

# BINTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**In attendance** – Cllrs R Cox, D Day, A Finch, M Flaxman (Chair), Lloyd and Taylor- County and District Councillor Mark Cargill and Clerk Karen Parnell

One member of the public was present.

1. Apologies  
Cllr D Burton
2. Declaration of interest on items on the Agenda  
None
3. To approve the minutes of the meeting of September 2019  
The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed as such by the chairman.
4. Public participation – to receive any questions from the public (15 minutes maximum).  
The meeting will be closed and reopened after this session.  
John James of the Patient Participation Group explained that he is visiting the sixteen parishes which are served by Bidford Health Centre. The group was set up around ten years ago but was formalised in 2015. They act as a friend and advisor via meetings and discussions which involve health care professionals and patients. The group meets bi-monthly and a well-attended dementia café has been set up.  
Topical evenings on related subjects continue to take place and the PC will publicise the service throughout Binton.
5. Matters arising from the minutes not dealt with elsewhere; for information only and are items not on the Agenda.  
None
6. County and District Councillor's report.  
Cllr M Cargill  
**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 £30-40/year per bin.  
We currently use an MRF 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 then be open to market rates meaning there will be a significant increase in our costs. £50 to £70 potential increase. 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 through 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 & WCC 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 were 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)

**China trip.** I was asked to represent the leader of the council who is unable to fly at the moment due to an operation.

Tang Xianzu, is a famous Chinese poet & contemporary of Shakespeare, both dying 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 the Peony Pavillion to Stratford.

It was a 6 day trip 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 Pavillion.

We went out with the LEP 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.

**Member development.** Reminder parishes can attend training sessions

**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 doing 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.

**SUA2/Binton-Billesley junction.**

Appeal started on the 12th. I maintained my objection and spoke at the enquiry. This will not stop the scheme but will focus the attention of the inspector and developers to my concerns about the safety of the junction. The inspector has agreed to a site visit.

7. Planning

Arrangements regarding works to trees were discussed.

8. Speed Watch Group

A problem has been found with the data and this has been reported.

9. To set the precept for 2020/21

Cllr Flaxman expounded on the budget and clarified the current position.

Village maintenance costs were discussed as were Village Hall works, a potential election and a build to reserves.

The precept was agreed at £ 5500.00. Proposed Cllr Flaxman Seconded Cllr Finch and agreed unanimously.

10. Payments

Clerks Salary and Expenses £ 385.00

Tom Lloyd (Gardening) £ 48.00

Binton Village Hall £ 200.00

1 & 1 Internet £ 61.12

Receipts:

Precept 50% £ 2500.00

11. Exchange of information

None

Date of next meeting.

7<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Meeting closed 8.30pm