The last Parish council meeting was held on 19 January by Zoom, this is likely to be the way forward for the next few meetings and anyone who wishes to attend can be sent an invitation. All the Parish Councillors were present pus our new Clerk and both the District and County Councillors together with three members of the public.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, Councillor Barker promised to follow up our previous request for maintenance and repairs on the footpath from the crossroads down to Hillside Farm.

**Update on the Pub:** James van Helden reported that after a break due to the Covid situation and also a change of personnel at SDC the application for a CPO was being restarted. It was noted that in the responses to the housing survey a large number of respondents had stressed the importance of getting a functioning pub back into the village.

**Fires at Four Shires Farm:** at the time of the meeting there had been no fires for some time and it was hoped that this problem was resolved. There has since been another fire at the premises and the Fire Service was called. Another inspection by the Environment Agency has taken place, the EA are keeping a watching brief.

**Planning Applications:** An application has been made for a single story extension to the side of the Retreat, Todenham Road. This will be barely visible from the road and will allow elderly parents to visit safely, no objections were made. An application was discussed for Lower Farm, Back Lane for a first floor extension over the existing garage to accommodate a bedroom and en suite bathroom; again no objection was made. Not discussed at the meeting as it arrived after it had taken place, an application was received for a covered passage and bedroom changes for Homefield, The Green, these will make little visible difference to the building and no objection was made.

**Finance:** this is the meeting at which the annual precept is agreed and an application made to SDC. The current precept for the village is £3500 and the PC agreed that this should rise by £2000. This large percentage increase is needed as we are now employing a Clerk. Janet who was our Clerk for many years until her untimely death was always voluntary. In common with the majority of PCs we are now paying Sue our new clerk and this increase is almost entirely due to the anticipated extra cost. It had also been brought to our notice that there had been a problem with the defibrillator in the cold weather. We agreed that should this need to be replaced this would be taken from our reserves. Fortunately Paul Riley who monitors the machine weekly and Steve Duck our local electrician were able to repair the machine with the purchase of a simple spare so replacement should not be necessary. A thank you to you both. It was also agreed to make a donation of £250 to Shipston Home Nursing who have been carrying out their valuable service throughout the last year but have been unable to hold fundraising events.

**Housing Needs Survey:**  34.67% of the original 150 forms were returned which is considered a good response for a survey of this type. The majority of the respondents would be in favour of a small development although a large majority of the respondents considered that the village lacked facilities. The survey indicated a need for 4 homes for households with a village connection. The full results are available at [www.greatwolfordparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.greatwolfordparishcouncil.org.uk) .

**South Warwickshire Plan:** Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council are starting to prepare a single local plan, the PC was invited to make comments and attend various discussion groups. Keith Murphy has been attending on our behalf and will report in due course.

**Councillors Reports:** Our County Councillor reported that the vaccinations were rolling out well in the area. The County Council and Police Commissioner elections are still expected to take place in May but said that all the local villages will be voting at Cherington Village Hall rather than the local village halls many of which are closed due to Covid. Our District Councillor alerted us to the fact that there will be increased parking charges in the centre of Stratford, an uplift of 25% from 1 April and the cheap parking for the over 65s will be abolished.

Please note I have included with this mailing a flyer for the Plant stall in aid of Shipston Home Nursing., Sue Rew will be holding a sale for a week from 1 May so please start planting seeds and potting up plants suitable for sale now.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on March 23rd via Zoom at 7.30pm. Details will be sent nearer the time but if you would like to join us please make sure you ask for an invitation.