

## BINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Assembly held in Binton Village Hall on  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Flaxman (in the Chair)  
Councillors Richard Cox, Alex Finch, Tom Lloyd, Hazel Martin and Colin Taylor  
Clerk: Karen Parnell - One member of the public was present

1) **Apologies for acceptance**

SDC Cllr Manuela Perteghella

2) **Minutes** of the Parish Assembly held in 2023

The minutes were signed as an accurate record.

3) **Matters arising** from those minutes

None

4) **Chairman's report**

It's been yet another interesting and at the same time alarming year with the (hopefully) end of the COVID pandemic and the continuation of the Ukraine hostilities and the start of the Gaza war. Hopefully things have returned to a semblance of normal in the UK although industrial action, which I thought would have finished by now, in the public sector continues to be disruptive and potentially harmful to the public at large. Additionally, we have a general election to look forward to. The parish Council is currently under strength at 6 councillors from a total of 7.

Parish council meetings have continued in person. The Binton WhatsApp group and the Binton Life Facebook page are active and running well. Many events have continued to take place in the last year around the Village Hall. We have continued to maintain the Village Green as well as possible and the Council supports our local church with a small maintenance grant and the Village Hall with a contribution to the running costs.

The re-established Village Hall Committee continues to run the hall successfully with a considerable number of initiatives. The accounts and the Committee's report on the Village Hall activities follows this report. I would wish to minute my thanks again to Laura Hamilton for stepping into the breach so well after the resignations of last year.

The committee, chaired by Cllr Finch, must be congratulated by the Parish Council on the continued village activities promoted at the hall.

Regarding speeding and traffic volumes which continue to be a focus for residents, there is a report, as part of the annual meeting which follows, on the

acquisition of a third speed warning sign. In addition, work has been completed at the western end of the Shottery Western Relief Road. Completion, unfortunately now projected to be August 2025 as National Highways and Bloor Homes cannot agree on a date to commence work at the Wildmoor end. For reasons not clear to anyone, National Highways had prioritised the construction of a close by roundabout to provide access to the, as yet totally unstarted, industrial estate off the A46 at Drayton Manor Farm.

The delayed completion of the by-pass has been taken up with National Highways by our local Councillor and Bloor Homes have now confirmed that a start on the Wildmoor roundabout is likely to be in summer 2024, this is because there are delays to the approvals for the Drayton Manor Farm access road. WCC have completed their works to improve the surface of Church Bank in Lower Binton.

The parish council, in setting the precept for 2024/25, reversed the 10% reduction of 2023/24 now that inflation appears to be moving in the right direction. We set aside a budget of £2,000 for unspecified village improvements. This will be discussed as part of the following meeting agenda as consideration for the funding for the third speed warning sign which will cost £2,760 exc VAT. Current liquidity would cover that added cost.

All in all, a busy year to come with a reduced parish council going forward: My personal thanks to those residents who have attended our meetings, the Parish Clerk, my Parish Council colleagues, the Village Hall Committee and our local County and District Councillors.

Mike Flaxman  
Chair  
Binton Parish Council

5) **Village Hall Committee**  
**Binton Village Hall Committee Annual Report 2023-2024**

**Committee Members:**

Laura Hamilton (Chair) Alexander Finch (Vice Chair), Diana Scott, Susan Joyce, Lizzie Bentley, and Victoria Roberts

**Introduction**

The pop-up café, on the second Saturday of each month, has been going from strength to strength and is well attended by villagers and people from further afield. The pop-up shop has been used by local residents to sell craftwork, produce and homemade goods (e.g. crochet, honey, paintings, cards, and edible goods 10% of takings are taken by the pop up). In the spring and summer there was a 'seedling swap' and a 'crop swap.'

A number of volunteers have assisted with the pop up during the year - by baking cakes, helping to set up, serving food and drinks and washing up. Lots of

contacts have been made between residents of the village and there is a real camaraderie and enthusiasm to be involved. New groups have been formed as a result of these relationships – e.g. a Binton walking group. In December, the committee decided to hold a pop-up event where all food and drink was free to celebrate Christmas and thank Binton residents for their support during the year.

The Committee also decided to finance and organise a 'Binton in Bloom' project. Committee members and residents planted daffodil bulbs and bedding plants at the entrances to the village and on the village green. This initiative is to be continued.

On Mothers' Day visitors to the pop up were given 'seed bombs' to further promote the 'Binton in Bloom' initiative. Laura continued to organise and run the hall hire during the year.

In conjunction with St Peter's church there was a Coronation tea party which raised funds to plant three commemorative trees in the churchyard. Further activities in conjunction with the PCC (e.g. harvest festival and summer fete) are under discussion.

### **Summary Accounts:**

Income: £6352.31, Outgoings: £3035.19 Closing Balance: £7032.67

The detailed accounts are attached below.

### **Room Hire**

Income £2775

### **Regular bookings**

Monday: Pilates (am) / Yoga (pm)

Tuesday: 11+ tuition (pm)

Thursday: Yoga (am and pm)

2nd Saturdays: Pop up café and shop for local produce

### **One off hire**

Magic shows, birthday parties, Christenings, wreath making workshop (there are plans for further floristry workshops going forwards), art exhibitions (plans have been discussed for regular art exhibitions) elections and local councillor surgery.

### **Maintenance:**

All electrics have been checked and verified.

Down heaters reinstalled.

The roof has been repaired (some damage caused on hall ceiling by leak)

Fire door in kitchen has been repaired.

A smart meter has been installed.

**Future Plans:**

The ceiling will have to be redecorated because of the roof leak. The committee will investigate improving insulation and adding secondary glazing to improve energy efficiency and reduce heating bills.

A portable ramp – to improve disabled access is going to be costed. The possibility of adapting a WC for disabled access is being explored.

**6) District Councillor's report**

Stratford District Council Highlights year 1 May 2023-April 24

**May 2023**

- Local elections are held on 4 May 2023.
- The council's administration formally handed over to the Liberal Democrat group of councillors on 24 May 2023.

**July 2023**

- Cabinet agrees to re-introduce a Concessionary Parking Permit for state pension aged District residents. Bridgeway carpark. This comes live in October. Other Stratford town car parks are being considered.

**September 2023**

- Cabinet agrees to support the designation of Lench Meadows as a Local Nature Reserve and be managed for wildlife for the long-term future. This will be overseen by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

- The Shopmobility service is transferred to Active Mobility to safeguard future provision for an initial period of three years and would operate from two sites within the town: the existing Shopmobility office at Bridgeway car park and the existing Active Mobility office in Union Road. Shopmobility is a service that provides mobility scooters, wheelchairs and walking aids for people with either permanent or temporary limited mobility. This enables greater independence to get around Stratford-upon-Avon town centre independently, with freedom and confidence.

Membership is free of charge. The equipment is also free to use for daily hire for local residents of Stratford Upon Avon and surrounding areas.

**October 2023**

- Planning Service Review takes place with the aim of improving the Council's planning services, led by the Local Government Association.
- The final list of projects to be funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). Thirty-seven community projects across the District are granted funding.

## **November 2023**

- The council agrees to the Climate Change Fund of £100,000. An opportunity for parish councils, as well as constituted community and charity groups to apply for grant funding for green initiatives in their local community.
- Four new CCTV cameras are installed in Stratford-upon-Avon as a part of the Home Office Safer Streets Initiative.

## Stratford on Avon District Council Lib Dem Administration Highlights

### Lib Dem First Year Highlights 2023/4

- Podback recycling scheme is launched. Residents are able to recycle their plastic or aluminium coffee pods at home by signing up for free on the Podback website <https://www.podback.org/> Podback is a nationwide, not-for-profit, coffee pod recycling service created by the biggest names in coffee pod systems, Nespresso, NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto and Tassimo, to give people who enjoy the quality and taste of coffee pods simple and easy ways to recycle them.

## **December 2023**

- Full Council adopts a new Council Plan for 2023 – 2027. We aim to be recognised as a leader for supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents, protecting our environment, delivering sustainability, and innovation. The Council Plan may be found on the District Council's website [Council Plan 2023 - 2027](#) | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

## **January 2024**

- Cabinet agrees to allocate Community Infrastructure Levy funds. The five local projects including, community centres and a village hall, a hospital and public open space are set to benefit from £2,065,166 of CIL Funds. The Luddington Village Hall is one of the projects which was approved for funding in the Welford on Avon ward.

## **February 2024**

- The Council's budget is set with no cuts to services. This includes funds for the Rural Crime Advisers and funds to support the UBUS service. Funds have also been set aside for the District Council to investigate the use of waste vegetable oil in their refuse truck fleet, which can cut carbon emissions by up to ninety per cent.
- Stratford on Avon District Council's Rural Crime Advisers win a Neighbourhood Policing Award from Warwickshire Police. The Rural Crime Advisers would very happily come to have a surgery about rural crime prevention during a coffee morning in village halls. If interested, please contact me.

- Stratford-on-Avon District Council expands online access to its meetings. All public meetings can now be viewed as Council Meeting Webcasts on the District Council's website or as recordings on the Youtube channel. This will strengthen transparency on how decisions are made.

- Residents in Stratford on Avon District Council are some of the best recyclers in the country coming fifth in the top ten Councils for reuse, recycling and composting.

Figures released show that Stratford-on-Avon District Council is ranked 5th with a recycling rate of 60.0% for last year (2022/23).

### **March 2024**

#### Stratford on Avon District Council Lib Dem Administration Highlights

##### Lib Dem First Year Highlights 2023/4

- A New Grounds Maintenance Contract for the District Council. This includes more environmentally-friendly measures and "No-Mow May".

- Rooftop solar panels will be installed at Stratford Leisure Centre, following Stratford-on-Avon District Council's successful bid in Phase II of the Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund. The District Council has been awarded £283,000 to provide grant funding for capital investments to help swimming pools become more energy efficient. The funding will be used to install Photo Voltaic (PV) panels on Stratford Leisure Centre's roof, which will help to reduce the leisure centre's energy bills and save carbon emissions from entering the atmosphere each year - helping the fight against climate change.

- EV Training Academy Stratford upon Avon College Stratford-on-Avon District

Council's Cabinet has approved the capital funding of £625,000 to Stratford-upon-Avon College to establish an Automotive Electric Vehicle (EV) Training Academy. The financial year of 2024/2025 is the first period where skills funding has been provided as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The £625,000 capital funding is being used to widen the College's offer in the District's significant automotive manufacturing and engineering sector. The College seeks to ensure that the automotive training facilities are upgraded to meet the transition of the industry to supply and manufacture hybrid and electric vehicles.

### **April 2024**

- Future Allocation of CIL funding Revised approach to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Receipts to move from bid-led to evidence-led process of allocating this portion of receipts is agreed by Cabinet. Currently, the District Council uses an annual open bidding process to allocate its portion of CIL that

must be spent on infrastructure that supports development. However, there are more strategic and proactive ways to allocate CIL receipts. This change, alongside the proposal to pause the annual cycle of CIL, will allow work to be focused on infrastructure, and CIL receipts to accrue ahead of implementation of new process. This change in approach also coincides with the work on the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP), which identifies a new spatial distribution of development. This will ensure that the proper infrastructure can be planned by the SWLP once the CIL receipts have been allocated. The portions of CIL allocations which go directly to Parish Councils as part of new developments will be unaffected by this change.

- Stratford-on-Avon District Council opens two new Changing Places toilets across the District, at Bell Court Shopping Centre in Stratford-upon-Avon and the British Motor Museum in Gaydon. Changing Places are toilet facilities for people with profound and multiple disabilities. They are fitted with specialist equipment such as a hoist and changing bench. They provide sufficient space for up to two carers to support the person with a disability to use the Changing Place.

#### Stratford on Avon District Council Lib Dem Administration Highlights

##### Lib Dem First Year Highlights 2023/4

- The council has passed unanimously the biodiversity emergency motion, which seeks to safeguard and enhance biodiversity for our local wildlife, and access to nature for residents.

- Stratford-on-Avon District Council adopted its revised Open Space Supplementary Planning Document following a public consultation, where all Public Open Space as part of new developments will now be adopted by either the local Town/Parish Council or by the District Council. This is in response to the growing amount of public open space provided in associated with new development and concerns raised by residents about:

- Charges levied by the private management companies appointed by the developers to maintain the public open space which are not always made transparent at the time of purchase, can change every year and are unlimited.

- The quality of the maintenance work carried out.

Also, where a Parish or Town Council decides not to take ownership of public open space, the District Council would generally take ownership of the land, with responsibility for ongoing maintenance. The option of passing maintenance responsibilities onto private management companies would no longer be included in Section 106 agreements. While this policy unfortunately cannot be applied retrospectively, we need to wait for national government to change legislation and extend the Right to Manage to freehold properties in estates where maintenance companies currently operate.

## Other updates

### Vectos Studies and Jacobs reports (Transport reports)

The Vectos report was commissioned in partnership with Stratford District Council (SDC) and Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Homes England and explores various transport options for the Long Marston Airfield Garden Village.

Following finalisation with the Vectos studies, there were concerns raised by WCC, therefore it was agreed by the two councils at that time that WCC would commission a further study (known as the Jacobs report) and that all three studies would be published at the same time. WCC have been managing the Jacobs work.

The first two studies by Vectos Transport Consulting had as scope to identify ways of serving the developments south of Stratford in a sustainable way (Ideas on active travel options, public transport and new rail or tram links, etc.). The third report by Jacobs (WCC) is a transport study modelling the road requirements/traffic impacts/etc to serve the new developments.

SDC officers recently sought an update from WCC as to finalisation and next steps. I believe there will be a composite report by officers outlining the options in all the studies.

We can confirm that the Jacobs report is not with SDC Cabinet yet and is not being held up at the SDC end. The Vectos studies are with SDC Cabinet. SDC were happy to publish the Vectos studies on their own; however, it was agreed by both councils to adopt a partnership approach and SDC have supported WCC to help address their particular concerns.

## Stratford on Avon District Council Lib Dem Administration Highlights

### Lib Dem First Year Highlights 2023/4

We are still making the case for all of these studies to be released as soon as possible.

#### Shottery Relief road (S38 link road)

The Shottery Relief road (S38 link road) from Bordon Hill/Evesham Road roundabout to Alcester Road) will be delivered by Bloor Homes, however as we know, the works at the roundabout at the Wildmoor need to be completed before the link road is opened up. This is going to be delivered by National Highways but it is important to note that the delivery of this scheme may also be very much in the hands of the developer.

I have written to both National Highways and Bloor Homes, and this is the latest update from Bloor Homes is that they are on target to start these works this Summer, and are working closely with National Highways to achieve this. Please note that any 'booking' of these works will have to be agreed by Warwickshire



County Council, which has to timetable also other highway works, to mitigate impact on traffic congestion into town. I will certainly keep chasing this.

Cllr Manuela Perteghella

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7) **Open forum**

Not required

Meeting closed 7.15pm