

Clerk to the Council: **Joy Pegrum**

37 Westbourne • Honeybourne •
Worcestershire • WR11 7PT

☎: 01386 830995

email: clerk@coughton.plus.com

LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION



Coughton Parish Council

MINUTES of the Meeting of Coughton Parish Council, 23rd September 2019 at The Old School, Sambourne Lane, Coughton

In attendance: Councillors Roy Piddington; Oliver Stiley & Len Carter; Clerk Joy Pegrum, SDC Councillor Gill Forman; WCC Councillor Clive Rickhards plus 2 members of the public

- 1) **The meeting was opened by Councillor Roy Piddington in the chair and members of the public were invited to speak. None accepted.**
- 2) **APOLOGIES:** received from Councillors Stanton and Lewington who were unwell.
- 3) **INTERESTS:** No interests were disclosed

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd July *(previously circulated) were agreed as a true account of the meeting and duly signed.*

- 4) **Clerk's Report on actions and matters arising from previous minutes was presented as follows:**

Item 5: COUGHTON SCHOOL Contact – emailed with no response.

Item 7: BANK MANDATE AMMENDMENT – amendment form for account type rejected by HSBC - local authority form for new mandate raised and submitted.

Item 7: RICKYARD FIELD - Councillor Stiley deferred action on this - Item **10A** on this Agenda refers.

Item 7::FORD antisocial behaviour strategy- Councillor Stiley circulated a sample notice as agreed, item **7B ii** on this agenda refers.

Item 8a: TRAFFIC dangers to school children: Councillor Lewington is taking this up: Item **7A ii** on this Agenda refers.

Item 8b: FORD leisure area seating: Councillor Stiley has something in hand - Item **7B ii** on this Agenda refers.

New Correspondence:

Phone Box de-commissioning: BT that they intend to decommission 29 local telephone boxes, following a consultation period. Item 6A on this agenda refers.

UBUS - SDC request for support - voluntary financial contribution from those with significant registered users and promotion by others. Coughton has no registered users, & details have been on CPC's Community & Web Boards for some time.

Mobile Library – enquiry on including Coughton in the service round but without an effective way of polling resident impossible to say. (Invitations to residents in the 2017/18 newsletters to join a contact list for such purpose drew no response and the Electoral Roll gives addresses only and just for those registered to vote: new, temporary or non-voting residents are not listed). A trial has been suggested but with no response.

VASA are attempting to compile a transport user report by parish using postcode criteria, but as in many cases postcodes don't match parish boundaries, any report based just on this information will not be meaningful. (Some postcodes in Coughton are not even contiguous with their counterparts). *(NB – no further response was received to your suggestion that their earlier request for funding, at the beginning of 2019, at a blanket contribution per parish, should be revised to a per capita rate & would then be favourably received.)*

WCC cybercrime survey – request received & previously distributed for individual Councillor action.

WCC Warwickshire Rail Strategy Consultation – invitation to respond online received and previously distributed.

WCC Joint Strategic Needs Assessment ("JSNA") notification received and circulated to Councillors. A subsequent invitation to JSNA Steering Group's Charles Barlow to attend this or a future CPC meeting to deliver a presentation on this project was extended, but so far with no response.

5) **SCHOOL Report** – No school representative was in attendance and no report had been received.

6) **District and County Councillor's reports**

A SDC Cllr Forman – confirmed that the Coughton Phone box is NOT on the BT decommissioning list sent to SDC. In response to a member's question regarding her opinion on the Redditch Gateway proposal, she agreed that the planned development is too big for its location/situation and feels that the promised and hoped for advantages from job creation is unlikely to be realised in practice. Like those actively opposing the routing strategy, she cannot see how this will be effectively policed and managed as proposed.

B WCC Cllr Rickhards – assured members that he also opposes the Redditch Gateway routing strategy and has logged his opposition to the plan. He is mystified that the Steering Group set up to monitor and advise on the impact of the development on traffic (and which he was invited to join), turned out to be merely notional and has not yet held a proper meeting, all discussion being handled remotely. He questions the legitimacy of this. On other matters, there is still a strong hope that the A435 will receive an allocation from the MRN (Major Route Network) fund and he is lobbying for an escalation on this. His WCC members fund is now all allocated for the year but he encourages groups to start considering suitable community projects for the next round in 2020. He recommends that the Safer Routes to School fund should be investigated again since this is a separate fund and might be used to provide additional Puffin crossings, effectively slowing traffic through the village. He is still hopeful that an average speed system might be implemented on parts of the A435. In response to a request from the chair, he will investigate and report back on the current status of the southern Coughton speed cameras which are believed to be non-functional.

7) Village Reports

A Transport and traffic

i. Redditch Gateway Update – John Gittins was not present but sent a report that Redditch have been taken out of the loop despite an understanding that all three Districts would have to support any application on the site. This is unfortunate as Redditch were supportive of objections but may relate to the positioning of development within district boundaries.

This application is only for part of the site & others will follow with further similar impact implications for Coughton traffic: it is therefore important to scrutinise all applications on this site - not just those that are located inside the Stratford boundary. It will be essential for our SDC Councillor Gill Forman to recognise our position before this revised application goes to committee.

A meeting of the SDC planning committee has just been announced for 2nd October but Mr Gittins is unable to attend.

ii Safer Routes to School update – Councillor Lewington is investigating this and will report at next meeting

B Ford

i General update – Councillor Carter announced that he wishes to stand down as leader of the Ford Group, but a decision on his successor is deferred to the next meeting. He has been pleased to see the leisure area so well used by visitors this year. Log seating in the picnic area was not completed as fully as envisaged but is being used well none the less. The damaged ford bed has finally been repaired by Highways, but significant numbers of drivers ignored the closure signs and may have impaired the repair. Complaints are once again to be made to Highways regarding the hazard to working farms from uncollected signs, barriers and cones left in the hedgerows.

ACTION: Clerk will contact John Brown/Jeff Morris to request urgent collection & Cllr Carter will review & feedback at the end of the week.

ii Feedback on matters arising from previous minutes – Councillor Stiley has a log at the sawmill being prepared for use as additional seating at the Ford and will arrange to have this delivered and placed at the site. Also, following discussions on strategies for dealing with anti-social behaviour, Councillor Stiley produced a design for signage and a quote for installation but Councillor Carter is not in favour of using signage. Discussion on this is deferred to the next meeting. The pros and cons of CCTV was again briefly discussed with no action resolved.

C Flood group report from Karen Gazey:

Karen has been in regular contact with Jeff Morris at the Highways Dept. He recently visited to check on Ford repairs and is arranging for remaining barriers there to be collected. During this visit he surveyed the A435 at the village centre for improvements to the surface water problem.

Measures to get surface water into main culverts more quickly are proposed, by easing the existing drainage system when it reaches capacity, as follows:

- Completion of a 'levels' survey to highlight the low spots where water collects.

- Modification to the very small drain outside the post office near the post box.
- Attachment of existing drains (outside post office and bottom of Coughton Lane) to the main culvert along the A435 .
- Connection to the culvert at the bottom of Sambourne Lane from the crossroads junction to divert water from Coughton Fields Lane .
- New relief points at the bottom of Coughton Fields Lane where water can escape above ground and reach the ford when the river is in flood and the drain outlets are submerged in the river

Time scales are unclear but survey is hoped for before Christmas. Karen has agreed to continue 'harassing' him with his consent and will be chasing again in a few week's time.

D Community group report from Dennis Hackett:

Village Picnic - at Coughton Court orchard held on 23rd August - all residents invited by hand delivered letter but poorly supported: residents from only six properties & some NT staff attended. Poss due to Friday evening of B/Hol weekend.

Fete - Claire Hancox now has all invoices will be holding a 'wrap up' meeting shortly – details shortly by email - open invitation to everyone who helped to discuss distribution of monies raised .

Next Cemetery Vol weekend is 12th-13th October, 11-3 pm - site survey completed & work schedule prepared. Posters in the village up, reminder email to follow, notice in the Link and to Sambourne Parish Clerk for their notice board. Bob Turner has cut the rear hedge where accessible from the field. All remaining hedges and tree pruning will be the priority for but other light tasks are also available.

8) **Planning updates:**

New application: Arboreal work at St Peter's Church Finance & Accounts

A RFO Financial Summary was presented and accepted (see appendix 1)

B Ideas to reduce the financial surplus in the current year despite appeals to residents for grant applications, none have been forthcoming. Suggestions were briefly discussed for a possible 'Coughton in Bloom' and restoration of the Coughton 'Cross' (Monument).

ACTION: Cllr Piddington will approach the National Trust regarding a joint project for the monument and will feed back for discussion and decision.

9) **Governance**

A NT Rickyard Site: Councillor Stiley reported that contrary to the discussion at last meeting, there is no right of way on the Rickyard field which is entirely private property (National Trust) so no path clearance action can be taken. Councillor Piddington presented a letter of complaint sent to NT by resident John McTavish regarding the neglect of the field and site in general. NT have responded that plans are progressing to obtain building planning permission and that they intend to sell the site (see Appendix 2 – shared with permission). Council wish to arrange to meet with NT representatives to discuss their plans and how these may benefit the Village.

ACTION: Clerk to approach NT and request a meeting

B New Website: members briefly discussed new accessibility compliance regulations which come into force in Sept 2020. The current website is not fit for purpose and a new design is needed.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate options / costs to be reported on for decision at the next meeting

C Clerk's retirement: Members agreed that the forthcoming vacancy for replacement Clerk/RFO (for January 2020) should be advertised as soon as possible.

ACTION: Clerk to place vacancy notices on website, notice boards and community/WALC social media sites and to distribute job description to members.

10) **Correspondence**

There was no further correspondence.

11) **Any Other Business**

No further business raised.

12) **The date of next meeting was agreed as November 25th 2019 at 7pm**

See overleaf for Appendices

APPENDIX 1 – RFO Report

SEPTEMBER Meeting 2019

Financial update & Schedule of payments

23rd July – 23rd September

Receipts: - NONE

--	--	--

Schedule of Payments

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHQ No.	EXPENSE
02/07/19	CTKT Ltd Inv1909 (Ford maintenance ss.10)	TSFR	70.00
02/08/19	Clerk's pay & expenses - July	TSFR	371.03
01/09/19	CTKT Ltd Inv1949 (Ford maintenance ss.10)	TSFR	70.00
01/09/19	Clerk's pay & expenses - Aug	TSFR	301.03
01/09/19	SDC ELECTION ADMIN CHARGE	TSFR	100.00

Summary

Bank bal c/fwd 1/6/17	9633.70
Payments received	00.00
Less payments out	912.06
Balance to take forward	8721.64

APPENDIX 2

J Mctavish / Rickyard correspondence with NT

Email To: Alison Hopewell, **Sent:** 05 September 2019

Subject: National Trust property in Sambourne Lane Coughton, Warks

Dear Alison - I have been advised that you might be able to help me. Having lived in Coughton for nearly 40 years I am concerned that the property, owned by the National Trust further down the the lane in which I live, is being totally neglected.

When I first came to live in the village the property which consists of a rick-yard, farm buildings, including two large barns for storing hay, and a large field behind were all being used by a local farmer. However, some 10 years ago the barns were totally destroyed by fire, the work of an arsonist, leaving 2 concrete frameworks behind. The local farmer, as far as I know, no longer leases the property and since that time the whole property has been left to deteriorate being used, on occasions, for some unsavoury actions. The site has become an eye-sore in the middle of the village which, if you take time to look around, is in the main a beautiful, well-cared for village albeit with a busy road running through it.

I would welcome your views and whether the National Trust has any plans for its development either by way of improvement or by selling it so that something can be done to make the improvements so obviously required,

Yours sincerely, John McTavish

Reply From: Michelle Boliver

Sent: Wednesday, 18 Sep, 2019 At 11:24

Subject: FW: National Trust property in Sambourne Lane Coughton, Warks

Dear Mr McTavish, Thank you for your email and sorry for the delay in responding.

Alison passed it on to me as I am now starting to deal with this particular site at Coughton. As you correctly note some time has passed since the fire and since the previous planning applications were submitted. We are now looking at the site again, and seeking to come up with a more acceptable scheme that will fit with the village and that the planners will find acceptable and met with planners and architects last week. We would then be looking to sell the site, or at least part if it depending on the scheme that is developed for the existing red brick barns.

This is still very much in its early stages so I don't have any detail that I can share with you at this stage but I can review this when we have progressed things a little further. Please do give me a call if you would like to discuss this in more detail. We, like you, are very keen to move this forward now.

With kind regards, Michelle