



Coughton Parish Council

Minutes of the Coughton Parish Council Meeting held in Coughton Primary School, Coughton on Monday the 16th of March 2015 commencing immediately after the Parish Assembly

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

Clerk: Karen Parnell

In attendance:

District Councillor Justin Kerridge

Plus three members of the public

Apologies: County Councillor Clive Rickhards

Public participation (10 minutes)

No comments were made.

1) Apologies for acceptance

County Councillor Clive Rickhards

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 September 2012 provides that should they have a prejudicial interest in any matter under discussion, they should withdraw from the room and not seek to influence a decision about the matter.

None

3) Minutes of the Council Meeting held in January 2015.

The minutes of the January meeting were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman as such.

4) Matters arising from those minutes:

Flooding

A meeting took place on 26/02/15 and was attended by Paul Riman WCC, The National Trust was represented and some residents were present. The drain jet survey report was discussed. Many drains are in a poor condition but some remedial works have taken place. An action plan was suggested to rectify critical faults but repairs will only be undertaken when drains are blocked or repairs can be combined with other road works.

Sambourne Lane and Coughton Lane drains have been repaired.

Resurfacing has taken place at the crossroads but will not improve flooding in that area.

Double cats eyes on the main road create a nuisance noise when driven over and this has been reported to Cllr Rickhards for action.

Silting and surface water run-off is an issue and landowners will be requested to remedy this by ditching via letters from WCC.

Ditching to the river is being looked into as are sewage problems and a culvert.

Parish Council Election

Nomination forms were distributed and procedures explained.

5) County Councillor's report

Cllr Rickhards

COUNTY REPORT

After 13 hours of negotiation a compromise Conservative-Lib Dem budget emerged which remember is in the context of £92mill of cuts over 4 years. However, there were some bright spots amidst all the cuts to adult Care, Education, and School Transport etc.

£4 mill is to be invested in LED street lighting.

£3 mill is allocated to the Safer Routes to schools programme which includes 20mph zones and speed limits in the vicinity of schools.

£4.1 mill is to match fund investment from BDUK to extend the coverage of Superfast broadband to 98% of Warks households. Sambourne area is to benefit from an extension already announced.

The council tax is to increase by 1.95%

I attended a meeting re flood alleviation which will be reported upon. It was interesting to learn that there will be grants for this purpose probably available from April. I shall continue to do all I can to support the PC and the campaign group on this.

The Studley Centre (old youth club) is at last to be released by County and I am supporting a bid by the Churches Together group to buy the building and provide an offer to youth, elderly people. Single mothers and a food bank in the context of a coffee bar.

Money is to be provided for an enhancement of Alcester fire station to enable the Day crewed plus system to provide 24 hour cover by WHOLETIME firefighters for this area.

District Councillor's report

Cllr Kerridge

This will be Cllr Kerridge's last meeting with Coughton PC. He thanked the PC for their work and said he had enjoyed working with them.

6) School Report

Adam Walsh reported: There have been two near misses involving children and cars recently. The car park feasibility study has been completed and will be reviewed at a CAO board meeting on 22/04/15. A funding agreement may follow and then planning would be looked into.

Minor building works will take place during the Easter holidays when LED white lights will also be installed. The school is now on Twitter and Facebook.

7) Planning

No update regarding planning enforcement at 38 Coughton Lane.

8) Action Plan Updates

Review of action plan/review update

Friends of the ford

Cllr Carter: A meeting took place on 16/03/15. Volunteers from NFU will clear

the ford on 29/04/15 and re-establish the path. Wire in the area has been replaced. Repairs to the E road are still awaited. A picnic area will be created but litter is an issue.

Flood group

Covered earlier within this agenda

Community group

A meeting will take place on 19/03/15 – New recruits to the group are sought. Grant funding from WCC for cemetery repairs will be looked into. The cemetery tidy up has been promoted in the Link and Voice and on the website.

Neighbourhood Watch:

A dog walker behaving suspiciously was reported to the police who followed up the incident.

Van and steel thefts remain an issue as do handbag thefts from cars.

Transport and traffic group

Covered earlier within this agenda

9) **Finance**

Accounts for payment

Cheque No 287 Clerks Salary/Expenses £ 285.00

Cheque No 288 John Gittins (Web Space) £ 24.95

Cheque No 289 Calico UK (Domain Name) Void / 290 John Gittins £ 18.00 same

Cheque No 291 WCC (School Hire) £ 90.00

Signed: Cllr McTavish – Cllr Carter

Receipt: WALC/WCC Grant £ 250.00

10) **Correspondence**

Nomination forms and procedures for parish council election 7th May 2015

11) **Items for inclusion in the Link magazine**

Parish Council Election

Future PC meeting dates booked at Coughton Primary School:

6th July, 7th September, 16th November 2015

11th January, 7th March, 9th May 2016

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 pm

.....Chairman - 26th May 2015