

## Admington Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Quinton and Admington Village Hall 6.00 pm

Present: Cllr Sue Cook (Chairperson)

Cllr James McGovern

Cllr Mark Gawrylo

Laura Callow (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also Present: no public members attended

1	<b>Welcome from the Chair:</b> The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2	<b>Apologies:</b> Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lisa Summerton, WCC Cllr David Curtis and DC Cllr Dominic Skinner.
3	<b>Minutes:</b> The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairperson.
4	<b>Chairman's summary of the year:</b> <u>CHAIRMANS REPORT 2024-2025</u>  We have now had a full year working with Laura, who has kept us all up together and compliant. We have also all attended training courses at the behest of the monitoring officer which in most part have been interesting.  <u>Planning</u> It has been a quiet year for planning; we have only had two Larkstoke farm wanted to put solar panels on one of their barns and planning permission to build another barn.  <u>Footpaths</u> A few discussions about footpaths. The footpaths have been repaired across privately owned land.  <u>Defib Training</u> We had an evening of training on the use of the defib plus other basic first aid. It was very interesting and made so by the trainer. Also, if the machine every gets used, please inform a member of the parish council so we can ensure the pads are always available.  <u>Flower boxes</u> I would like to thank Corner cottage and Top Farm for maintaining the flower boxes. Although we have yet to sort out the one by Corner Cottage.  <u>Residents</u> At VE celebrations the village welcomed a new couple to the village. On a sad note, a long-standing member of the village sadly passed away earlier this year. There was a lovely funeral, and everyone learnt more about him from the wonderful eulogy.  <u>Councillors</u>

	<p>We welcome the new county councillor Mr Daivid Curtis and thank the outgoing CC Izzi Seccombe for attending our past meetings and giving us so much information I would like to thank my fellow councillors for serving during the past year and to Marl and James for joining us during the year.</p> <p>5 <b>Report from District Council – Cllr Dominic Skinner.</b> Cllr Skinner could not attend but has sent a report which you can find attached to the minutes. <b>Appendix A</b></p> <p>6 <b>Report from County Council – Cllr David Curtis:</b> Cllr Curtis could not attend but he has sent a report which is attached to the minutes. <b>Appendix B</b></p> <p>7 <b>Any issues raised by councillors for public discussion:</b> No issues were raised.</p> <p>8 <b>Any matters from electors of the parish:</b> No matters raised.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 6.25pm</p> <p>Signed:</p> <p><b><u>Appendix A</u></b></p> <p><b>District Councillor Report</b> <b>Cllr Dominic Skinner – Quinton Ward</b> <a href="mailto:Doms Skinner4quinton@gmail.com">Doms Skinner4quinton@gmail.com</a> – 07783 740520</p> <p>Stratford on Avon DC Annual Report 2024/25 Another busy year throughout the Ward and the District. I have included some highlights, which I hope will be of interest to you. Further detail and information about all may be found on the District Council’s website: <a href="http://www.stratford.gov.uk">www.stratford.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>April 2024</b></p> <p>New Open Space Planning Guidance Adopted</p> <p>In April, Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Full Council formally adopted its revised Open Space Supplementary Planning Document. Under the new policy, 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 was in response to the growing amount of public open space provided with new developments and concerns raised by residents about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charges levied by the private management companies appointed by the developers to</li> </ul>	
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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 will no longer be included in Section 106 agreements.

### **May 2024**

CCTV upgrade

SDC's Cabinet approves grant funding of £200,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to carry out vital work to upgrade CCTV infrastructure, software and equipment across the District.

CCTV covers Stratford and the surrounding towns. From April 2023 to May 2024, SDC's CCTV team assisted Warwickshire Police in stopping over 91 suspected drink and drug drivers leading to arrest and prosecution.

Community Climate Change Fund Phase 1

The successful projects from Phase 1 are announced. This fund will go some way in supporting important projects within the district to help tackle climate change (and improve community facilities and activities).

### **June 2024**

D-Day Landings Commemoration

On 6 June there were many acts of commemoration across the district to remember the eightieth anniversary of the D-Day Landings with hundreds of beacons lit across the UK and the Commonwealth.

In 1944, Allied forces mounted the largest amphibious invasion the world had ever witnessed. Operation Overlord, D-Day, saw over 5,000 ships and landing craft set down more than 150,000 troops on five Normandy beaches in an action that would bring about the liberation of northwest Europe from Nazi occupation. As the SDC Armed Forces Champion, veteran and serving reservist this was an event that held extreme importance for me, and it was an honour to be involved in a national event to mark this occasion representing SDC and the RAF.

### **July 2024**

General Election

A general election was held on Thursday 4 July 2024.

Public Safety - Operation Talkative

SDC supported a new policing initiative called Operation Talkative to encourage reporting of knife carrying. If you have information or concerns about someone carrying a knife, please report it to police by going to [www.warwickshire.police.uk/report](http://www.warwickshire.police.uk/report) or call 101 and quote Operation Talkative.

Trees for Farmers

Applications opened for the free trees for farmers initiative again.

### **August 2024**

South Warwickshire Local Plan

SDC and WDC's Joint Cabinet Committee, endorsed a study from the Advisory Group, on the number of dwellings to be delivered to meet the area's future housing needs in the next version of the emerging Local Plan for South Warwickshire. (Later, at the end of 2024 the government increased the requirement under the 'standard method' to a new figure of 2188 homes per year for south Warwickshire.)

## **September 2024**

### Climate Assembly

SDC holds its first Climate Assembly event to promote community engagement with action for climate and nature across the district, including schools, to provide a springboard for more action and to showcase local best practice.

### Community Safety

SDC supports and funds new virtual reality to help educate young people on the realities of carrying a knife. The project is being rolled out in schools across the district.

## **October 2024**

### Delivering Local Needs/Local Choice Rural Housing

The Cabinet agreed to continue the existing approach to deliver homes for local people in rural areas with the Rural Housing Enabler working with partners to enable local communities to deliver Local Needs/Local Choice rural housing schemes.

### Winter Fuel Payments

SDC's Leader, Cllr Susan Juned, wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer about the Government's decision on winter fuel payments.

## **November 2024**

### Armed Forces Covenant Pledge

SDC's Cabinet approved the District Council's Armed Forces Covenant Pledge and Cllr Juned attended the WCC Covenant signing ceremony. As the SDC Armed Forces champion I was extremely proud to be able to offer firsthand advice and support to council officers during the development of the councils offering to the covenant. After a lot of hard work from our officers. SDC now offers increased support to our serving veterans and reservist community and their families. This includes extra support when applying for social housing within the district and signposting to suitable council services. This was a project that I was extremely passionate about and I am very proud that SDC now offers far more services and support to our armed forces community than ever before.

## **December 2024**

### Devolution and Local Government Review

On 16 December 2024, the government published the 'English Devolution White Paper' identifying the Government's intended approach to the devolution of powers from Westminster to more local "Strategic Authorities." The White Paper was clear that to achieve government objectives this will also require Local Government Review. This review would result in the abolition of the remaining two-tier local government (County and District) across the country and establishing unitary government in their place (plus parish and town councils in our area).

## **January 2025**

### South Warwickshire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation

The public consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan opened on 10 January.

### Launch of the Parish Forum

On Thursday 30 January the District Council launched the Parish Forum, chaired by Natalie who is the Portfolio Holder for Law & Governance. The meeting was held on Teams and sixty-six Town and Parish Chairs and Clerks attended from across the District to discuss Devolution and Local Government Review, the newly created Parish Liaison Officer role at the District Council and the South Warwickshire Local Plan. The next meeting is on Thursday 26 June.

Community Climate Change Fund – Phase 2 opens

Following the success of Phase 1 of the Community Climate Change Fund, Phase 2 was launched with £55,863 available for green projects.

## February 2025

Council Tax

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors set the district element of the Council Tax. The amount residents will be asked to pay for a Band D property is £169.12, an increase of £5. This is an increase of 3.1%, which for an average home represents just an additional 42p per month to the District Council next year.

This means that all the services provided by the District Council cost £3.25 a week for a Band D household. This contributes to meeting the cost of providing a wide range of services including recycling and waste collection, planning, street cleaning, housing, housing benefits, leisure services and children's play areas. Stratford-on-Avon remains a low-taxing authority, 18th lowest out of 164 district councils across the country in 2024/25.

Anyone who thinks they could be struggling to pay their Council Tax is encouraged to contact the District Council as soon as possible by calling 01789 260990 or email

revenues@stratforddc.gov.uk, where the team will be able to advise what help is available.

## Budget

Following Full Council approval on 24 February, provision was made within the 2025/26 budget to fund a number of items. This includes the following:

- £30,000 for Women's Aid Domestic Violence project support, training, community awareness and work with partners to ensure the availability of their services within the district.
- £50,000 Trees for Parish Councils scheme.
- £50,000 for a Business Conference, to stimulate the local economy, increase networking opportunities, showcase local talent, innovation and promote education and training for local businesses.
- £80,000 to fund a screening programme in partnership with the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust (GFCT) which focuses on prostate cancer awareness and early detection. The dates for the screening are on the back page of your Council Tax booklet and we encourage residents to book onto a session.
- £100,000 to support Cycle Schemes aimed at promoting sustainable transportation.
- £250,000 to fund various projects with the aim of enhancing and improving community facilities, services, and overall infrastructure, thereby fostering a stronger and more vibrant local community.
- £520,000 for the Climate Change Fund ensuring the Council can continue its commitments to climate change for next year.
- £600,000 to be used to directly target cost-of-living hardship through selected partners.
- £2.5m for affordable and temporary housing to help reduce temporary accommodation costs.

The District Council may also introduce a second home premium from April 2026 and will be conducting a public consultation during 2025.

Parish Champions

The District Council decided to split the Parish Champion role, previously held by a single District Councillor across the District, into two posts. There will be coverage on a geographical, east and west, basis.

Ukrainian Medical Charity

On 24 February, Stratford-on-Avon District Council was presented with a certificate of merit from the Order of St Pantalaimon in Ukraine in thanks for the ongoing support given to help Ukrainian Medical Charity with the war in Ukraine. Since September 2022, the District Council offices in Stratford-upon-Avon have been used as a donation point to help Ukrainian Medical Charity (previously known as Medical Aid Ukraine). The donations received are sorted and then sent to hospitals most in need in Ukraine. Donations for Ukrainian Medical Charity can be made at the Council offices from 9am to 5pm

weekdays. Or if you are not likely to be going to Stratford, you can ask your friendly District Councillor to take it with them when they go! Medicines need to be in date; however, packaging can be missing or damaged and bandages can be out of date.

## **March 2025**

### South Warwickshire Local Plan

The consultation for the South Warwickshire Local Plan closed on 7 March 2025. A total of 19,367 representations via the portal from 4,682 respondents. A further 1,402 submissions were received via email or letter, with a total of 6,084 responses received. Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils would like to thank residents, Parish Councils, landowners, businesses, developers and agents for taking the time to respond to the consultation. The team will be reviewing the responses in detail to help inform the next stage of the South Warwickshire Local Plan. A consultation summary statement will also be prepared later on in the year which will provide more information.

### Devolution and Local Government Review

On Monday 17 March Full Council agreed to support the District Council's interim plan for local government reorganisation in Warwickshire. Two possible options are being considered, as part of the interim plan:

- A single unitary council for Warwickshire
- Two unitary Councils (one for North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth, and Rugby Boroughs; another for Warwick and Stratford Districts).

Cllr Susan Juned, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District said: "The Government has made it clear it wishes to see the end of two-tier working in Local Government. This will see the end of district and borough councils and county councils. In their place will be new unitary councils. This interim plan has been agreed by all five District and Borough Councils in Warwickshire as a starting place for the direction we want to take. There is a clear preference for a north and south unitary option, but we have to build the data and vision for the case we will put in our final submission in November." More work will be done to identify which structure will feature in the proposal submitted by 28 November 2025.

## **Appendix B**

### **Warwickshire County Council Report**

#### **Cllr David Curtis**

Until May 2 I didn't really expect to be your new County Councillor, so I'd like to introduce myself with a little background:

I've lived in the district for over 40 years, mainly in Stratford but 4 years ago we moved to Alderminster. I was elected to SDC in 2019 as member for Shottery Ward and since 2023 I've been a member of the Cabinet with responsibility for Finance and IT. I've also been Chair of Alderminster PC since 2024 and, following County elections, I am now Member for Stour and the Vale, and I plan to meet as many of the Parishes in my Division as soon as possible. My daughters also live nearby, and my 3 grandchildren go to their village school so, as you can see, I'm invested in this area and will do my best to represent your interests.

Professionally I played viola in a professional string quartet for 30 years, touring and recording, and for the past 20 years I've been an orchestral conductor, unusual but extremely rewarding.

Little to add by way of a Report except to say at the time of emailing we are uncertain which party(ies) will form the Administration at County until the Shadow Authority Elections which are due in 2027. It seems likely that as Reform are the largest party they will expect to form the Administration and we should know more after the Annual Council meeting tomorrow, Friday

	<p>The SDC Administration believes a South Warwickshire Unitary presents the best option for this area but at this stage nothing is certain. All Districts and Boroughs in Warwickshire have until November to make their final submissions. Local Government Reform is coming so we must find the best solution for our residents.</p> <p>There is cross-party concern that devolution and the larger unitary authorities could see a 'democratic deficit' with greater responsibility placed on Parish Councils. SDC is mindful of this and aims to offer more support to Parish Councils.</p>	
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