zoom on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.
  - Annual General Meeting (AGM) agreed this will be held 10<sup>th</sup> May, with a possibility the May TPC meeting may be held before the 6<sup>th</sup> May so it can be done as a virtual meeting, with the AGM aspects that have to wait until after the elections to be done a week later.
16. Items for Future Consideration (All). None

Meeting closed at 21.00

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

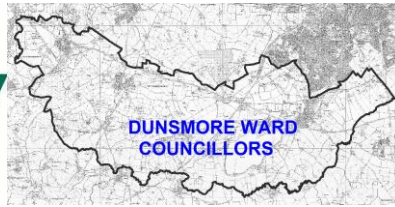
Signed by.....Chair John Bretherton Dated.....

## Appendix 1

### Actions from Minutes of Meeting 5/2020/2021 held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020:

Ref	Due By	Owner	Action	Progress	Status
2020.014	30-Jun	SJ	Banking: SJ to contact the bank to request an online banking facility (if they are not willing to supply this service, Unity Bank, which is used by other parishes, does offer this service.	Raised 11 <sup>th</sup> May – Ongoing. SJ has contacted the bank and will be able to set up online banking for payments shortly	Open
2020.024	31-Aug	SJ	Village trees: SJ to circulate a scan of trees in village.	Sylvia has circulated the maps to the Councillors. A new map will be received when Clint Parker carries out the work in the village	Open
2020.037	30 Sept	SJ	Contact Poors Plot for paperwork	SJ has contacted Poors Plot but still awaiting a response. Now has asked another member of the group to investigate. They are not responsive. We need to make headway in time for a report for the AVM	Open
2020.040	09-Nov	SJ	A Resident expressed concerns regarding damage to grass verges in Church Lane inflicted by trucks and trailers. SJ previously investigated options to address this and TPC concluded installing wooden posts on the verge, which would have to be set back by 0.5M from the road and would likely be ineffectual	SJ has contacted WCC and they will tidy the verge and erect posts to prevent future/further damage. Delayed until the weather improves.	Open
2020.045	09-Nov	KB	To circulate notes relevant to a proposed communication policy to TPC.		Open
2020.046	09-Nov	All	All to review the Art and History Group pages and comment on required updates.		Open
2020.049	31-Jan	SJ	Stiles between Stocks Lane and Biggin Hall Lane broken	Work has commenced and will be finished shortly.	Open
2021.001	Mid-April	SJ	Letter to be sent to HR to follow up on Beech Drive trees	SJ to send an email prompt to HR	New
2021.002	Mid- April	SJ	Obtain 3 quotes for the work to repair the bus shelter. Price of new shelter.	Price of new shelter £10k. Another quote to be obtained.	Open
2021.003	Mid-April	SJ	Obtain prices for extra bin(s) for dog litter and fitting	Quotation for new Large Litter from RBC, cost is shared. Old bin to be refurbished as dog litter bin.	Open
2021.004	15-Feb	SJ	Posters to be put back in noticeboards to outline parking problem in village	Posters replaced	Close

2021.005	28-Feb	SJ	Looking into signage for Biggin Hall Lane to stop delivery vehicles driving in lane looking for the Golf Club and Storage World. Also check adoption of lane.	Checking for signage and adoption	Open
2021.006	Mid-April	KB/HC	Pre application planning for development in Main Street	Meeting with Councillors and arrange zoom	New
2021.007	End April	KB	To draft a paper on SPD and CE for discussion with TPC Councillors before submission to RBC		New
2021.008	End April	KB	Consult with Neil Pearce on 1030 and 0152 with draft submission		New
2021.009	Mid-April	KB	To integrate the Communications and Publication's policies		Open
2021.010	30/4/2021	KB	The second shelter on the Coventry Road to be checked for damage.	If repairs are required, we will need to ask our repairs person to give an opinion.	New
2021.011	30/4/2021	SJ	Pay the Landscape Partnership		New
2021.012	01/4/2021	SJ	Reclaim VAT		New
2021.013	01/4/2021	KB	KB to draft a paper on the CE for submission to Jeremy Wright MP and RBC's Chief Executive.		New
2021.014	20/4/2021	All	Prep for Annual Village Meeting (AVM) to be held remotely by Zoom on 22nd April 2021.		New
2021.015	30/4/2021	All	Prep for Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held 10th May.		New



## From the Diary of the Dunsmore Ward Councillors

Cllr Howard Roberts (WCC & RBC), Cllr Peter Eccleson (RBC), Cllr Deepah Roberts (RBC)

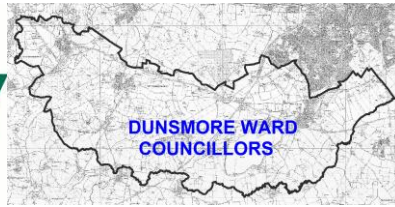
### MARCH 2021

#### Warwickshire CC

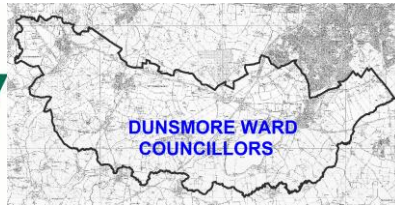
- Formulation of the County budget and the Corporate Plan have remained prominent this period.
- Local Travel Plan (LTP) - WCC is in the process of updating the current LTP which is a document that sets out the transport needs, challenges, priorities and objectives for the county. A reminder that this consultation closes on 18<sup>th</sup> March  
<https://ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/ltp-themes/>
- Howard has also been involved with issues of flooding over the period. Meetings have taken place with those affected, the most recent being with representatives of Grandborough Parish Council and selected residents.
- Warwickshire's Country Parks Service is undertaking a survey of visitors and non-visitors to help with a whole service review in 2021. This is a public online survey which will enable WCC to take account of your views and they are encouraging individuals to participate as this will help WCC to explore future options for our parks and greenways. It will affect areas such as Ryton Pools etc. The Survey can be found on the WCC webpage and closes 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- The parking scheme project at the top of Adkinson Avenue is still ongoing. The design is still in for re-approval before public consultation can commence .
- Howard, Peter and Deepah have been supporting the lobbying of WCC to extend the current opening hours of Hunters Lane re-cycling centre as a result of requests from the public in our Ward.

#### Rugby BC

- Warwickshire and Coventry have been praised by the Sec of State for Health Matt Hancock in Parliament as being outstanding and ahead of target for vaccinating the public against Covid19. This is good news for us all!
- RBC budget was approved at last week's Council meeting. This is our Covid-recovery budget prioritising climate change, economic recovery and health and wellbeing. All Political leaders agreed that the funding was 'tight' this year and the Council Leader, Seb Lowe expressed a view that past prudent financial management had ensured that RBC was in much better shape than some of the Councils in the area and thus able to better weather the storm. Despite indicating support for the budget as presented, all of the Liberal democrat members abstained from voting, however, the vote was carried.



- Peter, Howard and Deepah have written in support of a grant application by the new Baptist Church on Coventry Rd to Cemex for the provision of £20,000 to install disabled changing facilities under the 'Changing Places' initiative. The specially-designed facilities have both the space and equipment to allow disabled people, supported by family members of carers, to use toilets in safe and comfortable surroundings. This application by the Baptist Church which plans to rent its meeting facilities to groups etc fits with the initiative by RBC in the town centre of Rugby where we will be introducing a similar facility.
- Planning has featured prominently over the period. A controversial housing development at Stretton-on-Dunsmore was rejected by planners whilst the new access to the proposed holiday lodge development at Leam Valley Golf Centre was approved. This development had been the subject of rejection by DPC a few years ago based upon what was seen to be a dangerous entrance/exit arrangement. This has now been rectified and meets with approval from WCC Highways safety officers. Howard has requested a visit by the Planning Committee to Thurlaston Nursing Home where there has been another planning application for development. The visit will be a 'virtual' visit on Teams where planners will instruct a Planning Officer who will have video presence at the site.
- Fly Tipping continues to distress residents around the borough. Isolated country areas such as Stretton seem to be regularly targeted. Our strategy for dealing with fly tipping involves liaison with the police and environment agency to gather intelligence, working with parish councils and local residents again to gather intelligence, and then target areas with patrols from our Community Warden and recently the use of portable surveillance cameras. This is a similar strategy to those used by other rural authorities, but to be honest, with so much open space in the borough, and with so many different types of individual fly tipping (e.g. small domestic, contractor saving disposal costs and career criminals dumping on an industrial scale) it is very difficult to catch those involved. There have been a significant number of programmes about this on TV and so the fly tippers are better informed about our tactics and it is rare now for evidence to be left in the waste. This includes ways of defeating cameras. Our main success is clearing it quickly for the benefit the residents. We are deploying portable cameras but clearly their locations must remain confidential. We would ask our parish councils and residents to be vigilant and report any instances of fly tipping as they discover it. One Parish is considering a 'residents patrol' of regularly targeted areas. If we can obtain evidence, we will prosecute.  
Residents should be reminded to only use licenced waste disposal operatives.
- The issues surrounding general littering are also of concern. We have seen a huge increase in littering since lockdown which is a very worrying trend. Once again, it is easier to police this issue in town but more difficult in the villages.



- RBC is ramping up on its public space maintenance. You will note that Cawston Lane hedgerows have been cut and that the bottom end of the lane near Limetree Village is due to be closed for a day for resurfacing later this month.
- Warwickshire Police are looking to generate support from the local communities to gain information and intelligence around the potential production and distribution of cannabis. You may have seen from their Twitter and Facebook feeds the strategic media campaign about OP SPIGOT. Engagement with the community is paramount in identifying potential offenders and preventing the distribution of drugs which is becoming a major problem in the community. Please advise your local communities to be aware of the tell-tale signs of a potential cannabis production:

#### **Strong, sickly smells**

It may sound obvious, but most cannabis grows are discovered by passers-by or keen-nosed residents catching a whiff of the drug's familiar smell. A cannabis crop takes about three months to grow and in the final weeks, the plants stink. Crimestoppers has previously sent out cannabis-farm scratch-and-sniff cards to more than 200,000 homes in the UK to help home-owners tell if they live close to a budding farm.

#### **Windows are constantly covered**

Do your neighbours have the curtains drawn all day long? It might make it look like the house is unoccupied, but having windows blocked up with panelling or sheeting would suggest there's something they don't want you to see. This could be a sign that there are many budding plants inside soaking up bright artificial light.

#### **Excessive security**

Growers live in constant fear that their home grown farms will be discovered by police, landlords or rival drug dealers. If there are padlocks on the gates, massive grilles and double and triple locks on the doors, that should raise eyebrows – especially if the street is relatively safe. On bigger, high value farms, portcullises, bars on the windows and even CCTV cameras can be evident.

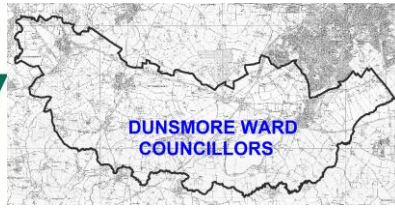
#### **High levels of condensation**

Are the windows always misted up? From the inside, landlords might notice damp on the walls or peeling wallpaper, while from the outside a neighbour might spot condensation on the windows, even when it's not the depths of winter. The condensation may well be due to inside having been turned into a makeshift greenhouse. For the best plant growth, cannabis needs an atmosphere similar to a greenhouse, and this can cause a lot of condensation.

#### **Lots of visitors – and at unsociable hours**

Frequent and varied visitors to a property, often at unusual times, could mean you just have a popular neighbour with a big family. But if unfamiliar faces are turning up next door day and night, it might be a sign that there's something more sinister going on. One thing to watch for is lots of new faces coming knocking.





### **Rocketing electricity bills**

The lights, dehumidifiers, hydroponic systems and heaters take a lot of electricity. Many farms have been found where drugs gangs have hacked into the electricity wires before the meter to that individual house, and so bypassed having to pay for the electricity. If you are a landlord who gets a copy of the bill, has it dropped or gone up suddenly? If so, your neighbourhood growers could have tapped into your supply and are charging you to power their drug operation. You should contact your supplier and the police immediately.

### **What happens when it snows?**

Cannabis factories produce a lot of heat, which can cause tell-tale signs, especially in winter. When it snows, the roofs of cannabis farms can be obvious as the snow melts, meaning it is probably the only house on the street without a snow-covered roof.

### **Bright lights day and night**

It's strange for anyone to need unusually bright lights on 24 hours a day. Cannabis needs light to grow, so watch out for homes with bright lighting at all times of the day and night. Lights will often be on a timer switch, coming on in the middle of the night.

### **Constant buzz of ventilation**

If you can hear the constant noise of a fan, at all times of the day or night, chances are it could be acting as ventilation for the cannabis grow.

More information is available on the Warwickshire Police website.

There have previously been reports of cannabis growing in a number of villages in our ward and evidence of 'spent plants' found as part of fly tipping waste in certain areas.

### **Keep safe**

