

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE PARISH OF SHERBOURNE  
HELD AT SHERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL  
ON MONDAY 16 APRIL 2018 AT 7:30PM**

**Present:** Mr Tony Merrygold (Chairman)  
Cllr John Murphy (BS&W JPC)  
Cllr Peter Phillips (WDC)  
Cllr Les Caborn (WCC)  
Nine Sherbourne Electors

**1 Opening**

The Chairman welcomed all to the Sherbourne Annual Parish Meeting, the purpose of which being:

Firstly, to allow the provision of information on a variety of activities affecting residents of the village, including reports from the Parish, District and County Councils, Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Church and the like.

Secondly, to allow electors to raise and discuss any issues.

This is not a Parish Council meeting, even though I am a Parish Councillor and the Chairman of the JPC. For anyone not familiar with their parish councillors, Sherbourne has two others; Antoinette Gordon and Rachel Newsome.

Over the past year there has been a lot going on across the Joint Parishes but the main issues affecting Sherbourne:

Unauthorized Encampment of Gypsies and Travellers

On land at the end of Watery Lane owned by Highways England. There have been a couple of incursions, which are all believed to be tied in with the Horse Fair coming to Kenilworth. The last incursion was dealt with fairly swiftly (in a couple of working days) and we now have contacts with Police G&T Liaison as well WDC and Highways England.

Some piles of soil have been dumped alongside the concrete path which will make it difficult for any towing vehicles and caravans to manoeuvre onsite and it looks as if this, and more assiduous locking of the gate, may have prevented a return last autumn.

Highways England do now accept that something should be done to make the site more secure and prevent it happening again. They haven't yet put forward any firm proposals and are looking to get some funding approved in this year's budget, at which time they will consult with us in detail. Longer term WDC have giving planning permission for housing to be built on the plot of land that is used for the horse fair in Kenilworth so the ultimate 'cause' of the problem may disappear. Although there is the chance of the community finding another piece of land for the horse fair so I don't think anyone can guarantee it won't happen again.

Street and Path Maintenance

I mentioned last year that the initiative to use the FixMySteet website wasn't working. So over the past year both Cllr Gordon and I have been contacting Highways Department at WDC direct as issues arise. Some fly tipping has been dealt with fairly quickly – and more recently Cllr Gordon has been trying to get them to accept the need for proper maintenance on the footpath along the downgraded section of the A46 between Watery Lane and Vicarage Lane. When this was the A46 it was Highways England's responsibility, but now it has been downgraded to a category D road it seems to have fallen off everyone's radar. Some shrubbery overgrowth has been cut back but the cuttings were just left there. Highways Department are planning to send someone out to check on this and Cllr Gordon has been discussing the tree covered mound with the Forestry Dept. – who didn't know it existed.

**2 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2017 were taken as read. There were no matters arising.

### 3 Report on Sherbourne Neighbourhood Watch

The Sherbourne Neighbourhood Watch Scheme started nearly four years ago and all people who move into the village are invited to join. The numbers of those participating has remained fairly static, with those moving away being replaced by people new to the village.

Those who have signed up to the scheme receive updates on any relevant incidents in the area and a regular newsletter from Warwickshire Police - Warwick Rural West Safer Neighbourhood Team. In addition, members are alerted to police campaigns and given advice on how to avoid crime. Members have also had invitations to contribute to surveys and consultations on crime and policing in Warwickshire.

In the last four years, the newsletter has not reported any incidents in Sherbourne. However, villagers have reported:

- horses loose on Vicarage Lane and Watery Lane. This is a fairly regular occurrence. Villagers either put the horses back in the field or on occasions contact the police or the owner. We have alerted the Neighbourhood Watch Team and a Police Community Support Officer will be visiting the owners of dogs running loose on the lanes. This is also a fairly regular occurrence.
- some cannabis pants found dumped in Watery Lane. Police alerted and leaves removed.

If you have not joined up yet, you can still do so. Please just contact the coordinator for your area of the village:

Carole Fidler	01926 624533	Moat Green and Watery Lane
Amber O'Brien	01926 624732	Church Road and Fulbrook Lane
Helen Whiter	01926 624681	Vicarage Lane and courtyards
Antoinette Gordon	01926 624344	Outlying Areas

or alternatively send your name, address and e-mail address to our local PCSO, Paul Coleman (paul.coleman@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk), who will then ensure that the information is passed to your local coordinator.

A reminder:

Dialling 999 - Emergency number. Use if you see an incident whereby you believe a crime is about to be committed, is being or has been committed and the offenders are still on the scene, or if any situation arises whereby an individual or persons are put in a dangerous situation potentially suffering harm, injury or potentially worse.

Dialling 101 - Non-emergency number. Use if you discover a crime has been committed and it is obvious that the offender(s) have left the scene and are no longer about that is you discover in the morning that your vehicle has been entered or your property damaged. Use this number to report the crime.

If you wish to discuss any issues with your local Warwick Rural West Team they can be contacted as follows:

Phone: 01926 684397

E-mail: [wrw.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:wrw.snt@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

### 4 Report by Village Hall Committee

Dear Friends and Neighbours

I do hope that you have all survived the winter unscathed and that it was not too difficult for you. I hope we will all be enjoying the spring sunshine and the burgeoning flowers and greenery very soon. We are having our AGM on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am in the village hall, do come along, refreshments are available and you will be able to hear our exciting news.

Thanks to the fantastic support we have received from Warwick District Council, the Barford, Wasperton and Sherbourne Joint Parish Council and the Rural West District Forum, we have been able to renovate our village hall extensively over the last few years. This has included the hall, the

toilet, the bar and kitchen area and the purchase of new comfortable chairs. Alongside this we have been able to buy a new fire which has enhanced the warm and ambience of the environment. All of these changes have greatly enhanced what we can offer to residents and people hiring the hall.

Bookings for the last financial year have improved due to the renovation work and the further advertising that we have secured. We now have regular and committed bookings and many more requests for one off bookings. Please do encourage your family and friends to attend events. For more information about hiring the hall, Alyson Jackson at [alysonjackson@mail.com](mailto:alysonjackson@mail.com)

We had a number of very successful events last year including:

1. Spring Lunch
2. Family Film evenings
3. A musical evening of Lives and love of Peggy Lee
4. Harvest Festival lunch
5. Pre-Christmas event

Events for this year include:

- Coffee morning second Thursday of each month
- Pub evening 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday evening of each month
- Truth and Truffles – May 12<sup>th</sup> 7.00-7.30pm
- October – Harvest festival lunch
- November – Pre-Christmas event

Please do let us know if you have any suggestions for events you would like to see put on if you would be willing to help with events or serve on the committee.

We would love to contact you by email to give you advanced notice of forthcoming events. If you felt able to share your email address with us it would be most helpful. We would only use it for village hall events and not pass it to third parties. Please email your address to [helenwhiter@btinternet.com](mailto:helenwhiter@btinternet.com)

We look forward to welcoming you all.

## 5 Report by the Parochial Church Council

The last year has been a good one for All Saints' Church. The Churchwardens and members of the Church Council have worked hard again this year to maintain the regular pattern of worship, celebrating the great festivals of the Church year and witnessing to the Christian gospel in worship Sunday by Sunday. Eleven weddings were celebrated in the past year - all of them happy occasions and only one late bride. Three babies were baptized during regular morning services and two funerals were held. The only regret was that our very popular candlelit Carol service had to be cancelled at very short notice due to sudden and extreme weather conditions. We are very pleased, however, that three people from the Parish have been learning to ring bells. This is good exercise physically and mentally and can be a lot of fun. We could really do with a couple more so if anyone else is interested please come along.

The pattern of not having a service on third Sundays of the month but serving coffee and tasty treats between 10.30 and 12 noon at the back of Church has continued. It is a good opportunity for anyone to come along to enjoy a chat and to have a wander round the Church. Do come and join in. It could be a real opportunity for the community to meet informally.

At the same time, we have done our best to keep the fabric of the Church in good order. In this respect we finally had some good news in that towards the end of the year we were finally able to provide toilet facilities at the Church – if only temporarily. After years of hard work, first of all to get water to the Church, then to install a kitchenette and the drainage system for the loo, we finally got both the permission and the money to install a Portaloo behind the Church. This is of course nothing like the rather grand scheme to extend the 'shell' of the building out from the vestry but as that would cost about £80,000 it is hard to imagine being able to raise or justify that money. Instead, as our permission for the current facility will only run until January 2020, we are currently exploring the possibility of creating one within part of the current Vestry.

The other major preoccupation of most Churches is of course raising the money to keep going. Our major costs each year are firstly our contribution to the Diocesan budget for clergy pay, housing and training. In 2017 that was £9,250. The second is Insurance. In 2017 that was £3,943.00. That is over £13,000 before we actually do anything. Electricity and Churchyard maintenance are each about £1200 so our overall costs for the year were just over £19,000. As we don't receive any grants from the wider Church or Diocese this all has to be raised locally. To that end our biennial Flower Festival took place on the weekend of 22-24 September. Thanks to the hard work by local ladies and Stratford upon Avon Flower Club and particularly by June Wenman it was a great success. On Friday the Rocco Quartet sang at the preview concert. Choral Evensong was led by Bishop John of Warwick and was well attended.

In October we celebrated Harvest Festival followed by lunch in the Village Hall provided by members of the Village Hall Committee and much enjoyed by all, as were other events in the Village Hall.

In conclusion, the other news for the Church is that on April 8<sup>th</sup> I [Revd David Jessett] announced my intention to step down as Priest in Charge of the six parishes at the end of January next year. After over 21 years at Barford, Sherbourne, Wasperton, and the last eleven with Charlecote, Hampton Lucy and Loxley as well I think it will then be time for a change for the Parishes.

#### **6 Report by Barford, Sherbourne & Wasperton JPC (by Cllr Tony Merrygold)**

As Chair of the JPC I want to highlight a number of items that affect us on a wider scale:

This year two new councillors joined the JPC representing Barford: Victoria Hunt and Dawna Haynes, and one resignation – Simon Morgan – which means there is a vacancy on the JPC for one more councillor for Barford.

The Barford Neighbourhood Development Plan and Warwick District's Local Plan have both now been approved. This means that if land is not in the plans then any attempt by developers to build on it should be unlikely to proceed. While there have not been any large-scale applications in Sherbourne, the JPC and WDC have seen off an attempt by Gladman's to develop a large piece of land on the edge of Barford.

However, the Sand and Gravel issue at Wasperton has not gone away yet. Unfortunately, the consultations for the County Minerals Plan are still ongoing with no resolution on what will happen to the two sites that affect us, at Wasperton Farm and Glebe Farm. The only glimmer of hope is that the plan has been revised and the total requirement for the amount of sand and gravel has reduced to 6.525 million tonnes, which means there is a chance that our two sites may not be needed. The next stage of the consultation is later this year. The Sand and Gravel Action Group is continuing the fight.

#### **7 Report by Warwick District Council (by Cllr Peter Phillips (WDC))**

Over the last year I have been a member of the Executive and held the portfolio for Housing; In the last financial year the District Council has achieved the following:

- Continued the substantial upgrade of the leisure centres at both St Nicholas Park and Newbold Comyn; St Nicholas Park has now been opened and it has been extremely well received with significantly increased membership; Newbold Comyn will be fully re-opened to the public over the summer;
- Reduced the rents for all of its Council House tenants for the third year in a row;
- Spent £2.5 million on reinforcing the safety of our 9 high rise blocks in the District following the Grenfell Tower disaster
- Through the planning system it has achieved over 37% of all housing development to be affordable housing
- Despite substantial reduction in central government funding, offset by a modest rise in Council Tax, there have been no reductions in services;
- Following the approval of the Local Plan for the next 15 years, all development is now controlled within a specified plan;

- As a result of this controlled development the landscape of the approach to the south of our towns of Warwick and Leamington Spa is changing as highway upgrades are started, to accommodate the planned new housing;
- The design process has started for a sizeable Country Park which will be created to both act as a buffer between the south of Warwick housing development and the rural settlement of Bishops Tachbrook;
- We will be providing a new football stadium for Leamington FC in the south of the town.
- A start has been made in planning for a creative quarter in the south of Leamington Spa, which will regenerate the south of the town;
- Plans for the development of St Mary's land in Warwick to include cycle ways and improved open space have been approved;
- Protected all the open lands owned by the District so as to prevent unauthorized Gypsy & Traveller encampments;
- Proposed a positive solution to regenerate the Leper Hospital and bring it back into use.
- As your District Councillors we have provided advice and support to the Sand & Gravel opposition group;
- Here in Barford I have, together with the JPC, continued to keep the latest housing development off Bremridge Close under constant review with the Planning Department to ensure that all planning conditions are met. Incidentally this development also provides suitable funds to help extend Barford School as well as contributing to the maintenance of Barford's Open Spaces and Playing Fields.
- As a result of continuing good financial management, the District has been able to continue to invest in building the capacity of the voluntary and community sectors with nearly £1million of expenditure over the next three years, unlike other local councils who have ceased to make a similar commitment for a number of years.
- Similarly, the Council continues to have a sizeable fund for rural initiative grants to aid worthwhile rural community schemes, none of which would be possible if good financial management had not been the cornerstone of the District's management. The adjoining Barford Community Shop and the King George Playing Fields are good prior examples of the contributions this grant facility has provided in the past.
- As the District's Procurement Champion, I have asked Procurement to investigate how future tender enquiries should include conditions as to how the elimination of plastics will be phased out over a period of any intended contract.

Finally, I would like to rectify fake news and misinformation on two important topics;

First: The Riverside House and Covent Garden Car Park Redevelopment; the Covent Garden car park has "concrete cancer", has already a reduced parking capacity and, in time, will have to be completely rebuilt; at the same time the District Council's offices are neither fit for modern purpose nor economic to run; consequently, and after a District-wide search for alternative office accommodation none of which was either practical or possible, the Council approved unanimously a plan to combine the redevelopment of the Car Park with new modern state of the art Council Offices, and housing; these approved plans will now provide a car park with increased spaces, some apartments and the new smaller fit-for-purpose Council offices. In the possible future event of a unitary authority, these offices would then be easily marketed for use by others. Importantly this move, which includes the selling off of the Riverside House for housing, will save the tax payer £3million over the next ten years.

Second: The Newbold Comyn Golf Course. The contractor has pulled out of the contract for running this golf course and the Council is looking at options on how to best use and enhance this area. However, it is grossly misleading by some to assert that the Council was about to set this area aside for housing. It is categorically not the case and never has been. Not only is this untrue, it would be impossible since it is Green Belt and the Council is currently consulting on the best continuing use of this important open space facility.

## 8 **Report by Warwickshire County Council** (by Cllr Les Caborn)

### Budget.

For 2018-19 we set a budget rise of 4.99% made up of 2.99% for general purposes and 2% ring fenced for adult social care. Our Conservative group budget affirmed at council in February included some new and innovative projects namely:

- £150k for each of next two years to work with our borough and districts and health and primary care in partnership to reduce homelessness particularly relating to drugs ,alcohol and mental health
- £125k for a year of wellbeing jointly with Coventry to help people take more control of all aspects of health and wellbeing in their lives.
- £100k for two additional planners to work on major transport schemes
- Additional funding for children with special educational needs

### Adult Social Care

We are continuing our transformation of adult services to make them simpler to access and allow users more control of their care.

### Children's services

We continue to implement smart start which aims to give all children the best start in life from birth to starting school in partnership with health, education and all partners.

We are experiencing a rise in children in care and foster homes and Warwickshire leads the West Midlands adoption agency.

We are redesigning the transition years for children and families with special needs as they move to adulthood

### Education

Our new head of education has embarked on a consultation aimed for parents to tell WCC what it expects from education for their children

### Highways

Throughout the weather this winter we fully gritted all routes on the list with numerous extra gritting to keep them clear.

A number of major schemes are due to start including Stanks Island , Heathcote dueling, A46 Stoneleigh Island

### Digital by Default

Our service transformation to full digitized services and access to WCC is gathering pace with a full internal redesign being mapped and expert staff engaged to deliver it. Next phase or how we join up to all partners including parish councils.

### Economy

Our economy continues to thrive outperforming the West Midlands. Employment remains low and WCC is recognized for its skills and apprenticeship work.

### One Combined Authority

Warwickshire continues to be a constituent member with the leader of the county council having the finance portfolio. I also attend the health and mental health meetings. This remains the WCC position.

### Old Shire Hall

This now operating as a stand-alone business unit and is available to hire for functions, weddings and the like.

## 9 **Appointments**

9.1 Representative on Village Hall Committee. Mrs Antoinette Gordon was appointed.

9.2 Chairman of Parish Meeting for 2018-19. Mr Tony Merrygold was elected unopposed

10      **Closure**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9:52pm