

Arrow with Weethley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th December 2019 at 6.45pm at Arrow Village Hall

Present: Cllrs W Baldwin, I Thompson, P Havard, S Hunter, M Cargill, Clerk C Baldwin

Apologies: J Dowell

1. The minutes of the last meeting were adopted and signed as a true record.

Matters arising from those minutes.

Layby Weethley: Joan reported (by email) that the matter of the Weethley layby is still ongoing.

Street Lamp – Toll House, Arrow now repaired.

Road sign, Arrow Lane has been reported – awaiting WCC for repair.

2. Declaration of Interest.

Ian Thompson (Parenting Project)

3. Planning Matters:

New Application:

Street record, Evesham Street – felling of trees Spittle Brk.
Retention of Marquee – Ragley Hall

Mr S MacColl Arrow Grange – Removal of hedge.

Decisions:

None

4. Finance:

Payments:

Arrow Village Hall	£15.00
Clerks Salary	£606.95
Inland Revenue	£151.60
Thomas Fox	£324.00
Village Tubs/Stamps	£27.60
British Legion	£200.00
Community Heartbeat	£120.00

Receipts:

Precept	£2,760.00
Community Heartbeat	£90.00
Interest	£4.60

Bank as at 21/11/19 £8,922.98+£9101.38=£18,024.36

5. County Cllr.& District Report:

5/11/19 Green waste. This is a discretionary service provide by SDC on behalf of its residents. Currently the scheme operates across all residents however we are considering a more targeted system in the future. For example, some flats do not have a garden but in essence pay for it in their rates. The potential for charging for green waste is currently out for consultation and your views will be appreciated. An initial figure suggested for charging is £40/year per bin.

General waste- We currently have a Materials Recycling Facility in Kineton. This is approaching the end of its contract with us. As we helped set the scheme up initially, we gained a preferential rate however that will come to an end in 2022 and we will be open to market rates meaning there will be a significant increase in our costs in the order of £50 to £70 tonne. To that end we have agreed a partnering arrangement with a number of local authorities in the building of a new MRF in Coventry. This will be a state of the art facility and both expandable and modifiable in the event of changes to the waste processed. Economically this is our only sensible choice. We will become a 17% shareholder. SDC agreed a £5 loan facility to fund our contribution. This is provided by the public works loan board. There is the potential to actually generate a return by taking in trade waste and this has been factored into the calculations.

Climate change. WCC have produced an initial report showing where they are today and just what they have done over the years to reduce their carbon footprint. For example, WCC buy all their electricity from 'Green' suppliers. This does come at a very small premium from the lowest possible price.

Generally they are doing well however with a portfolio of many old buildings it will be very difficult to hit the high levels of energy efficiency in all of them without massive investment. Consequently they are refurbishing buildings and bringing them up to appropriate standards where possible.

SDC have less of an issue as they own far fewer buildings.

Regarding planning policy we are looking at how we can influence the quality of new homes regarding energy efficiency standards. Some policies we can directly influence but others are national and therefore down to the government. We will be lobbying government.

SDC have set up a climate working group to assess and recommend changes to policy and also lobbying of government.

Broadband update. We are exploring how we can get high speed BB to our outlying areas. This is not a simple task. We have also been asked by the DCMS to apply for the opportunity to become a 5G testbed. This technology is complementary in many ways to rural BB and if we are successful could help us in rolling out BB to the entire District.

Visited London Tuesday 29th and met with Jeremy Wright, Matt Warman (under secretary DCMS) and Nicky Morgan (Secretary), plus BDUK. A positive meeting and we are starting to put a plan together. (NM said she was not standing as an MP next day)

H&W Board meeting. 14/10/19. A positive meeting where we had presentations on both carers (Colin) and teenage health (Martine).

Carers. A new initiative is being implemented by Carers Trust, to give carers an opportunity for respite or simply help in caring for a relative. This scheme is just rolling out starting in Coventry however will be available across the Coventry & Warwickshire soon.

Young girl's health. It was reported that only 9% of girls in the age group 12-14 get enough exercise. An initiative is to be examined as to whether a campaign can be started to target this group (it ain't cool!)

China Trip - Tang Xianzu, poet & contemporary of Shakespeare and playwright, both died in the same year. An association has grown between the two towns (Fuzhou is a city of 4 million people) over the last 4 years and has resulted in the gift of a Peony Pavillion to Stratford.

It was a 6 day trip in total with a day travelling at each end.

While there we saw the opening ceremony of the cultural week, Hamlet, performed by a British company and an immersive play of the said Peony Pavilion.

We went out with the Local Enterprise Panel and Stratford Birthplace Trust and discussed a number of potential deals for investment into Stratford District. We were made very welcome and the hospitality excellent as was the food.

The day after we got back, 11 Chinese visitors from a conference in London arrived to see the Peony Pavilion.

Member development. A reminder that parishes can attend the SDC training sessions through WALC.

Entering budget setting period. Could be a tough one for SDC. A number of the grants we have been used to are starting to dry up such as rural grants scheme and the new home bonus which has been very good for the authority. We are heading for a budget deficit in the near term and are actively looking to measures to mitigate it.

WCC are doing a little better from the deal with government as they get the 2% adult social care allowance.

SDC. David Buckland has been confirmed as the new Chief Executive for SDC. The Deputy CE has been announced as Tony Perks. SDC has a significant amount of work going through the council for the foreseeable time and it is vital that senior management are resourced accordingly.

Remembrance It was a very busy weekend but very successful. Thank you to all who have supported the RBL.

Sexism allegations. I am very sorry to say that two members were found to have breached the code of conduct regarding making sexual remarks to female employees. Both members have been rebuked, one losing the whip and suspended from his group. The other is an independent. Sexism of this kind is unacceptable and we feel that sanctions imposed are the harshest possible for a member.

12/1/19. Attended the hearing about SUA2, or the industrial development leaving Stratford on the Alcester road.

I was allowed to speak and the inspector did agree to visit site and look at the queuing problem at the Binton/Billesley crossroads I have discussed. We will have to wait and see if anything comes from it.

Leisure management contract. This is up for renewal of contract next year and we will be going out for tender soon. The hope is that suppliers will come forward with innovative bids to improve the leisure services provided and also to incorporate a significant Health and Wellbeing element. This would refocus the provision of leisure to things like social prescribing, reablement and preventative measures.

7.

WCC: None

SDC. None

6. A.O.B. Parenting Project – It was agreed to donate £1000.00 to the charity.

Suggested that we donate our old paddles from the defibrillator to the Fire Brigade for use in training – S Hunter to contact Fire Brigade.

A refresher course on use of defibrillator suggested – S Hunter to get information from ATC..

The British Legion are holding an Open Evening on 28th January 2020.

Our precept for 2020 is to remain the same.

There is a grant fund available from the National Lottery – to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

The Tree planting programme at Arrow by Heart of England Forest will commence in the New Year.

The Reverend Adrian Guthrie and his wife Juliette will be leaving Alcester in April 2020.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm

Date of Next Meetings

Wednesday 11th March, Wednesday 17th June, Wednesday 9th September,
Wednesday 2nd December.

We wish everyone in the Parish of Arrow and Weethley a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.