

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE PARISH OF SHERBOURNE  
HELD ON MONDAY 12 APR 22 AT 7:30PM**

**Present:** Cllr Tony Merrygold (Chairman)  
Cllr John Murphy (BS&W JPC)  
Seventeen Sherbourne Electors

**Opening**

The Chairman welcomed all to the Sherbourne Annual Parish Meeting:

**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of 19 Apr 2021**

The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising

**Annual Report of Chairman of Joint Parish Council**

This is the first live Annual Parish Meeting for three years as 2020 saw us entering the first lockdown, and last year's was via zoom.

I intend to keep my report short as the main items that matter to the village are covered later in the agenda anyway.

COVID

Firstly a couple of word about COVID which is still with us. Anyone who uses the Zoe app to report Covid will know the rise in infections continues and last week WDC reported that local infections are up to 1,027 per 100,000 people. The government in its infinite wisdom only allowed us to hold virtual parish council meetings for one year despite them proving a very effective and productive way of holding meetings this is no longer allowed.

A year ago relatively few of us had contracted Covid and fortunately few had died of it. We have now reached the stage where I am sure every one of us knows someone close to us who has had Covid and many of us have had friends or relatives who have died from Covid. Fortunately despite the increasing spread, a combination of most of the population being vaccinated, and the fact that the Omicron variant not seeming as strong as the earlier variants means the level of hospitalisations and deaths isn't as high as before. But the fact that some of you here are still wearing face masks shows that we should not become complacent.

On the upside I have seen our community in all three of our parishes working together as never before over the past two years. Our residents have always helped each other but this increased noticeably during COVID with neighbours helping with shopping, hospital visits etc and long may this continue.

Minerals Plan

The Locals Minerals Plan (for the sand and gravel quarry) saga rumbles on with final responses to the amended plan being sent in in January. The Sand and Gravel group with the help of Wardell Armstrong sent in their final response and I, on behalf of the JPC, again with guidance from Wardell Armstong sent in our update.

Latest report from Ian Kemp who is helping SAG is as follows:

The Inspector is heading towards submission of his Final Report. He's suggested 'mid-April' as a timeframe for submission but personally I now think that will slip slightly. Just before the final report is submitted the report is sent to the Council to undertake a 'fact check', it isn't an opportunity for them to question any of the findings, it's more of a proof read to ensure place names / figures are correct etc. Councils are given two weeks to complete a Fact Check before the Inspector then assesses any response, tidies things up if necessary and submits the report.

Given that the Council haven't received the fact check report, yet I would probably expect mid-April to become 'end of April' but either way, I don't think we're too far off now.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

I now want to turn our attention to the South Warwickshire Local Plan. As hopefully you know, Warwick and Stratford District councils are working together on preparing a Local Plan for the whole of South Warwickshire to replace the current plans when they expire (2029 for Warwick and 2031 for Stratford).

As part of this, they put out a 'Call for Sites' so that any landowners or developers could put forward any sites that they may want to be considered for any change of use, for housing, commercial use, mixed use, solar farms etc.

This information has now been collated and published online on a new South Warwickshire Local Plan website. This includes an interactive map covering the whole of South Warwickshire and you drill into this map and see all the sites put forward within the boundaries of all three of our parishes.

As chair of the JPC I have signed up to be kept involved in the Plan process and will be attending an online update session at the end of the month.

Sherbourne Residents Association plan to talk about this later in the agenda so I won't cover the sites in detail now.

Finally, I would like to thank all our councillors and parish clerk who have served their electors well throughout the year.

Cllr Tony Merrygold

Chairman – Barford, Sherbourne and Wasperton Joint Parish Council

### **County Councillor's Report**

In May 2021, elections were held to select the councillors for Warwickshire County Council. I was honoured to be elected as the representative for the Budbrooke and Bishop's Tachbrook Division, in which Shrewley is located, replacing Les Caborn. The Conservatives formed the new administration with an increased majority.

Covid still continued to dominate many activities throughout the year, with vaccinating the population being a priority. As a county, 86% of those eligible for vaccination received at least one dose, which includes 70% of under 18s. In Warwick district the numbers are 86% of eligible residents receiving at least one dose, with 74% of under 18s doing so. This compares to the national figure of 80% and 60% for under 18s.

The new Integrated Care Scheme (ICS) for Warwickshire is taking shape and a formal submission to Health England will be submitted in the coming weeks. As part of the new ICS, the county has been divided into "places". The South Warwickshire Place (SWP) covers Warwick and Stratford District areas. The SWP will be able to focus on the health needs of South Warwickshire residents as priorities. These priorities have been identified as Respiratory Health and Inequalities, Children and Young People, and Mental Health, Suicide and Bereavement. The SWP Board will now be working to put in place plans to tackle these local issues.

The Fire Service had Ben Brook appointed as new Chief Fire Officer appointed in July 21. This was because of Kieran Amos retiring after 30 years of service in the fire sector, and as the Chief Fire Officer in Warwickshire since 2019. Sadly, only 4 months later, in November Kieran passed away after an unexpected short illness.

A national campaign for 20 is plenty was brought to the council as a motion to have all residential areas of Warwickshire reduced speed limits of 20mph. A task and finish group (TFG) was set up to look into the feasibility of such a proposal. The TFG determined, and recommended to the Cabinet, that a widespread 20mph in all residential areas would be impractical for many reasons, including defining what was a residential area or not, and would probably have a negative effect on areas that needed 20mph limits such as around schools. The TFG recommended that the decision on 20mph limits should be a decision taken more locally, where the requirements and support for such limits were better known.

The Warwickshire Minerals Plan 2018 has still not been adopted and awaiting the Inspectors further comments. The replacement of fencing along the southern end of the A429 Barford bypass has been authorized and should be installed in the coming weeks.

A request for a controlled crossing on the A429 at Sherbourne has been evaluated. The threshold for a crossing was not met by a considerable margin. As a result, the county highways team have confirmed that they will not be installing a crossing at this location.

The Youth and Community Centre was unsuccessful in its bid for a Green Shoots grant. There will be a second round of bidding later in the year. I am also looking to see if there are other funds that might be available to submit applications for grants.

Cllr. Jan Matecki

### **Solar Panel Meeting Feedback**

The Chairman led a discussion on the potential issues arising from the solar farm project along the northern side of the A46 being promoted by Namene. The expected Planning Application has not yet been submitted. Issues were raised concerning Green Belt and the tourist route between Warwick and Stratford. Mr Smith-Ryland informed the meeting that he was planning to install solar panels on adjacent land

### **Sherbourne Village Hall Committee**

We will be handing back the village hall later in the year. The intention is that Robin Smith-Ryland will provide alternative facilities for a few events a year after this, but we will have limits on what we can do. We are planning a Jubilee event on 4th June, and that may well be the last event we run from the village hall. Gerry Jackson

### **Sherbourne Residents Association**

Adam Griffiths gave a summary of the formation and recent actions of the Sherbourne Residents Association which meets every 3 to 4 months. Activities have so far concentrated on understanding and responding to the Call for Sites in the South Warwickshire Local Plan. His slides summarized the 8-stage planning process from 2021 to 2025, a map of the Sherbourne sites and suggested actions. There followed

some discussion on other possible roles for the SRA.

### **Sherbourne Neighbourhood Watch**

#### Membership

The number of those participating has remained static, with those moving away being replaced by people new to the village.

A high proportion of residents in Moat Green, Stratford Road, Watery Lane, and Vicarage Lane are signed up. There are a few members in Church Road and Sherbourne Park.

#### Communications

When the scheme started, we received alerts on relevant incidents in the area and a regular newsletter from Warwickshire Police - Warwick Rural West Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Since December, there have been significant changes to the system. There is now no local newsletter for our area (although some areas in the county have retained theirs), but a national one. The national newsletter suggests that Neighbourhood Watch should have a much broader brief, for example, organizing community events.

In addition, several different organizations now send out alerts with messages of differing importance. The number of alerts has reduced since the start, but there are still a number with little relevance to our community. Now, only those that seem significant or useful are forwarded to Sherbourne members.

However, a useful change is that any resident can sign up to receive email alerts that they think would be relevant to them.

Helen Whiter, village coordinator

### **Other Matters**

One resident asked a number of questions relating to the Access to the Festival publicized for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June, which were answered by Mr & Mrs Smith-Ryland.

### **Appointments**

1. Representative on Village Hall Committee – Gerry Jackson
2. Chairman of Parish Meeting 2022-23 – Tony Merrygold

### **Closure**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:50pm