

Extraordinary Meeting of Coughton Parish Council

Held on: Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 6.30pm

Place: Coughton C of E Primary School

Present: Cllrs Roy Piddington (Chair), Len Carter and Christine Lewington

In attendance: Sarah Whittaker (Parish Clerk), DC Gill Forman, Mr A Kolb

Members of the public: 3

111/22 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed all attendees. Cllr Lynne Stanton sent her apologies due to other commitments.

112/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared in any item of business on the agenda

100/21 113/22 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meetings held on 22nd November 2021 were confirmed and signed.

Proposed Cllr Christine Lewington

Seconded Cllr Carter

All in favour

114/22 VILLAGE REPORTS

i. Flood Group

Cllr Stanton had posted in the newsletter asking residents to clear drains of leaves in front of properties during bad weather if possible, to alleviate flooding down on A435

ii Community Group

A member of the public queried who was currently running the community group and it was confirmed that volunteers were needed. The Chairman confirmed that the parish council widely advertised the need for volunteers. District Cllr Foreman stated that it was a district wide issue with many councils having the same problem of a lack of volunteers.

iii Ford

The Clerk had received an update from Richard Roberts at WCC. The bridge had been assessed and it was confirmed that there were some bolts that needed replacing and would be included in schedule of works, as there was no immediate safety risk to the bridge. **AP1 Nov** - Clerk to chase update from WCC regarding expected timeframe for repair in the forthcoming financial year and provide a update at the next meeting in March.

iv Village Issues

A resident had complained to Warwickshire County Council regarding damages to hedges, fauna, kerbs and verges on Sambourne Lane Cllr Stanton also sent a report detailing the potholes on Coughton Lane and the passing places being unsuitable for use **AP2** Clerk to report to highways. Cllr Lewington to forward email of complaint to Clerk to chase a response.

v Coughton C of E Primary School

Mr Kolb reported there had been significant cases of covid in the school, at one point, a class had 17 children off and three outbreaks had been reported. Numbers were now returning to a

more manageable level. In her, Cllr Stanton reported that parents were still parking and blocking residents gates despite the signs in place.

115/22 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public queried the repair and removal of the tree down on Sambourne Lane. The issue had been repeatedly reported by both Cllr Len Carter and the Clerk with no response received. It was suggested that the parish council could write to the landowner requesting the safe removal of the tree. **AP3** Cllr Lewington to pass on owners' details to Clerk for a letter to be sent.

An update on the Rickyard was requested as planning permission was granted two years ago. It was believed there was an issue with funding. **AP4** Clerk to write requesting details of the development and concerns around the visual appearance of the land and the danger the burnt-out barns present.

It was highlighted that the previous Clerks details were still advertised in the link. The Clerk would update the information sent for inclusion in The Link.

The Chairman asked for guidance regarding the scattering of ashes only internment in the churchyard. It was confirmed that it wasn't permitted by the Dioceses of Coventry to scatter ashes in the grounds. Cllr Lewington queried the use of the Church for the community. It was confirmed that at present there is no electric or running water, but any queries would need to be forwarded to the dioceses.

There was a request regarding grant funding for the church which due to legislation was not permissible and still remains the case as advised in previous years.

116/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS

i. RFO Report

DOCUMENT 2

Inv. No.	Payee	Details	TOTAL	
39	S.Whittaker	November Salary	258.05	
40	CTKT	Grass cutting	90.00	
41	L.Stanton (Solopress)	Newsletter	34.03	
42	DM Payroll	Half Yearly Fee	60.00	
43	R. Piddington	Parish Christmas Tree	59.99	
44	S.Whittaker	December Salary	258.05	
45	Unity Service Charge	Bank Fees	18.00	
46	S.Whittaker	Dec/Jan expenses	59.50	
			837.62	
Receipt	Date Rec'd	Payee	Details	TOTAL
R1	06/05/21	SDC	Precept	2,575.00
R2	23/06/21	HMRC	VAT Refund	190.87
R3	15/09/2021	SDC	Precept	2,575.00
				5,340.87

ii. **Budget/Precept Request**

The clerk advised that should the precept amount remain the same in future years then the council reserves would be reduced to a very low level and the council may need to consider the precept amount in the future to meet it's running costs. The Precept would remain the same at £5150 resulting in a cost of £50.71 per household, an increase of 24p and 0.47%.

It was proposed by Cllr Len Carter and seconded by Cllr Christie Lewington to request the precept amount of £5150.

iii. **To consider the request for grant funding from Greig Hall, Alcester.**

District Cllr Gill Foreman explained the reason for the grant request which is now back up and running. The long-term vision for it is for concerts, events, weddings etc and will eventually be self-sufficient. It was agreed that at this time the parish council could not offer any funds but would consider any future requests.

1. 117/22 PREVIOUS ACTION POINTS

- AP3 Nov** RP Parish Cross - ONGOING. The Chairman had continually chased English Heritage, National Trust, war records and had still not got any firm answers. Cllr Lewington suggested taking it off the agenda unless any new information came to light.
- AP1 Jul** SW Bridge at the Ford - ONGOING. Clerk chased update, still no confirmed date. Schedule to contact Richard Roberts at SDC regarding the bridge repair before the March meeting so it can be scheduled for the forthcoming financial year.
- AP3 Sept** RP to forward plans to Headteacher re; gifted barn. Possibility of a feasibility study being conducted to assess viability. Advertised in newsletter, but no volunteers at present. It was agreed to remove the action point as it was deemed unfeasible at this time due to the large scale of the project and lack of volunteer interest.

118/22 GENERAL

i. **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.**

Cllr Lewington raised the possibility of a street party on Coughton Lane, on the Sunday of the bank holiday so not to clash with Sambournes planned events. Permission will need to be granted by Stratford District Council for a road closure. Cllr Lewington confirmed she was happy to lead on the project.

ii. **Update on Community Defibrillator and purchase of new battery and pads.**

Cllr Stanton and Cllr Piddington had met with the representative from West Midland Community Response Team, he has advised on the procedure for updating it and ordering supplies. The Defibrillator had been re-registered with 'The Circuit' and training arranged for the next parish assembly.

It was proposed by Cllr Lewington proposed the purchase of the new battery and pads at a cost of £127.20 the proposal was seconded by Cllr Carter. It was requested if there could be volunteers for the cemetery clear up and this advertised in the local village newsletter.

119/22 PLANNING

120/22 CC KERRIDGE

No report was received.

121/22 DC FORMAN

DC Forman reported that Covid cases are now falling. At the peak in January there were 200 cases per 100,000, this is now at 120 per 100,000. The proposed merger between Warwickshire County Council and Stratford District Council to save money was pressing ahead. Many officers now work for both. Joint contracts for BIFA and other services were already underway. Councillors voted in favour of the merger and a letter will be sent to the secretary of State.

The proposed budget is to be presented on 21st Feb with an expected increase to Band D properties of around £5 p/a. The cost of green bins is to rise by £2 this year with no early bird discount. New waste collections arrangement will be confirmed in the next council tax bill. There was no confirmation on the frequency or changes. It had been requested that drivers take extra care when passing waste collection vehicles, as a near miss in Alcester in December almost resulted in a collision with a refuse worker. Households had been requested to not put batteries in the waste bins as a fire was caused in a waste truck by batteries being placed in waste bins, Batteries can be disposed of by putting them in a separate bag on top of the bin. The parish council would advertise this in the next parish newsletter.

122/22 COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS and ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Cllr Lewington suggested a review of the village reports and village groups and see about advertising them and if there is no response consider removing them. It was agreed that other items of interest would be sent for publishing in The Link with around $\frac{1}{4}$ of a page for advertising meetings and another $\frac{1}{4}$ of a page for AOB.

14. 123/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 28th March 2022 6.00pm - Ordinary meeting and 7.00 pm - Parish Assembly.

The meeting closed at 7:35pm.

Sarah Whittaker

Clerk to Coughton Parish Council

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