



Coughton Parish Council

Minutes of the Coughton Parish Council Meeting held in Coughton Primary School, Coughton on Monday the 6th of July 2015 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

Clerk: Karen Parnell

In attendance: County Councillor Clive Rickhards

No members of the public were present

Apologies: Cllr Sophie Bayliss

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.

No members of the public were present.

1) Apologies for acceptance

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 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 May 2015.

The minutes of the May 2015 meeting were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman as such.

4) **Matters arising** from those minutes and new matters:

Dog fouling, the repair of a stile and clearing of undergrowth concealing a footpath by the A435 will all be progressed.

A crumbling footpath by the bridge was asked to be rectified by WCC.

Coughton Court will be asked to prune a few trees.

Flooding – Report by Karen Gazey

Severn Trent Drains survey we think has been started as we have been advised of ST presence in the village but we have not yet received a report as to the action taken or the findings. Aaron McCusker has committed to completing the work ASAP.

The Highways Dept. have not emptied the silted highway drains along A435 yet.

A resident has contacted Mike Gittus regarding the nuisance of noise from the double row of cats eyes near their property on A435 an inspection has taken place and a quieter version of the cats eyes is being looked into.

I have reported the faulty red light on the recently upgraded crossing (29 June fault ref 396292.)

Railway Bridge

The bridge will be demolished during the school holidays.

A pipe will be installed as well as a wildlife corridor.

A 20mph speed limit in the area is a consideration.

WCC will reclaim and store bricks to build benches.

5) District and County Councillor's reports

Cllr Gittus SDC: Not present but sent the following report:

Since elected as Chairman of Stratford District Council, Di and I have attended many events, as diverse as opening a paddling pool at the 'Rec' in Stratford, to unveiling a commemorative stone for Rex Warneford VC at King Edward School. This last week has been a particular challenge for my 'Morning Suit' with the temperatures in the 90's.

Probably the most memorable Event has been a Charity Concert held last weekend at St Benedict's School in aid of the Birmingham Children's Hospital. The performances by local children reminded what a wealth of young talent we have in our Alcester District.

- Immediately prior to The Annual SDC Full Council, an emergency meeting took place to enable new policies to be put in place to ensure continuity of services and to accept amendments to the Councils Constitution to reflect the new Ward Areas and the re-construction of essential committees. The Independent Remuneration Committee produced a report recommending that District Councillors should receive an additional 90p/day (Councillors Basic Allowance now stands at £5.90/day) to help them with their new increased Ward Areas. All these matters were endorsed prior to the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- I was asked to allow The District Council to have a special further Full Council Meeting to consider the adoption of 21 Core Strategy policies on an interim basis. This meeting took place on the 22nd June and the policies were fully endorsed by the entire council but one member. We now have some power to our elbow !!
- Further discussion will take place at the July meeting where the critical matter of housing numbers in the District will be considered. The present figure of 11,320 will certainly have to be adjusted upwards and the work undertaken to establish the new figure was directed by the Inspector. We would be foolish not to take heed of such instruction/direction (Warwick District have recently had their entire Core Strategy Rejected). Whatever the final figure, it is clear that Green Belt will continue to have protection and the view of the Inspector was that Alcester/Kinwarton/Oversley/Coughton would not be required to take any further development other than that presently indicated in the published document.
- If I were a betting man I might think that the increased number may require a further major new settlement. We will know shortly !!
- Combination Authorities are the flavour of the month, presently, from both a District and County Perspective. Presently we are gathering information in order to determine the value of formal arrangements. What is clear is that we are a prestigious area and we want no loss of sovereignty or identity but we do want to ensure that if there is any investment to be had that we are in a position to participate. My personal likes would be Solihull, Warwick, Coventry, possibly Cherwell and Northants. I would not consider Birmingham ! However recent announcements continue to risk what I would view as a suitable arrangement. "Early Days"

- I look forward to attending Coughton Fete on the 18th July, dressed accordingly, an Event Di and I are looking forward to.
- I continue to support the principal of the revised parking issues at the school and I will continue to support as and when the need arises.
- With the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP indicating the need to dual the A46 from Tewkesbury to Warwick in the future, Clive and I had a meeting with the project lead at WCC, details of which I believe I have circulated previously.

Cllr Rickards WCC:

Cllrs Gittus and Rickhards have met to discuss solutions to traffic problems concerning the A435, notably HGVs and speeding. HGV monitoring forms could be used in Coughton.

The A46 may become a dual carriageway from Coventry to the M5; this would mean the A435 would then be downgraded. The Councillors will continue to liaise. Flashing speed visors are an option.

An overgrown hedge shielding a speed camera on the A435 will be reported.

Cllr Rickhards has attended the Redditch Hearings regarding the Local Plan for Redditch.

Free transport to grammar schools in South Warwickshire will be introduced gradually.

The Members Grant Scheme will be available from 15th July.

6) School Report

Adam Walsh reported: A meeting will take place on 17th July to progress the car park.

Adam will be working in partnership as head of both St Nicholas and Coughton Primary Schools from September.

The pupils have attained significantly high SATS results.

The OFSTED report for Coughton is good and outstanding in places.

Sports day was successful.

A "Coughtonbury" school fete involving many events will take place on 16th July.

Councillors have been proactive in getting the car park back on the agenda.

The issue is not helped by there being many changes of personnel at WCC.

The proposal has now been split into two parts:

1) To get the traffic into the car park for reasons of safety.

2) To expand and extend the school (Which may affect the playing field)

This may affect future pupil numbers.

7) Planning

38 Coughton Lane – Appeal to be heard by the High Court in August.

8) Village Plan

Transport group

Discussed earlier within this agenda

Car park progress

Adam Walsh has already reported progress.

Flood group

Discussed earlier within this agenda

The Ford group

Repairs to the E road will take place over the summer.

The path is still waiting to be cleared by volunteers.

Many families are enjoying this area but concern was expressed about Pedestrians and cars being present in the area and signage will be looked into.

Community group

The village fete will be held on Saturday 18 July 12-4 pm. Donations of cakes, or wine or books would be appreciated.

A village walk will be organised by Jim Hawthorn to take place in August, date to be confirmed, this will be advertised in the Link. Posters will also be put up nearer the time.

Lisa Parry has been approached again to see if we can hold the biannual Hog Roast at Coughton Court in mid-September this year and a response is awaited.

A Community Fund bank account has been enabled.

9) **Finance**

External Audit

The external audit has been completed and forwarded – No response as yet.

10) **Accounts for payment**

Cheque No 296 Clerks Salary/Expenses £ 285.00

Cheque No 297 SDC Uncontested Election £ 100.00

Signed: Cllr Gittins – Cllr Carter

11) **Correspondence.**

None

12) **Items for Link magazine**

A summary of this meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

.....Chairman

7th September 2015