

Clerk to the Council: **Joy Pegrum**

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DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on **25th March 2018** at the Old School Nursery, commencing at 6.30pm

In attendance: Councillors: John Gittins (in the Chair), Lynne Stanton; Maureen McTavish; Len Carter, Roy Piddington & the Clerk, Joy Pegrum, WCC Councillor Clive Rickhards and 5 members of the public

- 1) **Motion to receive apologies for absence** – apologies from Adam Walsh accepted
- 2) **Motion to receive Disclosure of Interests** - none disclosed
- 3) **Motion to agree Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 30th January 2019:** agreed and signed as a true record of that meeting.
- 4) **Motion to receive Clerk’s report on actions & matters arising from previous meeting** – (previously circulated and forming part of these minutes – see Appendix 1 Reports): Received & accepted by all.
- 5) **Motion to receive other reports:** (previously circulated and forming part of these minutes – see Appendix 1 Reports):
 - a. **Traffic Report from Cllr Gittins:** Received & accepted. Councillor Gittins added that regarding the variations submitted on the Redditch Gateway Development application, approval was needed from all 3 district Councils in order for the developers to effect any proposed changes to the plan. This meant that despite being approved by Bromsgrove and Stratford District Councils, the variation application had failed since it was not passed by Redditch DC. Claims by developers Stoford that Bromsgrove DC had supported the variation unanimously were untrue: Cllr Gittins attended the meeting and so knew it to be only narrowly approved there. As well as the traffic issue, opposition also centred around ecology implications and the likely renegeing on promises of hi-tech jobs being created if the approved development of small specialised business units is allowed to be replaced by a warehouse for an as yet undisclosed major distributor (rumoured but not confirmed to be Amazon). Cllr Rickhards added that a further proviso for approval was the input of the Traffic Steering Group, of which he is a member. Due to lack of time to discuss further response and action on this issue at this meeting, it was agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting for this purpose as soon as possible. Cllr Gittins, although not seeking re-election to CPC at the forthcoming elections, offered to continue as the Village champion on traffic matters, which offer was unanimously accepted.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with all to find the best date and make arrangements for the extraordinary meeting accordingly.

- b. **Ford Report from Cllr Carter**– Received & accepted: work on tidying and managing the Ford picnic area will begin shortly.
- c. **Community reports** - Received & accepted for:
 - **Flood management** – drain covers cleared by Karen & Den
 - **Cemetery weekend** 13th & 14th April 11-3.00pm
 - **Fete** 13th July – planning meeting 9th April
 - **Skittles** – possibly 18th May – to be confirmed
- 6) **Planning: Motion to receive notice of new & updated Parish applications** – notice of new decisions by SDC on website & previously circulated - no new applications to consider - Received & accepted
- 7) **Finance: Motion to receive RFO Financial Statement & accounts paid** (previously circulated and forming part of these minutes – see Appendix 1 Reports) - Received & accepted
- 8) **Governance: to receive notice of correspondence received: Cllr Gittins had received a letter from Peter Morrison offering support and assistance in opposing the Redditch Gateway traffic plans.**
- 9) **Any other Business**
 - a. **Motion to agree a donation to Alcester First Responders of £170, in grateful thanks for their zero cost delivery of Defibrillator training for the Village in February.** Agreed and approved. **ACTION: RFO to effect payment.**
 - b. **Motion to invite any candidates in the forthcoming elections, in attendance at the meeting, to introduce themselves to Council.** Councillors agreed and Mrs Gill Forman introduced herself as a candidate for SDC/Kinwarton Ward, standing on behalf of the Conservative Party. Robin Stanton introduced himself and announced his intention to stand for election to Coughton Parish Council.
 - c. **Fibre Broadband Update:** following a week of connection disruption, residents had been assured that the new connections at the Sambourne Lane box would be activated in the coming week for those who had already applied for the faster connection, although Cllr Gittins believes that further BT OpenReach work is scheduled.
 - d. **WCC Cllr Clive Rickhards reported** that government **Major Routes Network Funding** had been secured and that the A435 had been selected by WCC to receive some benefit from this. There is no indication yet on how much will be allocated or for what, but Cllr Rickhards is 'very hopeful' that it will include average speed cameras from Coughton to Studley. WCCV is working closely with Worcs CC to find solutions for the problems of the A435.
- 10) **Date of the next meeting:** was confirmed as **Weds May 22nd 6.30pm, AGM**, to be immediately followed by the May meeting at 7pm.

Signed as a true account of this meeting:

Date:

Appendix 1 - Distributed Reports

Clerk's Report

Last Meeting Item 7A

- **Nursery Shed** - base construction/internal LED purchase – carried forward pending discussions with NEW Nursery owner
- **Defibrillator Training** – held on 21st Feb for 17 residents & delivered by Alcester First Responders FOC.
- **Damaged salt bin** new bin fitted & all 4 village bins filled by Highways

Last Meeting Item 7B - School parking – WCC 'safer to School' project leader chased for promised consultation but responded that their conclusion was that nothing could be done to alleviate the Coughton problem.

Last Meeting Item 7C – Road Repairs – following our report, some erosion work was carried out in Coughton Fields Lane

Last Meeting Item 7D - Bridge Plaque – no progress reported

May Election: - Notices of the upcoming elections for Coughton Parish and Stratford District Councillors were posted on the CPC Notice Board and website on 19th March. Nomination papers are available from me or from SDC and may also be returned to either. The deadline for return of nominations is 27th April to me; 4th April to SDC.

Other Reports

Traffic Report from Cllr Gittins' - The letter of concern to WCC from & School Head Adam Walsh to WCC and myself on the general situation and special concerns over the future effects of the Redditch Gateway development, despite receiving support from neighbouring parishes and WC Cllr Rickhards, was not received sympathetically by WCC and received no comment from MP Nadhim Zahawi. A letter of response from WCC was again responded to by myself on behalf of CPC (previously distributed and published). Proposed amendments to the Redditch Gateway development now include the movement of ancient hedgerows and footpaths and re-routing of a boundary brook in order to accommodate an undisclosed major site tenant (in place of previously planned for smaller businesses). I have attended planning meetings on these issues at which opposition to all that this will entail seems to be gaining momentum, not least the prospect of many more HGVs from a single large company on local roads. This variation to the plan was sadly supported by our own Stratford District Council, narrowly approved by Bromsgrove District Council, but rejected by Redditch District Council. We wait to see what this will mean to the development.

Ford Report from Cllr Carter - two estimates for cutting the grass on the picnic area site by the Ford in Coughton Fields Lane have been obtained and circulated, to reduce the number of weeds covering the site. One estimate from RD Tree Surgery, Coughton and one from Studley Lawns and Gardens. It is my feeling that the right person to do the job is Carl Tough so I will confirm with him and make the arrangements. This contract will be for initial clearance and then maintenance to run over several months.

Community Reports from Karen Gazey & Dennis Hackett

Flood Prevention

Karen & Den & have cleared leaves and mud from the drain covers around the village on several occasions over the last few months.

Next Cemetery Volunteer Weekend is 13th & 14th April 11-3.00pm .

A site visit was made on 20th March and a list of activities has been compiled.

Coughton Fete is Saturday 13th July. A Fete meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th April at 7.30pm in the tea room, Coughton for anyone who wishes to help with the organisation and / or running of the Fete.

Skittles - Matt Quirke will coordinate the Coughton team; suggested date 18th May & possibly a new venue – all yet to be confirmed.

RO Financial Report: Finance Update & Schedule of payments

Receipts: -

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Schedule of Payments

DATE	DESCRIPTION	EXPENSE
02/02/19	Coughton & Sambourne PCC	350.00
09/03/19	J Pegrum Clerks Pay - Feb	280.00
09/03/19	Calico (CPC domain reg. renewal)	24.00
20/03/19	Throckmorton Arms (Community Award Vouchers)	200.00
25/03/19	J Gittins (9-£10.57 & 15-£27)	37.57

Summary

Bank bal c/fwd 1/6/17		10443.91
Payments received		00.00
Less payments	891.57	
Balance to take forward		9552.34