

**Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting,  
January 15, 2025, 7.30pm, Jubilee Hall Clifford Chambers**  
[clerk@cliffordchambers-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cliffordchambers-pc.gov.uk)

**Present**

Cllr C. Evans  
Cllr W. Harrison  
Cllr J. Morris  
Clerk G.Rippon

County Councillor - Daren Pemberton  
Parish Champion- Louis Adam

Members of the public -14

Meeting opened at 19.31

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Apology received from District Councillor Stuart Keighley.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 None

**3. Dispensations**

3.1 None

**Public Question Time**

Five members of the public raised matters which will be considered by the PC

**4. Co-option of New Councillor**

4.1 Sarah Crang was co-opted and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Cllr Crang joined the Council table.

**5. County Councillor**

5.1 Cllr Pemberton was welcomed after a period of absence. He reported on two major issues. First, the WCC costs for adult and child social care plus SEND have increased exponentially resulting in a likely maximum permitted increase in council tax. In future 'deprivation mapping' is likely to result in the 'shires' receiving lower settlements from the government. Secondly, devolution is arriving at pace with an announcement re WCC expected by the end of January.

**6. District Councillor**

6.1 Cllr Keighley was unavailable but sent a report which is attached below.

## **7. Parish Champion**

7.1 Cllr Louis Adam was welcomed and thanked for travelling from Long Itchington. He emphasised that, although our District and County Councillors would be our first port of call with queries, as our Parish Champion, he is available as facilitator if needed. Cllr Adam holds a brief for projects and communications in cabinet.

## **8. Minutes of the previous Meeting**

8.1 The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting of November 20 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

## **9. Advertisement for Clerk**

9.1 Resolved to advertise for a new Clerk, at £16 per hour, 6 hours per week initially.

## **10. Civility and Respect Pledge**

10.1 The NALC Civility and Respect Pledge Certificate was signed by the Chair for the PC.

## **11. Internal Auditor**

11.1 Resolved to meet with Tim Light for Zoom session on February 17 2025.

## **12. Finance**

12.1 It has been established that the tax base for 2025-6 is £284.74 (Band D £59.24). Resolved to hold an Extraordinary PC Meeting before the end of January to agree the budget.

12.2 The bank mandate with National Westminster is due to be completed shortly for two signatories. Overdue invoices can then be settled.

12.3 Resolved to open a bank account with Unity bank asap and transfer Nat West accounts to Unity.

12.4 Moore will send the External Audit Report, and invoice, within the next few days.

## **13. Flooding**

13.1 Resolved to appoint Storm Geomatics to survey and provide information for flood mitigation analysis, to be funded from CIL moneys.

13.2 Resolved to engage with Alscot re the above survey

13.3 Recent contact with WCC Highways indicates that they are unlikely to have resources to assess and jet the drains in the main street while other communities are being cut off and properties flooded. Resolved to consider applying for a grant from the Community Climate and Nature Fund for this purpose. To engage with other PCs who have undertaken successful flood mitigation projects.

## **14. Chair's report**

14.1 Chair suggested that the Flood Working Group be reconvened, possibly linking in with the B4632 group the PC hope to form with Quinton. According to the SW plan, the ATW site is likely to be developed for more housing.

## **15. Website, emails and IT support**

15.1 Cllr Harrison had investigated alternatives and costs and recommended Aubergine at £499 for one year. This means continuing with Barry Saunders who reliably provides an excellent service. Resolved. Cllr Harrison to provide updates.

## **16. Correspondence**

16.1 Cllr Keighley sent a link to a survey re the shortfall in funding for the police, attached below.

16.2 The village hall submitted an invoice for work on the recreation ground trees. Funding had been agreed but the invoice can't be settled until the bank account is accessible. Hall and contractor have been contacted.

16.3 A parishioner wrote expressing concern about recent and repeated floods to her property.

## **17. Christmas Tree**

17.1 The PC expressed gratitude to Stratford Garden Centre for providing the Christmas tree and lights which were placed at the entrance to the village. The lights placed in the churchyard two years ago by the PC have been gifted to St Helen's.

## **18. Planning**

24/02886/tree - work on trees in Conservation Area, at the Old Rectory.  
Granted

24/02902/tree - work on tree in Conservation Area, at the Village Hall.  
Granted

24/02685/Ful - Sheep Keys Covert. The PC submitted Support, with comments

## **19. Parish Councillors' reports**

19.1 Cllr Harrison passed information from her training with ESPO re procurement. Three Cllrs intend to attend the Parish Forum on Jan 30. Cllr Harrison raised the PSPO consultation regarding Dog Fouling which is open until January 24, 2025. To register comments - Proposed PSPO (Dog Fouling) Consultation, Stratford District Council. Cllr Harrison has queried whether e-copies of the newsletter would appropriately be placed on the website but is concerned about misinformation due to the lack of 'fact checking' within the publication if placed on the website and available beyond the Parish boundary.

19.2 Cllr Evans established contact re the Elgin solar farm (re CIL moneys) but no response yet. She suggested Code of Conduct training (free, by SDC, Jan 28) for Cllr Crang and will advertise dates of PC meetings - third Wednesday evening, monthly bar August and December - and confirm with Hall.

20. **Date of next Ordinary Meeting.** February 19 2025, 7.30pm

21. Meeting closed at 20.55.

Draft

## **District Councillors Report - January 2025**

### **District Council Performance and Parish Forum**

LGA undertook a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) review in March 2024. Feedback received was very positive in that the CPC reported *the Council is well run, recognises its challenges and is ambitious for the future of the District. There is much to be proud of in how the Council is delivering for the communities of this large and diverse area.*

The CPC report led to an action plan for 10 specific recommendations. This action plan has periodic review and the progress is monitored by Cabinet.

One recommendation was to strengthen the **Citizen's Panel** and develop a **Parish Forum** to engage more effectively with local people on a range of opportunities and challenges. This is the catalyst for the Parish Forum which is arranged on MS Teams on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025. All Parish Council Clerks and Chairs have been invited to participate. The Council has allowed funding for a Parish Liaison Officer to support these efforts and the role is now being scoped out.

A follow up review of the CPC will be held by the LGA on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

### **South Warwickshire Local Plan**

The Preferred Options Consultation went live on 10<sup>th</sup> January and is **open until 7<sup>th</sup> March**. It is an opportunity for the Parish Council and Residents to 'have a say' in the development proposals for the area up to 2050. The Clifford Chambers Neighbourhood Plan was made on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and runs to 2031. It is this document, which in conjunction with the District Core Strategy, provides policy for development within the Parish. It is important to keep a Neighbourhood Plan up to date and relevant and although there is no set guidance on the review period it is commonly accepted that plans should be reviewed every 5 years.

Full details of the Preferred Options Consultation are available on the SWLP website.

### **Community Climate and Nature Fund Phase 2 (CCNF)**

The District Council has provided a discretionary fund (c. £56000) for grants towards community projects which aim to tackle climate change either by direct action or adaptation to future climate change challenges. Details can be found on the District Council Website. Applications will open on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and **close on February 2025**.

### **Devolution White Paper and Local Government Reorganisation**

Government announced plans to devolve more powers to Regional Strategic Authorities in a White Paper published before Christmas. In addition, there are proposals to move to a single tier of local government which will mean District Councils in two tier authorities will be abolished and Unitary Authorities will be the structure for the future. There has been much coverage in the press and concerns expressed about the consultation process between authorities, the size of the Unitaries and the appropriate grouping into Strategic Authorities which are set to represent c. £1.5M residents.

The Leader of Warwickshire County Council (Cllr Seccombe) has written to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution asking for consideration of a new Unitary Council for the County and the postponement of the County Council Elections which are currently scheduled for May 2025.

END



IN COLLABORATION WITH SLCC, NALC, OVW, COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

**This is to certify that  
Clifford Chambers & Milcote Parish Council  
has signed up to the Civility & Respect Pledge**

Clifford Chambers & Milcote Parish Council believes now is the time to put Civility and Respect at the Top of the Agenda and start a culture change for the local council sector.

Certificate Number 1725

**Clifford Chambers & Milcote Parish Council will:**

- Treat all councillors, clerk and all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their role.
- Put in place a training programme for councillors and staff.
- Sign up to Code of Conduct for councillors.
- Have in place good governance arrangements including staff contracts and Dignity at Work Policy.
- Commit to seek professional help at early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- Commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens.
- Continue to learn from best practice in the sector and aspire to being a role model / champion council e.g., via Local Council Award Scheme.
- Support the continued lobbying for the change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

**Signed on behalf of the council by:**

Chairperson/Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Clerks

This has just come to my attention, and I would appreciate you raising awareness of this survey to your Parish Councillors, Residents Associations and Residents where possible.

It is a very simple survey highlighting the shortfall in funding for Warwickshire Police and asking if you would be prepared to accept an increase in Police precept in the next budget year. It takes just a few minutes to complete.

The results of the survey are to be reported in February.

Kind regards

Stuart

[Police Budget Consultation 2025/26 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire](#)