



**Minutes of the Coughton Parish Council Meeting held in
Coughton Primary School, Coughton on Monday the 5th of September 2016
commencing at 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor John Gittins (in the Chair)
Councillors Len Carter, Maureen McTavish and Roy Piddington

Clerk: Karen Parnell

Plus three members of the public

Apologies: County Councillor Clive Rickhards and Cllr Sophie Bayliss

It was noted Karen Gazey and Den Hackett were unable to be present

Public participation (10 minutes)

To receive any questions or representations from members of the public:

- A) Relating to items on this agenda. B) Other questions.

There was much interest in the proposed rural housing opportunity.

The Chairman explained a further Housing Needs Survey would need to be conducted, to ensure full information is accurate and up to date. Local consultation will take place and would in itself be a pre-requisite to any successful planning application.

Should this come to fruition, the properties would be offered primarily, and for all subsequent occupancies, to applicants with a connection to Coughton. This would continue during the whole lifetime of those properties.

1) Apologies for acceptance

County Councillor Clive Rickhards and Cllr Sophie Bayliss

- 2) Disclosure of Interests** Councillors are asked to declare personal interests in any items on the agenda. Councillors are reminded that the code of conduct that took effect from 10th September 2012 provides that should they have a pecuniary interest in any matter under discussion, they should withdraw from the room and not seek to influence a decision about the matter.

There were no disclosures of interests.

3) Minutes of the Council Meeting held in July 2016.

The minutes of the July meeting were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman as such subject to the amendment from Social to Affordable housing.

4) Matters arising from those minutes:

Rural Housing Opportunity

Proposal: This Council will support, in principle, the offer from the owner of April Cottage for part of his land to be considered as a Rural Exception Site, in order to meet future local housing needs.

The PC voted unanimously to refer the proposed plan to Warwickshire Rural Community Council to investigate further.

Flooding

Report by Karen Gazey:

Highways

I have been in touch with Bryn Patefield re the surface water causing damage and flooding to properties on A435. (as raised by residents and Len Carter at the last meeting). He is arranging a site visit by Paul Rimen and Jeff Morris to look at existing drains and to see if any improvements can be made. I will chase this as nothing seems to have been organised as yet. We were hoping that maybe some solid covers could be replaced with an open grid type or something could be done with the kerbside drainage near the crossing. It is questionable that much improvement could be made as many of the drain covers are in the footpath not the road however, if we can get them onsite we could look at alternatives.

Landowners

Geoff and Neville Collett have begun to clear the silted ditch down to the river across their newly acquired land. (This is one of the fields Paul Rimen wrote to landowners about although I don't think the Collett's owned it at that point).

We understand from the Architects I spoke to re the recent planning application at the stack yard, that the National Trust are to arrange ditching activities on the fields to the rear of the Old Post Office i.e. Around the site for which planning has been submitted. There is no sign of this as yet.

Severn Trent

I have sent information to Aaron McCusker re the glugging drains in June in order for him to check the records at the pumping station. He has now reported as follows:-

"On June 16th there was a 1 in 8 year storm event in the Coughton area according to a nearby rain gauge. During this time 30.45mm of rain fell between 0900 on the 16th till 0535 on the 17th.

Birmingham Road Sewage Pumping Station has two pumps in the well which if required pump together Pump 1 at 10l/s and Pump 2 assisting Pump1 at 3l/s. Both of these pumps were working as per design for majority of the storm event until pump 2 failed which was due to a blockage in the pump usually caused by sanitary product. However Pump 1 carried on pumping at 10l/s throughout. So the gurgling of the toilets may have been due to surcharge in the main sewer because of this pump failing. Modelling of this area shows that the man hole in the highway outside would flood prior to the 25 & 26 during an extreme storm event."

Village Maintenance

SDC Have cut the verges and made a better job of it than previously. 9 verge cuts are facilitated per year for the verges by the A435. 2 more are due before October and then the service is resumed in March.

Issues concerning WCC grass cutting are still ongoing.

The Chairman will obtain a quotation regarding the provision of steps for reasons of safety.

Litter remains an issue which residents are addressing.

A bollard has been replaced by an unknown benefactor.

An overgrown footpath will be reported to WCC Footpaths Officers.

5) District and County Councillor's reports

Mike Gittus SDC: Not present

Cllr Rickhards WCC: Not present

6) **School Report**

Adam Walsh: It was the first day of term yesterday. Last term 'A comedy of errors' was performed at Coughton Court. The school took part in Coughton Fete and there has been a great deal of community engagement.

"No Parking" signs were in place at the close of last term, and have been effective so far.

Car Park plans are being delayed due to financial matters concerning the Thomas White Charity. WCC Property Services and the charity continue to liaise. It was suggested Cllr Rickhards and the PC should have some involvement.

7) **Planning**

Application(s) reference:

Proposed: Alterations to existing outbuilding and perimeter fencing

At: 4 Birmingham Road, Coughton, Alcester, B49 5HR

For: Mr And Mrs Williams – Application withdrawn

Application(s) reference: 16/02397/TREE

Proposed:- T1: Alder: reduce stem with dieback below telephone wires.

- T2: Oak: prune out dead wood (works exempt).

- T3: Alder: prune out dead wood (works exempt).

- T4: Alder: pollard to approx 14m.

- T5: Alder: prune out dead wood (works exempt).

- T6: Alder: prune out dead wood (works exempt).

- T7: Oak: prune out dead wood (works exempt).

At: Coughton Court, Coughton, Alcester, B49 5JA

For: Mr Watkins (National Trust) Granted

Application(s) reference: 16/02251/FUL

Proposed: Extension and conversion of redundant building to form independent dwelling

At: Coughton Lodge, Birmingham Road, Coughton, Alcester B49 5HU

For: Mr G Cooke – Application currently invalid

Application(s) reference: 16/02615/OUT

Proposed: Outline application for mixed employment development (Use Classes B1, B2 & B8), open space, structural landscaping and surface water attenuation pond with all matters reserved except for means of access and internal road layout including cycle and pedestrian route/emergency access.

At: Land North Of Arden Forest Industrial Estate, Arden Road, Alcester,

Progress regarding planning enforcement at 38 Coughton Lane will be sought.

Action plan updates

Village Group reports:

Friends of the ford

A meeting took place today and a further meeting will take place next week to progress maintenance of this area. Pursuing a county council grant is a possibility.

Flood group

Covered earlier within this agenda

Community group

Village walk held on 7 August. Joy & Jim organised the route and 13 people came along.

A date has been fixed for the cemetery weekend 15/16 October. This is on the website and a notice has been sent to the Link for publication in October.
We will hold a site visit at 5pm on Monday 3rd October to prepare an activity list for volunteers. Top of the list will be the annual hedge trimming.

Transport and traffic group - Car Parking

Covered earlier within this agenda

8) **Finance**

External Audit: Unqualified result.

9) **Accounts for payment**

Cheque No 312 Clerks Salary/Expenses £ 300.00

Cheque No 313 Car Parking Signs £ 9.99

Signed: Cllr Carter – Cllr McTavish

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05 pm

.....Chairman
7th November 2016