

## **Minutes of the Meeting of Fillongley Parish Council** **Held at Fillongley Village Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr A R Pargetter, Cllr S Onions, Cllr A White, Cllr J Hooke, Cllr D Wardley and Cllr S Taylor.  
Clerk: Mrs H Badham. There were 14 members of the public in attendance.

### **14188 AGENDA ITEM 1 APOLOGIES**

There were Apologies received from Cllr Antrobus. Apologies also from NWBC Cllr Mark Simpson.

### **14189 AGENDA ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to make declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest in respect of items on the agenda. No declarations were made.

### **14190 AGENDA ITEM 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024, having been previously circulated and read, and amended with the removal of one line in ref 1481e. , were then approved on the proposition of Cllr White and Seconded by Cllr Hooke. All in favour.

### **14191 AGENDA ITEM 4 PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Meeting Closed. There was discussion regarding;

- The tactile paving at the new crossing at Wood End Lane has been laid the wrong way and is currently guiding blind and partially sighted people towards the ditch.
- The family of the Late Dennis Fletcher have donated a painting of Fillongley Church by Reg Farmer to the Council. The family have said that the Council could hang the picture, donate it, raffle it at their discretion. Cllr Hooke will write to the family to thank them.
- NWBC Leader of the Council David Wright wished to publicly state that the recent press reports that NWBC is in favour of a unitary authority and the abolition of NWBC is completely false. NWBC are not in favour of this, nor the postponing of local elections. NWBC do understand that the Government are not intending to leave this tier of local government so are actively looking at other authorities as they believe that the residents in North Warwickshire do not look to Warwick but work/socialise/shop in other adjacent areas such as Tamworth and Solihull etc. He confirmed that none of the districts and boroughs in Warwickshire are in favour of the merger. Meeting re-opened.

### **14192 AGENDA ITEM 5 PROGRESS REPORTS for information**

- a. **Fibre to the Premises.** City Fibre have been and are very busy in the village putting in fibre. Cllr White has registered an interest with them in getting full fibre broadband and would encourage as many parishioners to do so as possible as it may result in quicker connection for Fillongley. This broadband is not available through BT.
- b. **Change of speed limit in Wood End Lane.** No further progress reported from Cllr Humphreys.
- c. **Road marking on Coventry Road (pinch point).** Despite being assured that this will be completed by Christmas, to date it is not done.
- d. **Trip rail proposal.** No further progress. Clerk to request site visit with Tony Burrows from WCC.
- e. **Football Changing Rooms update.** No further progress. Clrk to inform NWBC that is unlikely to be able to spend the £50k from the UKSPF within the deadline and ask for an extension.

- f. **Traffic in Church Lane.** Traffic survey still not yet completed
- g. **E Road Meriden Road – Kinwalsey.** No update.
- h. **Playground update.** No further progress.
- i. **New Speedwatch camera.** No progress.
- j. **Traffic on Coventry Road/Give & Takes.** No progress.
- k. **Eastlang Road – Double yellow lines request.** No further information.
- l. **Complaint re sewage waste on Broad Lane.** The deadline for the resident to repair the septic tank is tomorrow. No further information available.
- m. **Raffle for VE Day 80 Beacon Lighting.** Clerk confirmed NWBC can only accept cheque payments for the lottery licence not BACS, so has raised a cheque for signing today. Also, there was discussion as to the format of the raffle; ie, a numbered list or actual raffle tickets. The Clerk has found ticket printing online for £26 which would enable tickets to be sold further afield. As before, tickets to be £5 each, multiple purchases are encouraged (not restricted to one ticket per person). Each ticket must be for a specific person over the age of 18 and all profits to go to the Royal British Legion. The draw to take place at the April Parish Council meeting. Cllr Hooke proposed getting tickets printed, Seconded by Cllr Taylor. All in favour.
- n. **Speed surveys on Nuneaton Road and Meriden Road.** These have not yet been completed.
- o. **Walnut Cottage.** No response has been received and the trees are currently still in situ.
- p. **Reaching Communities Grant Spend.** The grant needs to be spent in line with original application but the deadline is March 2026 so there is more time to find match funding.
- q. **Tree Survey Works.** The planning application for works to trees in the Conservation Area has been submitted and is out for public consultation. Western Power have visited Chapel Green and the power will be switched off and the works to that tree completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. Residents at Little Oaks have been informed. Western Power will contact any residents who will have their power interrupted.
- r. **Complaint of Footpath on Tamworth Road.** Lots of complaints from FPC and residents have been logged but the drains are not cleared and the kerbstones are not planned to be raised yet to prevent the water runoff.
- s. **Cottage Inn.** No Community Interest Company has come forward so the Cottage Inn is now on the open market.
- t. **Clerks Review – WALC – 28/29 January.** Cllr Pargetter and Cllr Wardley both confirmed that they have received invitations to the TEAMS meeting.
- u. **Lengthsman PPE, induction etc.** Jamie has had his induction with WCC. He has so far just got a high vis jacket and gloves and will be ordering PPE tomorrow (coat, leather gloves, boots and glasses). He has been working in the Cemetery clearing paths and car park area. The tap in the Cemetery broke and he turned off the mains and has purchased and fitted a new tap (£55 plus VAT).

#### **14193 AGENDA ITEM 6 MATTERS FOR DECISION**

- a. **Little Oaks.** Mr Dumbleton has responded to confirm that anyone is able to apply to the County Court under Section 41 of the Commons Act 2006 for a restoration order. Cllr Pargetter proposed that the Clerk should do this on behalf of the Council as soon as possible given the current workload. Seconded by Cllr Wardley. All in favour.
- b. **Fillongley Neighbourhood Plan.** Clerk shared the results from the recent Housing Needs Assessment which, together with the earlier consultations, have provided evidence for the proposed new alterations to the FNP. Cllr Pargetter thanked Cllr White and the Clerk for their work on this. Cllr Wardley proposed adopting the plan as it now is, and to send it out for public consultation. Seconded by Cllr Hooke. All in favour. Clerk to send to NWBC for printing and immediate distribution.

- c. **Solar Farm Appeal.** Clerk summarised progress/works to date;
- i The Case Management Conference went ahead by TEAMS. FPC was represented by the barrister however he had a very poor internet signal and was unable to fully participate.
  - ii The Inspector has now allocated 2 more days so that it is now a 6-day Inquiry
  - iii A “topic-based” Agenda has been agreed.
  - iv The first day of the Inquiry will be comments from Interested Parties in the morning followed by a site visit.
  - v It would be useful for the Heritage Consultant to attend the site visit with the Clerk to ensure that all points are covered.
  - vi The Heritage Consultant will then need to stay overnight as the Heritage cross examination will be the following day.
  - vii The Planning Consultant and Barrister will need to be present for all the days and charge per day.
  - viii The Clerk noted that costs are increasing and these are concerning but this will be reviewed with the precept discussion.
  - ix The Clerk has received notification of several “Statements of Common Ground” from the Appellant. The Inspector has requested that as many of these are completed beforehand to shorten the arguments/discussion/cross questioning and therefore the length and costs of the Inquiry. Clerk had already informed Councillors of these and suggested a dedicated meeting to discuss the detail, which was proposed for Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30pm at the village hall. This was agreed by Councillors.

Chairman recorded thanks to the Clerk for the ongoing work that she is doing for Appeal.

- d. **WWT email re Corley Moor – Landowner Agreement.** WWT have asked for permission to install leaky dams to assist with natural flood management and reduce the speed of flow downstream. They have also drawn up a draft SFI for future funding for management (grass cutting) of the common. Further to discussion, Cllr White proposed signing the agreement, Seconded by Cllr Wardley. One abstention, rest in favour.

#### **14194 AGENDA ITEM 7 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. Road Closure – Sandy Lane 10/02/25 – 12/02/25. *Noted.*
- b. Email from Fillongley Cricket Club regarding recent award. *Congratulations to be sent to FCC.*
- c. Police Budget Survey. *As before – noted.*
- d. Email re Willow tree on Chapel Green. *Noted, this has now been resolved with the date for the works to be 3<sup>rd</sup> February.*
- e. Shawbury Lanes – Local Wildlife Site. *Noted. FPC are pleased that WCC will now be cutting verges in line with management plan.*
- f. WCC “Warwickshire Matters – December edition. *Noted.*
- g. Email regarding brook monitor. *Noted, Cllr Humphreys will continue to try and source funds for this.*
- h. Email regarding relining the culvert under Coventry Road/Church Lane. *Noted. Particularly noted that this is only repair of the area that WCC are responsible for (not under the Manor, nor the Churchyard) and neither other body has been contacted to discuss the possibility of a joint project to benefit the long term flood protection of the village.*
- i. WWT emails re Corley Moor – hay cutting/maintenance/NFM/moth survey. *Noted. No issues with moth survey. As earlier, SFI to be signed.*
- j. NALC newsletter ( x 2) *Noted.*

- k. Footpath gate broken off Blackhall Lane. Clerk has already reported to landowner and PRow officer at WCC.
- l. WRCC AGM 30 Jan, 3-4.45pm. *Noted.*
- m. Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub email. *Noted.*

**Planning Applications to consider;**

**PAP/2024/0569** 7, Bourne Brook Close, Fillongley. Proposal; Erection of kitchen extension and new boundary fencing. *No Objections.*

**PAP/2024/0566** Mill House, Ousterne Lane. Proposal; Creating new orangery. Removing existing glass conservatory roof and installing new flat roof with glass lantern. New swing/folding glazed screen and other internal modifications. *No Objections.*

**PAP/2024/0592** Land Adjacent to Bournebrook School, Junction of Coventry Road/Nuneaton Road. Proposed Works to Trees in a Conservation Area. *Parish Council application – no comment.*

**Determinations of Planning Applications;**

**PAP/2024/0483** Blabers Hall Farm, Green End Road, Proposal: Application To Vary Condition 2 Of FAP/2003/7885 Relating To Change Of Use To 30 Bay Touring Caravan Site With Associated Shower/Toilet Block. *Granted.*

**PAP/2024/0457** Arden Livery And Menage, Tippers Hill Lane. Proposal: Retrospective Application For Retention Of 4 Stables And 3 Equestrian Containers. *Granted.*

**Ongoing Planning Infringement issues;**

- Heart of England Camping issues  
The Cleeve, Meriden Road *CMP/2020/00101*  
Mill Field Farm *CMP/2023/00020*
- Land to the North of Aston Farm,  
Newtown Lane *CMP/2024/00024*

**14195 AGENDA ITEM 8 FINANCE for approval;**

Payee	Reason	Nett	Reclaimable VAT	Gross	Method
H Badham	SCP 24 December				
HMRC	Tax				BACS
H Badham	Broadband January	10.00		10.00	BACS
MB System Networks	Invoice	7.35	1.47	8.82	DD
Scottish Power	Changing Rooms	42.14		42.14	DD
Water Plus	Cemetery inv 07784637	0.17	0.03	0.20	DD
Water Plus	Changing Rms inv 07766465	39.40	3.84	43.24	DD
Tom White Waste	Cemetery IAC 147049	36.03	7.21	£43.24	BACS
Unity Trust	Monthly charges	6.00		6.00	DD
Unity Trust	Monthly charges- CEM	6.00		6.00	DD CEM
FVH	Donation	1000.00		1000.00	BACS
Heather Badham	Paper	20.00		20.00	BACS
Fillongley JCC	Magazine Donation	300.00		300.00	BACS
Fill. Ed. Foundation	Woodyard rental	1.89		1.89	BACS

No 5 Chambers	CMC	500.00	100.00	600.00	BACS
NWBC	Raffle licence	40.00	0	40.00	CHQ
J Barthram	Tap	55.00	11.00	66.00	BACS CEM

Cllr Wardley proposed approval of payments, Seconded by Cllr White. All in favour.

**14196 AGENDA ITEM 9 To set the Precept for 2025/26**

The costs expected to run the Council for the next financial year were scrutinised in fine detail. There are increased costs, partly due to the increase in general prices and partly due to the increased cost nationally of Employers National Insurance Contributions which are also to affect FPC.

The costs for the Appeal were also examined closely. The Council have a good case and although costs are now higher due to the increased length and altered type of appeal, Councillors felt that it is important to follow the process through. Ultimately, the only way to pay these costs is through the precept. The money could be borrowed externally which would be further costs for interest, or it could be "borrowed" from the Cemetery bank account (which has been accruing for future maintenance of the Cemetery) and then paid back into that account in the next few years.

Various amounts for the precept were discussed openly in front of the members of the public. It is important to be able to pay the costs for the appeal and this is just after the beginning of the financial year. An overestimate of costs was considered to be wise so that the Council can continue to meet its obligations throughout the financial year even if there were to be unforeseen circumstances. It is planned however to keep costs to a minimum so the "loan" from the Cemetery account and the Councils reserves can be replenished as soon as possible. This could mean a lower increase in future years (depending on other costs).

Cllr Wardley proposed a precept of £65,000, which according to the precept calculator is a cost of £96.74 for a Band D property for the coming year, or £8.06 per month. Seconded by Cllr White. All in favour.

**14197 COUNCILLORS REPORTS and items for future agenda**

- Cllr Wardley reported attending the TEAMS meeting from the Road Safety Partnership about Central Reporting of speeding hotspots. It transpires that areas can be reported, but when a location has been reported once, further reports will not be looked into for 12 months. There is also a significant number of criteria that have to be fulfilled before any action is recommended and then, if there are any recommendations, the costs have to be sourced elsewhere. In reality it will only be useful where there are significant fatalities or injuries.
- The rottweiler dogs are out again in Broad Lane. Clerk to contact owners again and also EHO at NWBC.
- Cllr Taylor reported that she has been asked for the Council to provide a grit bin on Mill Lane as it was icy again recently.
- Clerk reminded Councillors of SoCG meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.30pm.

**14198 AGENDA ITEM 10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date of next regular meeting to be 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025, plus extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 as per Minute 14193c. Meeting closed at 9.40pm

**14199 AGENDA ITEM 11 VILLAGE HALL BUSINESS**

- **New lease.** No further progress
- **Asbestos Survey.** No further progress
- **Hirer-** Non payment of charges.
- **Damaged Overhead Barrier.** No donation to the VH funds yet received.

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>Method</b>
J Moore	VH bkgs/Manpower December		BACS
HMRC	Tax		BACS
EE	December	10.79	DD
Domestic & General	Contract -December	43.00	DD
British Gas – gas	Inv 9808869	180.16	DD
British Gas - electricity	Inv 9825996	140.83	DD
Water Plus	Inv 07675979 and Inv 07947757	£72.81 and £128.16	DD
Tom White Waste	IAC 143230 and IAC 147052	£117.95 and £103.56	BACS
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Charges	5.40	DD
U T of Wm Avery	Annual Rental	19.98	BACS

Cllr Hooke proposed approval of payments, Seconded by Cllr Wardley. All in favour.