

Held on: Monday 15th February 2021 at 7pm

Place: Online

Present: Cllrs Roy Piddington (Chair), Christine Lewington, Len Carter, Lynne Stanton and Oliver Stiley

In attendance: Kerry Finlayson (RFO/Clerk), CC Clive Rickhards, DC Gill Forman and Alex Kolb (Coughton Primary School Headteacher)

Members of the public: 2

07/20 WELCOME and APOLOGIES

There were no apologies to receive.

08/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

- o Cllr Stiley 16/20i

09/20 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 23rd November 2020 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

Proposed Cllr Stanton Seconded Cllr Carter All in favour

The minutes of the Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 27th January 2021 were **confirmed** and **signed**.

Proposed Cllr Stanton Seconded Cllr Piddington All in favour

10/20 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public (MOP) reported that she was still awaiting a response from Amy Spencer at Severn Trent with regards to the ongoing flooding issues. Cllr Stanton reported that she had also emailed with regards to sewage problems and had submitted photos. The Clerk would chase this up and ask her to attend the next meeting in March.

AP1 Feb

A MOP reported that the footpath to Sambourne Lane was in need of repair. Cllrs Stanton and Lewington reported that they had been logging the many issues around the village and would be putting together a detailed report which would be submitted to Highways. CC Rickhards agreed that this was a significant issue within the village and that there was due to be a site meeting shortly with Graham Stanley (WCC Highways)

11/20 FINANCIAL MATTERS

i. RFO Report

Cllrs received and noted the report from the RFO and noted that the bank account had been reconciled.

Payments:

Inv. No.	Payee	Details	TOTAL
43	DM Payroll	Payroll	60.00
44	K Finlayson	Salary	215.80
45	Amazon	Xmas Lights	51.92
46	SS Johal	Security Box	66.97
47	solopress	Printing	20.90
48	K Finlayson	Salary	215.80
49	Namesco	Domain Renewal	50.15

50	K Finlayson	Salary	215.80
51	solopress	Printing	22.90
52	K Finlayson	Allowance etc.	42.00
			962.24

Proposed Cllr Lewington Seconded Cllr Carter All in favour

In the budget for the next financial year provision had been made for the purchase of a new laptop as the current one was very slow and had no sound. The Clerk requested that she be able to purchase this as soon as possible and it was agreed that she should submit options to Cllrs for approval.

Proposed Cllr Carter Seconded Cllr Piddington All in favour

ii. New Bank Account

The RFO reported that the new account with Unity was fully up and running and all payments made by the RFO would now need to be authorised by a Cllr.

12/20

CC RICKHARDS

CC Richards reported on the following:

- o WCC was continuing with its welfare actions - grouped under the local welfare scheme financed through winter grant from government for vulnerable people.
- o The budget had been determined the previous week with an overall increase of 2.99% that represented a £0.86 per week increase for a Band D property
- o An extra £100kpa had been allocated to help with domestic abuse
- o The overall impact was £47 million in cuts over the 4 year medium term financial period
- o A site visit by highways to determine the yellow markings outside the school and installation of no parking signs was due to be scheduled - he would notify Cllr Lewington when this would take place
- o Alex Kolb thanked CC Rickhards for his work pushing this through

13/20

DC FORMAN

DC Forman reported on the following:

- o Current Covid figures - just below 100 per 100k which was the lowest since December
- o SDC had paid out over £40m in grants
- o Possible availability of a grant for those self-isolating if contacted by track and trace
- o Over 5k unemployed with an estimated 10-11k furloughed
- o Currently working on the budget as there was a large hole due to Covid payments. One proposal had been to start charging for SDC owned car parks outside of the town but this had been turned down
- o The council tax would represent a £5pcm increase for a Band D property
- o Green bin charge due to start on 1st April - bin stickers issued with a serial number and address to try to avoid fraud
- o SDC and WDC working together to share resources and secure joint contracts
- o Extra staff taken on at the Land Charges department to deal with the increase in requests as the stamp duty holiday due to end on 31st March.

N.B

DC Forman left the meeting at 7.30pm

14/20

VILLAGE REPORTS

i. Flood Group/Flooding

- o Cemetery

A MOP had expressed concern to Cllr Lewington about the water coming out of the cemetery. Former Cllr McTavish reported that this was a longstanding issue when the water table was high and that this was surface water.

CC Rickhards agreed to ask WCC Flood Risk Management to pursue the request for a drain to be installed.

- ii. Community Group
There was nothing reported
- iii. Ford
 - o Trees (21/00143/TREE Coughton Ford)
The planning application had now been approved and the Clerk had arranged for the work to be done as soon as possible
 - o Cllrs Lewington and Stanton reported:
 - Parking on the verges was churning them up
 - The log seat was nearly in the river - Cllr Stiley advised that this would be moved back once it had dried out as currently too wet
 - Fallen branch was causing litter to gather in the Ford - Cllr Stiley would arrange to get this removed
 - Lots of dog poo/bags everywhere - more than 34 lots counted - the Clerk had chased up the request for the bin that should have been installed last year but had no response as yet.
 - It was agreed to purchase new signage on stakes up to a cost of £50

Proposed Cllr Stanton	Seconded Cllr Lewington	All in favour
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- iv. Transport & Traffic
 - o Road condition
There had been a couple of complaints made about the mess/condition of Sambourne Lane and Coughton Lane.
Cllr Stiley had swept/cleaned up along Sambourne Lane using his JCB.
The issue with Coughton Lane was that the verge had been dug up by the hedge on one side of the road and that it looked a mess and stopped people from walking along the verges. Cllr Stiley confirmed that he had done this in order to stop the roads from flooding as this had also been a source of complaint for many years. Cllr Lewington asked if they could be levelled out. Cllr Stiley agreed that it would look untidy until the land settled but it would then flatten out and in spring he would add grass seeds.
A MOP concurred that the water had been a problem for many years and that the verges always looked bad in the winter and was pleased that something proactive had been done.
- v. Coughton C of E Primary School
Alex Kolb reported:
 - o The school was currently open with around 1/3rd capacity while the other children were learning from home. Teachers were delivering classes within the school and at home at the same time
 - o The new roof had finally been completed
 - o The school drop off system (as per the joint school and PC letter) was up and running and the staff continued to challenge those not following the system. There had been only 4 phone calls reporting issues, and, on each occasion, he had been out to speak to them. The offer for any MOP or Cllr to join him for the daily patrols still stood. Emergency services were aware of the agreement and an ambulance had got through at a busy time with no problems
 - o Requested that posts not issued on social media as they often showed a very skewed version of events

PREVIOUS ACTION POINTS

- o **AP Sep** LS Gateways **ONGOING**
Nothing to report

- **AP2 Nov CR** Drain blockages and problems **ONGOING**
Loose drain covers - 2 on A435, 1 at the bottom of Sambourne Lane & 1 just up from April Cottage in Coughton Lane - this had all been reported but CC Rickhards would chase this up further
- **AP3 Nov RP** - Parish Cross **ONGOING**
Nothing reported
- **AP4 Nov KF** Salt Bin **ONGOING**
The clerk confirmed that the request had been turned down by SDC but agreed to ask DC Forman to see if she could help.

- 16/20 PLANNING**
- i. 21/00182/FUL Coughton Lodge Farm
(Cllr Stiley moved to the waiting room for the duration of the discussion)
No objection
Proposed Cllr Stanton Seconded Cllr Carter All in favour
- 17/20 PARISH PLAN**
- It was agreed that a small working group would need to be set up to revise the plan. A request for volunteers would be put in the newsletter, on the website and on the local Facebook page.
- Proposed Cllr Piddington Seconded Cllr Stanton All in favour**
- 18/20 PROPOSED MEETING DATES FOR 2021-2022**
- The proposed dates were approved
- Proposed Cllr Stanton Seconded Cllr Lewington All in favour**
- 19/20 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**
- There was nothing reported
- 20/20 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**
- Monday 29th March 2021 at 6pm - Ordinary
 - Monday 29th March 2021 at 7pm - Parish Assembly
- 21/20 TO CONSIDER CLOSURE OF THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**
- The meeting was closed at 20.26
- Proposed Cllr Piddington Seconded Cllr Carter All in favour**
- 22/20 PERSONNEL MATTERS**
- Clerk's Appraisal
A date would be arranged with Cllrs Piddington and Lewington

Dated:

Signed: