**Notes from Pailton Annual Parish Meeting**

Held on 20th May in the village hall

1. Tony Gillias as chair of the Parish Council welcomed all the meeting and noted the apologies from Councillor Law. The meeting was only attended by four residents.
2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May 2023 had been approved by the Parish Council in June 2023 and the chair asked if residents were happy to accept these – there we no objections to this.
3. There were no matters arising
4. The chairman gave his report to the meeting in which he spent some time in a moving address, recalling the many former residents who had made such tremendous contributions to the village, and left a profound legacy. (A summary of this presentation is attached as Appendix A)
5. White Lion Progress Report (Tina Simpson)

Tina spent a few minutes talking about the tremendous news from the National Lottery, further fund raising and the next steps. (This is attached as Appendix B)

1. Playing field Report and footpaths (Kristian Shaw)

Kristian spoke about the work of the Playing Field Working Group, the successful RoSPA Safety Inspection and Group’s work on maintaining the field. He noted that we had also renewed the lease from the Denbigh Estates, which would next be up for renewal in January 2028. The new climbing wall which was entirely funded by a grant from the National Lottery is proving very popular. Future plans for the playing field, include new goalposts and possibly a small community orchard.

1. The Parish Council Roles and Responsibilities

The clerk gave a two minute overview of the Responsibilities and Roles of the Parish Council. (This is attached as Appendix c). The clerk had to leave the meeting due to illhealth at this point.

1. Road traffic through Pailton: historic and current data (Tony Gillias)

Tony presented and compared traffic data from December 1999, July 2006 and April 2024 ( a copy of the statistics are attached as Appendix d). The results were surprising to both the other councillors and the members of the public as they show a clear drop in both volumes and the percentage of traffic that broke the speed limits.

1. The Planning System and importance of a Neighbourhood Plan  
   As there were only four members of the public in attendance, it was agreed to defer this matter and arrange a special meeting to discuss.
2. Your concerns – looking to the future

Member of the public raised a number of issues (see below) and the PC will look to action these going forward

* Action needs to be taken re the Culvert and permanent risk of flooding along Lutterworth Road.
* The Christmas light switch-on should be on the first Sunday in December
* A remembrance service should be arranged for November 11 – with refreshments in the village hall after.
* There was some talk that Round the Revel is not read by many residents … which is disappointing as there is always a report from the PC, the White Lion Group and the Village Hall. The clerk will look to ensure our copy is also on our website.
* TG expressed his ambition to have all three major roads in Pailton resurfaced – these would reduce noise intrusion and make a huge difference to people’s lives.

1. Community Tasks – volunteering using your skills and interests. This item was deferred

Meeting ends – 9pm

**Appendix A.**

At the APM, I reported on the last year and reflected upon the passing of long serving county councillor, parish councillor and resident Philip Morris - Jones, who died in June. Philip did many things in the village including lifting and repositioning the War Memorial with son Roy in 2005. He is sadly missed by all. Also, to Peter Saywell who moved into The Bakehouse in 1974, was chairman of the parish council from 1980 to 2002 and had saved the village hall for the village. He was responsible for producing the Round the Revel magazine for many years and who died in July. These individuals are so difficult to replace. We are indebted to them. The community are also extremely grateful for the work carried out within the village and church by Dick Moss over many years, now living at Town Thorns. We also recognise the outstanding support to the church by Stephen and Jenny Hall, who both had to stand down due to illness, our thoughts are with them and with all the families in the village who are going through difficult times. I must also thank the parish council Clerk, Leona, whose attention to the task has been an inspiration and enables the PC to function very efficiently. I must thank our county councillor, Adrian Warwick, who provides regular reports and assistance. Also, must extend thanks to The Village Trust, the White Lion Working Group, the Playing Field Working Group, the Litter Pick volunteers, Speedwatch volunteers, those who currently keep our church available, clean and tidy and to all those who give their time for our community, we are so very lucky and grateful.

**Appendix B.**

Tina began by saying how thrilled the Working Group was to announce that they have been awarded £2,040,170, towards the delivery stage of the Save the White Lion Project, from National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to lottery players. This project will help repair, restore, and transform The White Lion into a wonderful community hub (not just a pub) for the village and wider community. Flyers have been delivered to all houses in Pailton. A Press release has been sent to Coventry Evening Telegraph, Rugby advertiser local BBC and ITV news and local

The NLHF grant is 70% of the total needed, we have other applications in, and more to apply for. COF application is in we are awaiting outcome. Many funders require you to spend the money within 12months of the award, so we need to be careful when to apply. We will keep you posted re outcomes. Our aim is to raise £40,000 via community fundraising, so please do support us in any way you are able. This is a community project for the benefit of the whole community. We run a monthly quiz, annual garden party and afternoon tea events, we will be running the Little White Lion bar at Pailton Fete and will shortly be starting a 200 club. So, plenty of opportunities to support this great cause. Donations of raffle prizes are always very welcome as are offers to help at any of our events, just let Tina know as above.

Warwickshire Social Fabric fund said No to our EOI on the basis that we were not in an allocated area of deprivation. Alison Berwick our fundraising consultant is preparing an updated chart to show our current fundraising position.

We have a meeting at the end of May with NLHF where we hope to be given permission to start our project.

We have been asked many times when people will be able to actually see something happening on site. Once we have permission to start, we can then get all our consultants back on board from the break clause. We will the be concentrating on getting the design up to RIBA 4 and procuring a main contractor who is experienced in working on heritage buildings and NLHF projects. The timings for opening depend on many things, how soon we get permission to start from NLHF, how soon we are fully funded, what the contactors find when work begins.

Everyone can now follow our story in words and pictures on X (formerly known as Twitter) Facebook and Instagram.

**Appendix C**

**Roles and Responsibilities of Parish Council by Leona Bendall**

* Parish Councils are the third tier of local government – County first, then Borough/District Councils then us … some say we are the most important tier because we are closest to our community
* We are governed by the Local Government Act of 1997 and various earlier and later Acts and Statutory Instruments, including the Localism Act of 2011 that allowed parish councils to acquire community assets
* We currently have 10 policies (and are working on a further 3 policies ) These define how we work – everything from conduct of meetings, to holding sufficient financial reserves, health & safety etc. All of which are on our website
* We meet our legal responsibilities by acting in line with our policies, completing an Annual Governance and Accountability Report – which is subject to two audits. The first is by an independent local auditor and the second is by a government appointed auditor.
* We also comply with the election rules and procedures set by Rugby Borough Council … And parish councillors themselves are governed by the Code of Conduct set by RBC. The councillors are all volunteers and work hard to support the village

Our roles – or our powers – are pretty extensive **but** as our only regular funding is direct from residents – and paid through your Council tax. (The PC element is called a precept. ) **This does limit the scope of our activities – to the basics, but that’s not for lack of ambition for Pailton**

There are of course exceptional items – which we can fund from grants. But this is far from easy and entails extensive work … as you’ve heard from Tina

So what do we do with your money (the precept):

* We pay for the electricity to light the streets, we pay for repairs to lamps and the posts … and have ambitions to make the lights more environmentally friendly
* We cut grasses on verges, playing field and bridle paths – and we have a duty to provide and look after the allotments – although Janet Rathbone kindly does the admin for this.
* We lease the playing field and buy, update and keep the equipment in good condition and safe for children to use
* We have to pay for our 2 audits a year – both of which scrutinise every aspect of finance … and to making sure we keep to our policies – in practice
* We pay for 3 hanging baskets in the centre of the village, look after the war memorial and various posts to try and keep our ‘village’ feel
* Listening to villagers is perhaps the biggest responsibility we have and this is seen in how we respond to other statutory bodies on your behalf
* One of the biggest concerns raised to the parish council has been traffic … but you will hear from Tony on this shortly – dealing with can be very frustrating despite S30 of the 1997, Local Government Rating ACT… giving us the power to act, WCC does not always support us in using this
* The other big, big issue is planning – we are always consulted on developments or changes to buildings in the village … and always respond. Consistency is a key factor in our views on applications, who ever has submitted them. Again as you’ve heard from Tony, the more you talk to us about how you want the village to look and to operate in the future, the greater is our combined power to shape the future of the village. Developing a meaningful Neighbourhood Plan is key to this … will be key to this and for the generation of funds we can spend on the vill

**Appendix D**

Traffic information from Tony Gillias

Data provided by WCC Highways for Coventry Road (historically highest volume)

In 24 hrs, (2 way traffic averaged over the 7 days)

Volume over 30mph % over 35mph %

July 1999 3958 3054 77% 1689 42.6% ( pre 2004 traffic calming)

Jan 2006 4291 1276 29.7% 289 6.7% ( post traffic calming)

April 2024 3953 583 14.7% 191 4.8%

Coventry Road HGV /LGV movements, in 24 hrs, (2 way traffic averaged over the 7 days)

(HGV figures may include larger agricultural vehicles)

HGV ( all Artic types) HGV ( Rigid) LGV ( large vans)

July 1999 12 65 136

Jan 2006 No HGV data

April 2024 21 120 320

In 2022 Magna Park Management (GLP) surveyed **10** businesses to establish HGV movements to and from those businesses over a 24 hr period, averaged over the 7 day period surveyed. There were **488** movements counted. There are now 33 businesses operating that could be generating up to **1610** movements per day.

( There are agreements set up with GLP not to allow HGV traffic, going to or from Mana Park, to drive through Pailton).

Note - Since 1999 there has been massive logistic park expansion off the A5 corridor, also generating HGV movements and significant home deliveries by LGV.