

LAPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – 17th JUNE 2023

1. OPENING COMMENTS AND WELCOME, CLLR REES

The Parish Council has been active in a number of areas in the past 12 months. As always there have been some successes and some frustrations, and no doubt that will be the same in the coming 12 months!

On the positive side, the Council has been able to provide grants to assist Lapworth Cricket Club to improve its facilities and to Lapworth Community Church (formerly the Lees Chapel) to install a defibrillator for community use. We have also improved the play area with two new benches and with a replacement swing which is much more accessible for children with disabilities. The Parish Council also provided a £1000 grant for the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at the Village Hall and £1700 for planters at the station.

We also welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Inspector of Police to the Parish Meeting (with their teams) to discuss road safety concerns in the area. Whilst no immediate actions were agreed, we were assured that Lapworth receives its full share of attention and that actions would follow if risks are shown to be increasing. The Police Commissioner also welcomed the establishment of our Community Speed Watch Team – which we will hear more about later from Councillor Manley.

On the frustrating side, we continue to have discussions with Warwickshire County Council about worn road markings and dirty signs, and dangerous road edges. We are promised that they will be refreshed and the worst of the edges repaired, but we have been hearing this for some time now. Conversations are on-going about these aspects and about solutions to road flooding on the Old Warwick Road in several areas

Looking to the future, we look forward to working with our two new Green Party District Councillors and with Councillor Hales who held his position in the recent elections.

We will also be keeping a close eye on the next stage of the Warwick District Local Plan. This is a new Local Plan for the period up to 2050 which is being prepared for Warwick and Stratford District combined. There have been two consultation phases so far and the Parish Council has responded fully to both. The next stage should be in Autumn this year, and this will be the first time that individual sites will be considered and some carried forward to the next stage for in-depth evaluation. We know that over 550 fields have been put forward by landowners and developers for consideration including many in Lapworth Parish. This is not unusual at this stage of the process, but it is certainly something that the Parish Council will be keeping a very close eye on, and we will communicate with residents about future consultations and opportunities to comment on emerging plans. Definitely one to be aware of in coming months.

On that forward-looking note, I would now like to hand over to our Chairman to commence the main business of the Assembly.

2. APOLOGIES

The Council had received apologies from Cllr Aizlewood (WDC). There were two members of the public present.

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3. MINUTES OF THE 2022 ASSEMBLY

These were signed.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, CLLR HENDERSON

Lapworth Parish Council has 9 parish councillor positions. These are filled firstly by election after which any vacancies can be filled by co-option. In our May 2023 election 7 candidates put themselves forward so all 6 were elected by default. Each of the six had previously served on the council and we now have three vacant positions that we are looking to fill by co-option. Lapworth has over 1,600 registered electors in the parish each of whom is eligible to stand in elections or offer themselves for co-option. If you are interested please speak to the clerk or any councillor.

I would like to express my thanks to our parish councillors for taking on this unpaid role. When the appeal for new councillors goes out to fill vacancies by election or co-option we are always pleasantly surprised at the support, skills and dedication on offer. Our roles can only be performed with the help of our county and district councillors and their contribution is essential to our work, and I would like thank them all, past and present, for their commitment and contribution.

Lapworth Parish is an area of just 8 square miles Its population is 1,828 (2011). We currently await the 2021 census data.

What we do:

- Safeguard assets on your behalf: the Village Hall, the playground, the Village Green, Noticeboards, Allotments
- Planning: notified of planning applications in Parish. Comments we submit to the WDC planning authority must be taken into account
- We act to pass on local concerns and problems to Warwick District Council, Warwickshire County Council and other agencies
- Maintain the War Memorial
- [subject to using a 3rd party agent to open and look after them we Maintain public toilets in Bromehall Lane car park]
- Village Hall playground
- Village Green

We are funded by:

- A Council Tax precept of around £24,600 [£22,900 [£22,900 for 2023/24]
- Plus Allotment rent of £500
- We also receive Community Infrastructure Levy monies via the District Council arising when properties are developed in the parish. The CIL monies have tight conditions on how we can spend them
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Over the last 12 months we held 12 Monthly Meetings here on 2nd Monday of each month that anyone can attend and speak at, when we have focused on the matters already described by Cllr Rees

Lapworth is wonderful place to live as will be shown when we hear reports from several village organisations and projects later.

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5. WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT, CLLR COOKE (WCC)

I have trawled through my reports during the year and made a selection that gives a flavour of WCC's work during the year.

Kenilworth's Talisman Theatre Company receive boost from HS2 funding

It is great news for the arts in Kenilworth as the popular Talisman Theatre Company received a considerable cash boost from the HS2 Community & Environment Fund (CEF) The theatre company, based at Barrow Road in the town, were successful in their bid for £75,000 of funding from the CEF, which they plan to use to provide a new fringe stage, bar and reception area at the popular local theatre.

Rogue Trader Prosecuted for £100,000 Fraud

Darren Mitchell who traded as Stately Paving Ltd offered driveway block paving, building and landscaping work. Mr Mitchell first door knocked the elderly resident's bungalow in July 2014 and agreed to block pave his driveway and remove an old greenhouse. He returned to the property again and again together with others unknown, pressurising the resident in to paying for more work including fencing, repairs to windows, building a brick shed and laying new turf. Some of this work was never done or wasn't needed and the pensioner was charged grossly excessive amounts. A Trading Standards expert witness estimated that the true value of the work carried out by Mr Mitchell and his workmen was less than £20,000, with remedial works being required costing approximately £3,835. The victim had been charged £120,000. Over time the resident was systematically defrauded of over £100,000.

New LCE fund will plug a gap in the loans market for small businesses

In May 2022 WCC is launched a new loans scheme designed to help small businesses start up and existing ones to grow.

The Local Communities & Enterprise Fund (LCE) helped fill a gap in the loans market at a time when mainstream lending was difficult to access.

The new scheme was part of the Council's £140million Warwickshire Recovery and Investment Fund (WRIF), created to aid the economic recovery of the county post-Covid. The fund was open to all business sectors, but priority was given to those particularly significant within the Warwickshire economy. These included Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering; Digital Creative & Digital Technologies; Culture, Tourism & Hospitality and Low Carbon Technologies.

Homes for Ukraine Update from WCC

As at 25th May 2022, 408 Ukrainian guests had arrived in Warwickshire (based on their visa status). A further 615 guests have been matched to hosts in Warwickshire, meaning the total number of guests could rise to 1,023. Warwickshire has a total of 396 matched hosts. Accommodation checks: To date, 297 accommodation checks have been completed. This represents 74% of the 399 properties that had been offered to the scheme.

During Child Safety Week and beyond, take steps to minimise accidents

The County Council supported the annual Child Safety Week campaign next week (6 – 12 June 2022), a national awareness campaign from the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). The 2022, Child Safety Week had a theme of 'Safety in mind' to make sure busy families have the 'Safety in mind' that really matters, especially when under pressure.

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The Council shared advice and themed posts around some of the actions people can take to keep children safe.

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Consultation

Chief Fire Officer Ben Brook launched a public consultation on the draft Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy, asking people to take part and help influence the way the Service will work over the next five years.

WFRS has 17 fire stations across the 764 square miles of Warwickshire and employs around 450 staff. Its work in 2020/21 included attending around 3,500 incidents, taking steps to protect over 1,000 buildings and carrying out 1,500 hospital-to-home collections for the county's most vulnerable residents.

Emergency response is now a smaller proportion of the work done by WFRS, who instead have an increased emphasis on prevention, protection and community support.

Funding awarded to community groups tackling loneliness

58 groups and individuals received a total of £47,000 in grant funding, as part of a project which aimed to reduce loneliness and social isolation throughout the county.

Around 40,000 people in Warwickshire are currently living with chronic loneliness. The Covid-19 pandemic had a profound impact on the nation's mental health, with successive lockdowns damaging social connections, jobs and finances. In addition, it disrupted people's ability to engage in their usual coping mechanisms and made them feel more isolated from friends and family.

Major funding boost to help improve safety in public spaces across Warwickshire

Funding worth more than £350,000 was secured from the government by Warwickshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Secombe and local partners to improve safety at four public spaces.

The money, from the Home Office Safer Streets Fund, was targeted at areas which have been identified through public feedback and intelligence data as suffering from issues such as violent crime, personal robbery, sexual assaults, drugs misuse, County Lines activity and anti-social behaviour.

In the Summer communities and firefighters pulled together in record temperatures

Residents and businesses were thanked for their support during multiple heatwaves.

Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) expressed its gratitude to staff and local communities for their support over the summer. Summer months saw soaring temperatures and the driest July recorded since 1885, contributing to a dramatic increase in open fires, forest fires and water rescue incidents. Firefighters, fire control operatives and supporting staff worked tirelessly to respond to these incidents, as well as raising awareness of measures to prevent them from occurring in the first place where possible.

Cyclists across Warwickshire saved over 3,000kg of carbon last September when they got on their bikes and chose active travel for work and leisure.

Warwickshire County Council joined the "Love to Ride" family of partner organisations, giving residents, businesses and community groups access to the best rewards and resources that will encourage cycling for travel, not just leisure.

Cycle September is Love to Ride's global bike-riding event, brought together riders of every level to promote the benefits of bicycles. The campaign was a great opportunity for

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communities, businesses and individuals to engage in a fun challenge that will help them meet their health, wellness, and sustainability goals.

Warwickshire County Council has approved funding of £13.4 million for the delivery of a new primary school at Myton Gardens, Warwick.

The new school – likely to open in September 2024 - will meet the need for school places as a result of the large-scale 4,500 home housing development in the area.

Myton Gardens School is expected to provide a Two form entry primary school providing a further 420 school places in the South Leamington and Warwick area as well as an additional 32 Early Years (0-4years) places and 8-14 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) places. It will have capacity to expand to three form entry, potentially 630 pupils.

Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging people to take steps to prevent accidental fires and carbon monoxide poisoning as they look to keep warm and cut energy use this winter.

The call comes following concerns from the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) that the cost of living rise will mean people turn to alternative ways of heating and lighting their homes. As part of its campaign WFRS encouraged people to complete an online home fire safety check for themselves or their loved ones. By answering a few simple questions, it will provide fire safety advice specific to you and tips on how to keep you and your household safe from fire - www.ohfsc.co.uk.

For those most at risk of fire we offered to visit the home to provide help and advice.

Warwickshire Libraries launches new Business Resources service

Warwickshire County Council's libraries service has launched a new Business Resources webpage, which is available to access for free through the Warwickshire Libraries online catalogue.

The information and services available on the webpage have been carefully selected to provide support for anyone looking to start or develop a business, or for those who are considering self-employment, thinking about new career options, or preparing for a job interview.

The [Business Resources webpage](#) features COBRA, a brand new eResource offer by Warwickshire Libraries with more than 4,000 factsheets, market reports, contacts, and sources of funding and support. It also provides hundreds of practical guides to help start up more than 350 different types of business. See www.warwickshire.gov.uk/librarybusinessresources

Keeping Warwickshire's young people in education, employment or training

A December publication from the Department for Education (DfE) has shown that, once again, Warwickshire was one of the most successful Counties in the country for ensuring its 16 and 17 year old residents are either in education, employment or training.

Warwickshire's numbers of young people either not in education, employment or training (NEETs) are standing at less than both the regional (West Midlands) and national averages. This last year, Warwickshire had 1.7% of 16 and 17 year olds in a NEET situation (down from 2% in 2021) and 1.7% whose activities were not known (down from 2% in 2021). This gives a combined score of 3.4% (down from 3.8% in 2021) which compares to the West Midlands average of 5% and the England average of 4.7%. <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/neet>

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Welcome to Warwickshire Heritage Learning

The Heritage and Culture Warwickshire education team launched their new and redeveloped workshops, classrooms spaces at St John's House, and loan boxes along with the launch of a new name - Warwickshire Heritage Learning.

Schools can experience a brand-new way of learning with a range of immersive and creative workshops that will inspire students and bring the past to life. The subscription loan box service combines real museum objects and virtual learning workshops, making classrooms part of Warwickshire Museum, with the children as the curators of the museum.

Along with the new drama-based workshops, schools will enjoy their school trips in new look spaces at St John's House, Warwick. The first floor has been redeveloped into fantastic learning spaces, with digital resources, along with two dedicated lunch

rooms. <https://heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/heritagelearning>

New partnership to create 2,000 homes for Warwickshire

Warwickshire County Council and its property company Warwickshire Property & Development Group (WPDG) announced a major new joint venture which will see 2,000 new homes created across the county.

Develop Warwickshire will help bring sites forward for housing over the next 30 years, with three being taken forward for development within the next 12 months.

The partnership with WPDG and leading developer Countryside Partnerships, which will see £2.5 billion of developments completed, is part of the County's drive to realise the potential of its development sites.

'Gold Medal Award' for the Hospital to Home team at Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service

The Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service (WFRS) Hospital to Home (HTH) team was delighted to receive a 'Gold Medal Award' from the Emergency Care Improvement Support Team, NHS England, presented by Amanda Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer of the NHS, on 20th January 2023 at Warwick Hospital.

The award is in recognition of the innovative service HTH provides in helping elderly and vulnerable patients return home safely after hospital stays. The team works across Warwickshire to transport patients home and help them settle back in.

This might include making a cup of tea, putting the heating on or getting a food shop in.

They also carry out Safe and Well checks for the resident, which involve looking for potential fire and safety hazards and ensuring working smoke alarms are installed.

6. WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT, CLLR HALES

Cllr Hales gave a review of the year during which Council tax was frozen for the 2nd year running, £100K was budgeted to help improve access and inclusive provision at local play areas and £6,000,000 was spent on projects across the district.

Cllr George Illingworth retired from WDC at the end of March 2023 – thanks were given for all his efforts involved in planning matters across the ward.

The 2023 local elections brought change to WDC with a new Green/Labour Council administration and a change of Cllrs: 14 Green Party, 11 Labour Party, 10 Liberal Democrat, 6 Conservative and 3 Whitnash Residents Association.

7. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT, TONY HULL

The last year has continued to be busy for the hall. All the usual societies and regular customers are still with us, and many have increased their hours or the frequency of their

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visits. Our main customers once again are the Christadelphians and the Lapworth Players when they have a production.

In terms of financial income, the Christadelphians bring in about £1000 a month. We have conscientiously agreed to keep our charges the same as last year, we know this will help the local community/societies.

Maintenance/Ongoing issues are:

1. A new upgraded sound system for the main hall
2. Low level marker pole lights will be installed at entrance
3. The hall floor will be scrubbed and re-polished
4. We have agreed to purchase the container from the Lapworth Scarecrow Committee, this will give us more storage and free up space behind the stage. I am just waiting for the Scarecrow Committee to sort out their banking arrangements.

One downside has been our ongoing battle with Eon, our electric supplier. Whilst we knew that we hadn't been keeping pace with our usage, after the covid crisis they wanted us to catch up on our shortfall, so they altered our monthly direct debit from £170 to £2030. Eon has now reduced our payment, but it is still way too high; Eon keeps using estimated usage amounts despite us sending them regular actual readings. Mike Sexton, the treasurer and I are now negotiating a new supplier through Utility Aid, a company who specialise in village halls and community premises. Let's hope that this can be sorted soon.

We have carried out an inventory and are in the process of replacing items that have gone missing over the past 3 years.

We didn't have a Coronation Festival as the Committee thought that as we had recently had a Jubilee party the enthusiasm to have another large function so close was not forthcoming. We did however offer the hall free of charge to anyone who wanted to host any Coronation events, this was not taken up.

8. LAPWORTH SCHOOL REPORT, MRS MCCLUSKEY

At the start of the academic year we sadly lost one of our teachers, her passing really shook the school as she was such a vibrant character. We also said goodbye to another who had opted for early retirement. Along with one other that went on maternity leave it meant that we have seen the biggest change in staffing in many years.

Academically we have been working hard to continue to close any gap that was created by the pandemic. We have implemented a new phonics scheme across the school and preschool and this has meant that we have also had to purchase many additional reading books to supplement this. Maths has also seen substantial investment with a new scheme, resources and testing put in place. During all this change we have also been refining our curriculum, ensuring that it is up-to-date and reflects our current children's interests.

The school has also invested into the facilities this year. The school hall which is used for our collective worship, indoor PE, school dinners and performances is in the process of having a facelift. We have replaced the original hall floor, filmed the windows, replaced all of the curtains and the PTA have funded the replacement of the dining hall chairs. We are currently planning a fund raising event so that we replace the tables which are over 30 years old and have seen better days.

The school has on average between 170 -180 pupils, however we still have spaces available in most year groups and can hold 210. We continue to see growth in our preschool and have

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over 50 children on roll. Numbers have reached maximum capacity on three days a week with a waiting list. Due to its popularity we are now looking to put a teacher in place to oversee the provision that we can offer. We have already invested heavily into the facilities at the preschool and continue to build on this as we focus on further enhancing the environment both inside and outside modernising and replacing where needed.

The school also operates its own before and after school care called 'The Orchard'. Numbers seem to have recovered to back to pre-pandemic levels. This is a popular addition for parents of the school and preschool as we can offer care from 7:45am – 6pm.

This year schools testing results will be used again to benchmark schools. All of our children in Year 2 and 6 performed really well and we are really proud of their effort and attitude. We are yet to find out how we have compared to others as this comes out in July.

Our last Ofsted inspection was February 2020 and so we should be seeing them return again early in 2024, however there is still a backlog and so this may not occur during next academic year. We are currently overdue our SIAMS inspection which is a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools. Even though we are overdue this inspection it is also unlikely that this will be next academic year.

9. LAPWORTH CHARITY REPORT, DR R NICOL

Those of you who have heard me before will know that there are 3 parts to the activities of the Charity. The first is the provision and maintenance of the 11 Almshouses at Pound Close. I would have been able to report a year of full occupancy however in December a pipe in the loft of one of the properties froze then burst unleashing a cascade of water which wreaked havoc with the rooms below. The refurbishment has taken much longer than it should have done but the resident should be back in occupation later this month.

The second part of the Charity's activities is making grants to local organisations. The Governing document determines that the Charity must make grants to 2 local Churches namely St Mary's Church in Lapworth and St Thomas Church at Nuthurst, next to Hockley Heath.

In addition in the last year we have been able to support:

- Lapworth School
- LOPA
- The Platinum Jubilee event
- Henley Scout Group – of which a number of children from Lapworth are members.
- The Air Ambulance

Then the 3rd part of the Charity's activities is grants to individuals and this year we have made grants to over 40 Lapworth residents including:

- 24 grants of £300 towards energy costs – clearly this year even more important than previous years
- 12 grants towards costs for those going to University

and then a number grants for chiropody costs, school transport costs and to a number of families facing financial hardship.

On the administrative side, the Charity's application to build 4 houses on the site of the former Scout Hut was rejected. At the moment the future of the site remains uncertain.

The Charity has been successful in forming a CIO, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This allows the Charity to hold property in a much more satisfactory way than previously and

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also reduce the personal risk to trustees – which is important in facilitating the recruitment of new trustees.

Our accounts for the year ending March 2023 are not yet finalised but I anticipate that the expenditure will broadly match the income. Whilst we are not intrinsically a fund-raising Charity we have again received a significant donation from a local resident, for which we are very grateful.

10. LAPWORTH SURGERY REPORT, READ BY CLLR HALL ON BEHALF OF DR BATES

This year has been a busy year getting back to normal after Covid and coping with increased patient demand. There are no plans to change the way that the Surgery will run and our values remain the same. Appointments continue to be available as face to face or telephone and can be pre-booked or urgent on the day.

The list size has increased to 2989 – this has increased significantly from 2300 in 2009. The result of increased demand, increasing patient expectation and government targets / contractual duties has put a significant strain on the Surgery in regards to appointment availability and workload for clinical, admin and dispensary staff. There is no further capacity to increase the list size further without a negative impact on patient care and patient access to our services.

The Primary Care Network continues to grow and we are working closely with the other six Surgeries within the PCN. There are current plans to develop a Hub in Alcester Health Centre where non-patient facing PCN staff will be based. This will avoid the use of clinical rooms for those staff who do not see patients face to face and free up clinical rooms for patient facing clinical staff. One way of trying to cope with increasing pressures is to use our PCN staff where appropriate:

- Lucy our FCP who previously worked for Lapworth once a month will now be working one day a week for us every Thursday to deal with musculoskeletal problems.
- Tracey our paramedic works all day Tuesday and Friday. She has minor illness clinics and will do some urgent home visits.
- Bhavna our Clinical pharmacist works at the surgery on a Tuesday and Thursday and can do medication reviews and treat / monitor some conditions such as hypertension and high cholesterol.

There are new faces in reception, Sue and Jeanette have settled in well and are doing a great job. We also have a new trainee dispenser Susan, who is mentored by Emily as she learns the ropes.

The PPG continue to be a great support to the surgery and act as means of communication between the surgery and patients and provide us with invaluable feedback.

We hope to continue to provide a good service for our patients and are glad to have emerged from COVID to a more normal service.

11. LAPWORTH SPEED WATCH REPORT, CLLR MANLEY

After a slow gestation due to the pandemic, Lapworth Community Speed Watch was finally set up in July 2022. In general terms, its aims are to improve road safety within our village by reducing speeding. By monitoring vehicle speeds and reporting offenders it raises awareness

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among drivers and encourages them to adhere to speed limits with the ultimate aim of reducing the risk of accidents.

So why particularly did Lapworth decide to set up a scheme? I think all residents are acutely aware that we have regular and dangerous speeding through our village and indeed it is one of the common themes that we regularly discuss at Parish Council meetings. If you have been to one of our regular monthly Parish meetings, you will have heard representatives from the County Council discuss the fact that due to the metrics that are used to determine where they will or will not be able to install flashing speed signs or enforcement cameras, that the statistics for serious accidents, injury or deaths for our village are not high enough to take priority over other areas in the County with more serious problems i.e. there is only so much money in the budget and so resources are targeted at more severe “black spots” within the County (not withstanding the recent tragic fatality).

In an effort to do what we can as a village, we are fortunate that a number of residents have volunteered to do Speed Watch monitoring. Hopefully some of you have seen us out and about, in fact three times this last week. In an hour and a half or so, despite highly visible signage and three people in hi-vis jackers, we regularly catch half a dozen or so offenders and report them to the Police. Also, the figures we collect will inform the Police of the speeding situation in the village, which hopefully means that they will send out their officers more often to carry out roadside enforcement.

Clearly the more often that Speed Watch are out and about, the more drivers will be aware that they could be caught speeding through Lapworth and that perhaps they may decide to drive more considerably. To that end the more volunteers we have, the more times we can be out monitoring and so if there is anyone who thinks they could spare some time to take part, please contact our Parish Clerk.

12. FRIENDS OF LAPWORTH STATION REPORT, CLLR REES

The Friends of Lapworth Station group (FOLS) was formed two years ago to improve the appearance of the station. The area had become an eye-sore again since the last project to tidy up the site in the 1990s. That itself had followed a period of increasing dereliction and vandalism. All a far cry from the hey-days in the 1950s and 1960s when the station had 3 platforms, a signal box and up to 6 porters employed. Lapworth was a popular weekend destination for people coming from Birmingham for the day, as well as a commuter village. Up to 2000 people a day were recorded arriving at the station on the busiest days in the 1950s and 1960s!

There are 15 volunteers in the FOLS group, all of whom have had their safety training of course. They are a friendly and conscientious group. For example there are 12 of them operating a 6 day a week rota watering the plants during the current dry spell. In addition they come along to station clean-up sessions to keep the bridge, platforms and waiting rooms litter, weed and leaf-free. They have also purchased, planted and maintained the 8 planters on the platforms.

None of the work would have been possible though without the support of outside groups.

- Chiltern have provided funds to buy equipment and tools to tidy the station and have recently repainted the waiting rooms, lighting posts and the carpark lines, as well as installing new posters.
- Network Rail have recently bought and installed 12 new bird-boxes at our request, and are considering other ways to help such as with a water tap (at present we have to rely

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on water from the Station House and/or bringing it ourselves)

Above all we need to thank the sponsors of the planters:

- Lapworth Parish Council
- Wiseman Motor Services
- Mike and Grace Kew
- GTH Construction Ltd
- Rob Pitt for making and donating a planter
- The Village Hall Jubilee Committee

We have also received offers from other sources for possible future projects and we are very grateful to them all

As for the future, there is clearly a need to maintain what we already have. To that end, we are hoping to get the water-supply issue resolved somehow so that maintenance becomes easier. We are also planning to make 3 or 4 posters about the history of Lapworth Station from its opening in 1854 and possibly update and improve other information signs by the station. More immediately we have finally been able to order 5 posters of artwork produced by classes at Lapworth School before Christmas and we are in discussion with the school about a date to install them at the station and welcome schoolchildren and sponsors to the event. It might even involve a trip on a train organised by Chiltern! We apologise for the delay in getting the posters ready, but it has taken an inordinate amount of time to get permissions from Chiltern and Network Rail.

Finally we are in discussions with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Network Rail about possible environmental improvements to the overgrown land where the third platform was. A meeting is being planned to consider what if anything could be done to make it more attractive for wildlife and diversity, as well as more attractive visually. If a plan emerges we may well be asking for additional volunteers to assist us and any other volunteers from Chiltern and/or Network Rail.

I'll finish off with a plea. As you can see there is a continuing need for volunteers to keep this all going and to work on possible further improvements. Should you know of anybody who would be interested in getting involved please ask them to get in touch. It also takes money so any donations of plants or financial support and sponsorship are also always very welcome. Lucy, Elaine or I look forward to hearing from you (lucyepickard@gmail.com, haydn.rees@outlook.com, or bear4gp@gmail.com or phone 01564 782873)

13. CLOSING COMMENTS, CLLR HENDERSON

Thank you to all for attending and contributing to this evening. The Council would like to give special thanks to George Illingworth for his knowledge and wise council on planning matters given so generously to the Council over the past few years.

The meeting closed at 8:07pm.

Signed:

Cllr Henderson (Chairman)

Date:

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DRAFT