

# **COMBROKE PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.30pm**

### **Present**

Stephanie Connah (SC)  
Nathan Griffiths (NG)  
Tim Goodhead (TG)  
Jo Price (JP)  
Brenda Rayson (BR)  
Georgina Lowe (Clk), Clerk

DCllr Chris Mills (CM)

Members of the Public: 0

1. **Election of Chairman**  
Cllr Rayson was nominated for Chairman. There were no other nominations, it was therefore proposed TG, seconded JP and  
**RESOLVED: That Cllr Rayson be elected as Chairman for the Year 2021 – 2022**
2. **Acceptance of Office as Chairman**  
Cllr Rayson gave her declaration and signed the Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer of Combroke Parish Council.
3. **Election of Vice Chairman**  
Cllr Goodhead was nominated for Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations, it was therefore proposed JP, seconded BR and  
**RESOLVED: That Cllr Goodhead be elected as Vice Chairman for the Year 2021 – 2022. The Acceptance of Office was duly signed**
4. **Apologies**  
CCllr Chris Williams (CW)
5. **Acceptance of Apologies**  
N/A – All Parish Councillors were in attendance
6. **Declarations of Interest**  
None.
7. **Public Representation**  
None.
8. **Minutes**  
The minutes of the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 had been circulated. Proposed TG, seconded JP and  
**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.**
9. **Chairman's Report and Other Reports for Information Only**
  - a. **Chairman**  
Thank you for agreeing to the change of date from 10<sup>th</sup> May and attending the meeting.  
  
CCllr Chris Williams was not expecting another meeting for Combroke before his retirement from office on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May. He sends his apologies and has provided a report. I have sent him a message of thanks for his service and support to Combroke.

b. Clerk No report

## 10. District Councillor's Report

### i. **New Restart Grants to be paid to help businesses recover**

Businesses in Stratford District reopening after the latest lockdown will soon be receiving new Restart grants to help them recover as COVID restrictions ease. The grants, announced by the government to help businesses financially as they reopen, will be paid by Stratford-on-Avon District Council, who will receive around £11million of Government funding.

Anyone who has received a business grant from the council during the pandemic need not apply for these grants as payments will be paid automatically.

Those who have not had any grants in the last 12 months and pay business rates can still claim Restart grants through the council website.

The Restart grants will be available to non-essential retail businesses who were trading and due to pay rates to Stratford District Council on April 1 2021. Firms will be receiving a one-off payment from £6,000 to £18,000 depending on the rateable value and type of business.

All non-essential retailers are eligible, those businesses in the hospitality, leisure, accommodation, gym & sport, and personal care sectors will be able to claim different sums.

For businesses which are ineligible for Restart grants because they do not pay business rates, the council will be issuing one-off discretionary grants of around £1,200 each in April. Businesses that have received grants in the last 12 months need not apply again.

The Restart grants will allow the district's many non-essential retailers to have a bit of a safety net to keep them going and should hopefully encourage as many as possible to reopen.

For those which fall outside of those criteria, SDC will be awarding another discretionary grant. We are expecting further funding from the Government in June 2021 which will be used to support wider businesses initiatives.

We will be providing more information on how this scheme will operate in the coming months. The Council will be working with the Growth Hub to ensure funding reaches the most appropriate businesses.

For further details on each of the grants, payment thresholds and how to apply, visit <https://www.stratford.gov.uk/coronavirus/local-restrictions-support-grant-national-lockdown.cfm>

### ii. **Second Raft of Funding Available Through Warwickshire County Council's £1.5million Business Support Grant Scheme**

Warwickshire County Council is inviting local small businesses in the retail, hospitality, tourism and leisure sectors and their supply chains to apply for a range of grants in the second round of its Adapt and Diversify grant scheme.

The scheme was launched to support those businesses most affected by the Covid-19 crisis and it complements the Government grants available through the District and Borough Councils by providing additional support for investment in external expertise, new equipment or the refurbishment of property.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have been negatively affected by Covid-19 and have clear plans to adapt and diversify their business. Earlier in the year, the county made an initial £1m available for distribution among businesses drawing on funding made available through the Local Restrictions Tier status.

A further £850,000 is now available for small businesses to apply for in Round 2. Grants of between £2,500 up to £5,000 are available towards the costs of specialist advice – for example: accountants, legal advice, digital specialists – and between £2,500 and £20,000 for accessing speciality expertise and /or the purchase of new equipment, or the refurbishment of property that will help the business to diversify their offer and safeguard their immediate future and the jobs of their workforce.

Further information on how to make applications is available at the dedicated [web page](#) which details other funding streams available to local businesses to support them through the adverse effects of the pandemic and to prepare them to bounce back.

For information about the wide range of other support for your business, contact Coventry and Warwickshire LEP Growth Hub on 0300 060 3747.

iii. **Reopening outdoor hospitality safely across Stratford District**

Under the Government's roadmap out of the third Lockdown, venues such as pubs, cafes and restaurants reopened on Monday 12 April 2021, with customers being served seated at tables in outdoor spaces in their household group or bubble. Hospitality businesses are looking for ways to increase seating for their customers and many are setting up marquees, gazebos and other structures in order to provide outdoor seating space with adequate social distancing. Hospitality businesses in Stratford District are being encouraged to work with Stratford-on-Avon District Council to make sure their temporary outdoor seating areas don't fall foul of COVID-19-secure rules – and help protect customers and staff.

The District Council's Environmental Health and Licensing teams are continuing to advise cafes, pubs and restaurants on how they can safely promote the use of their outdoor space for drinking and dining in line with Step 2 of the Government's roadmap out of the third Lockdown.

Temporary changes mean that businesses such as pubs can set up a marquee for up to 56 days without the need for planning permission until 31 December 2021. To be classed as 'outdoors' any structure must be substantially open, having at least 50% of the area open to the air. Any temporary structures erected need to be suitable and safe for use.

Hospitality businesses can achieve this extra outdoor space through the District Council's temporary pavement licence and/or the permanent pavement permit regimes to use space on the highway, or making use of privately-owned land such as pub carparks – [Pavement Licence | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

11. **County Councillor's Report**

CCLlr Williams' Report is attached to these minutes.

12. **Government Consultation on Remote Meetings**

Information had been circulated prior to the meeting. The merits of both face to face and remote meetings were discussed, after which it was unanimously agreed Parish Councils should have the right to choose whether they hold their meetings physically; virtually or in a hybrid form. The findings of this consultation will help influence Government's willingness to change primary legislation to allow this to happen permanently; BR to draft a response. BR

13. **To appoint representatives to sit on outside bodies**

BR proposed and it was agreed that SC be appointed to the Village Hall Committee; TG be appointed as Member for Finance and Snow Warden; BR to remain as representative for Kineton United Charities and be the Council's representative on the Leys Management Committee.

14. **To Review and Approve Standing Orders**

The updated Standing Orders had been circulated prior to the meeting. Changes were in respect of financial figures limits amended following Brexit. After discussion it was proposed TG, seconded NG and

**RESOLVED: to approve the revised Standing Orders**

15. **To confirm Delegated Powers to the Clerk**

*To delegate to the Clerk the powers: to grant dispensation requests; to make decisions and respond to consultations on behalf of the Council in circumstances where the decision / consultation requires an action before the date of the next meeting of the Council; to authorise urgent work when unforeseen circumstances occur; and, to spend up to £500 on behalf of the Parish Council. These powers to be exercised with the full knowledge of the Chair or Vice Chair and appropriate consultation amongst Members of the Parish Council.*

The Council agreed this had worked well whereupon it was proposed BR, seconded TG and **RESOLVED: to confirm delegated powers**

To note: JP left the meeting at 20:30

16. **Financial Administration**

- a. **To approve end of year accounts** – item postponed
- b. **Certificate of Exemption.** – item postponed
- c. **To consider payments to be made**  
Invoices were presented, and payment approved for:  
WALC annual subscription £105.00

17. **Lanes and Drainage**

**17.1 County Highways Repair and Improvement**

To note WCC Highways have filled in the large puddle areas beside the road adjacent the entrance to the Rides woodland. This has effectively removed the problem of algal bloom. Highways have also recently cleaned and flushed the village road drains.

The deepening channels at edge of road to the Fosse have been assessed and are not yet deep enough to repair (must be more than 200mm deep); TG to monitor.

The footbridge has been repaired; advice from County Highways to be sought on parking outside the Church and the road outside Hillside and Orchard Cottages.

TG

**17.2 Proposed Gateway at West Entrance to the Village**

This has recently been installed complete with dragon teeth

18. **Combroke Climate Change Club** – No report

19. **Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas**

Village Hall Business Rates / Grant Funding  
Data Protection Review

20. **Dates of Next Parish Council Meetings:**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**The meeting closed at 8:56pm**

**Combroke Parish Council 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021**  
**County Councillor's Report**

I do apologise for my non-attendance at my final meeting of Combroke Parish Council due to my continuing ill-health and wish all residents good will in the future. I send my best wishes also to my successor at the local election on 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Good News for Warwickshire Schools**

Following the two-week break for the Easter holiday, Warwickshire County Council is pleased to report a record number of pupils returning to an education setting for the summer term.

The recently collated figures provided to Warwickshire County Council, as Education Authority, by schooled showed that:

- All of Warwickshire's Primary and Secondary Schools and Colleges opened as planned on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021 following the Easter Holiday;
- Daily pupil attendance rates at both Primary and Secondary Schools have held consistently at no less than 94% with Primary Schools over the last week (w/c 26.04.21) recording a 98% attendance rate. These attendance rates are not only high during the pandemic, they are high when compared to pre-Covid periods.

**Covid-19 Update 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

The good news just keeps coming with the continuing success of the vaccine rollout, but the dire and extremely upsetting scenes from India reinforces the importance of infection control and social distancing practices as we learn to live with Covid.

The rate of infections across the district are continuing to fall and have started to level at 11/100,000 from 23 last week, the over 60's rate has remained at 2/100,000 (2 last week) with just one case over the last seven days – which when compared to other districts in Warwickshire for all ages is Nuneaton & Bedworth 12/100,000, North Warwickshire 33/100,000, Warwick 15/100,000 and Rugby 49/100,000.

Continuing this positive note, the situation regarding SWFT Hospital Beds has remained at similar levels, there is now 1 (2) confirmed case of COVID-19 with 0 (1) patient in ICU (figures in brackets are from 23 April). Occupancy levels are at 85% in respect of non-Covid patients for elective surgery and there are 57 unoccupied general and acute beds.

There have been no further Covid related deaths across Stratford District over the last three weeks and remain at 140 from the start of this second wave (28<sup>th</sup> August 2020) 37 occurring in care homes, 90 in hospital, two in a hospice and 10 at home and one in a communal establishment, out of a total of 976 all cause deaths in the district for this new second wave period.

The cumulative total of deaths across Warwickshire for Wave 2 has now increased to 668 from 662 last week with a total of 4025 all cause deaths. The cumulative total of Covid-19 deaths in Stratford district is 308 since the start of the pandemic and in Warwickshire 1269.

The locally led Lateral Flow Testing facility for people WITHOUT coronavirus symptoms in Stratford has now carried out 28,384 tests with 87 positive results, which represents no increases in positivity over the last three weeks. The home testing service is still available to everyone with COVID-19 symptoms and can be accessed through the [home testing online portal](#).

Farewell!

**Cllr Chris Williams - Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division      03.05.21.**