

Clerk to the Council: **Joy Pegrum**

37 Westbourne • Honeybourne •  
Worcestershire • WR11 7PT

☎: 01386 830995

email: clerk@coughton.plus.com



**Coughton Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Coughton Parish Council held at  
The Old School Nursery, Monday 26th November, 8PM**

**Present were** Councillors: John Gittins (in the Chair), Len Carter, Roy Piddington & the Clerk, Joy Pegrum,  
with 1 member of the public and WCC Cllr Clive Rickhards

- 1) **Public participation** - a member of the public thanked the Council for their prompt action on fly tipped rubbish in Coughton Fields Lane.
- 2) **Apologies for absence:** received from Cllrs Maureen McTavish & Lynne Stanton
- 3) **Disclosure of Interests:** none disclosed
- 4) **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th September 2018** were agreed and duly signed as a true account of the meeting.
- 5) **Reports on matters arising:**
  - A **Report on Councillor Surgery:** Cllrs Gittins & Carter held the last surgery on Sat.3rd November and were visited by 3 members of the public. They reported that a gate sign would be helpful, along with a suggestion box and standard form for enquiries & comments and that community and local service groups may also like to take advantage of the opportunity to raise awareness or funds in tandem Council agreed.

**Action:** Clerk to progress suggestions and feedback
  - B **Report on Roads: Traffic, Parking & Erosion** Cllr Gittins summarised his previously published report (see appendices). There has been no response from Studley Cllr Beaman to Cllr Gittins' request for an update on the outcome of the recent Sterring Group meeting. However, WCC Cllr Rickhards had been invited and reported discussion around the planned number plate recognition system for monitoring HGV use of local roads but that it seemed unclear how this would work or be sanctioned. The claim is that there will be very few HGV's coming south from the development and he thought the plan was that this will be self-policed by companies trading on the development. Concerns were expressed that Coughton and Alcester had been ignored in the consultation process.
    - a) **Motion** to agree in principle to contribute to the cost (on a per-capita basis) of an independent traffic engineer, appointed to analyse traffic management as presented by Redditch Gateway developers, to assess its viability. **Discussed and agreed by all.**

**Action:** Cllr Gittins will report back to the neighbours group and feedback to Council.
    - b) **Motion** to agree to make a monthly inspection of road and path conditions with updates on repairs and new erosion reported to the Clerk for relevant follow up with relevant agencies. **Council discussed and agreed that a full inspection will be made initially and from then**

on Cllr Carter will monitor Sambourne Lane; Cllr Gittins will monitor Coughton Lane and Cllr Piddington will monitor Birmingham Road and Coughton Fields Lane.

**Actions:** Clerk will provide a list of issues reported over the last 6 months; Councillors will inspect and feedback to the Clerk on the status of these, together with any new issues discovered.

- C **Report on Ford Maintenance** - Cllr Carter summarised his report (previously circulated) on the difficulties of engaging a contractor and his recommendation that RSTS should be engaged in the first instance at a cost of £750. Other contractors have been recommended and have not yet been approached, but Cllr Carter favours accepting the RSTS estimate due to fears that more of the same procrastination will ensue and much needed work further delayed.

a) **Motion** to accept or reject financial responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the leisure area at Coughton Ford at an estimated cost of c £1250 per annum was **discussed and agreed by all**.

**Action:** Clerk is to investigate and feed back on the pro's, con's and procedure for adopting the unassigned area around the Ford.

b) **Motion** to accept the estimate from RSTS Landscaping of £ 750 for initial remedial work (to be met with remaining funds from the Village Maintenance budget and shortfall from reserves), with another maintenance contractor to be appointed for the next financial year was discussed but carried forward to next meeting, pending further discussions on the detail of the estimate.

**Action:** Cllrs Carter & Gittins will contact Mr Walker to meet and clarify his proposal.

- D **Report on the 'Gigabite voucher scheme' to improve broadband service to the village** – carried forward to next meeting pending Newsletter distribution to raise awareness in the village.

- E **Clerk's report – Clerk outlined actions completed from last meeting minutes:**

- **Redditch Gateway** joint interest meeting invitations sent: Item 5B Traffic report refers.
- **Ford maintenance:** recommendations sought from neighbouring Clerks - potential contractors passed to Cllr Carter Item 5C Ford report refers
- **CPC Community Appreciation Award:** Clerk's actions c/fwd to January meeting
- **Nursery shed** purchased and installed - security lighting already in place but not working – now repaired by Nursery management.
- **Training** – Chairing meetings booked for Cllr Stanton in January
- **Council surgery** - Future dates publicised on website, notice board and The Link.
- **Parish Assembly** - seating may be loaned from Alcester; Speaker and display: arranged from HofE Forest.
- **Newsletter** – reviewed & re-drafted – item 10B refers.
- **Village maintenance & safety:** – issues reported when received but subsequent actions difficult to review Item 5B b) refers. Sand bins in need of checks and repair.
- **C/Fwd From July: CAW Service contribution update:** Nina Knapman has reported with grateful thanks that “as a result of so many local organisations being so positive about the need in the area and the obvious demonstration of that by assisting” the service will be reinstated as soon as possible. They are currently recruiting for someone suitable to run a bi-weekly service at the Jubilee Centre in Alcester.

**Actions:** Clerk to purchase internal battery LED lights & arrange for a base to be constructed for the shed.

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

- A **WCC Cllr Rickhards** – reported that an average speed traffic control system for the A435, from Kings Coughton to Washford Bridge, is now a strong possibility. WCC Capital fund has ring fenced financing for safety projects and this is the most likely use of that in the district, probably within the next 12 months. There is also the possibility of national MRM funding coming to the County but as yet no information on what that might be used for.
- B **SDC Cllr Gittus** – was not present.

7) **Village Group Reports**

- A **School Report** – The School Head, Adam Walsh could not attend but sent a report that he is investigating alternative grant funding for a car park, but that this would be pegged to an expansion of the school from, taking the PAN (Published Admission Number) up from 25 to 30. If successful, this is likely to take some 3-5 years to come to fruition.

**Action: Cllr Gittins will arrange a meeting with Mr Walsh to discuss**

- B **Flood group** - no report but Council noted that drain covers had been recently cleared of leaves.
- C **Community group** – (report distributed in advance):
- Fete funds distributed to PCC, School & community fund
  - Cemetery tidy up took place 13-14 October
  - Festive Feet walk will be 30<sup>th</sup> December
  - A Christmas song written by a resident is being used as a music project, will be performed at local festive concerts and may be recorded as a fundraiser.

8) **Planning**

- A Councillors acknowledged receipt & review of WCC Minerals Plan Consultation pack (previously circulated) but concluded that as there are no potential sites in or near this Parish and the document is so complex and specialised, no response could be made.
- B Councillors reviewed recent planning notices (nothing new since last meeting) & SDC decisions since last full meeting and concluded no actions were necessary.

9) **Finance & Accounts**

A **RFO Report/Financial Summary was received and accepted**

B **Schedule Of Payments made since last meeting was received and accepted**

C **Internal Checks: Cllr Carter reported everything in order**

D **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Budget Review was received and accepted**

E **Draft Budget for 2019/2020 was received and discussed and passed.** Council accepted a necessity to ring fence funds for the forthcoming 2019 local elections at a level recommended by SDC, but noted that it was too early to say if these would be needed. Council also agreed that an adequate sum should be budgeted for Village Maintenance, incorporating the Ford. Both these items potentially add significantly to the next year's costs and so necessitate a small increase in precept of around £3 per household.

F **A grant application from Stratford VASA group was reviewed:** Council agreed that it could not be considered as it stands, with the amount requested on a par with surrounding and much larger parishes. RFO's suggested response was approved by all (see appendices).

**Action: Clerk to send response.**

10) **Governance**

A **GDPR Councillor Declaration was presented for signatures and signed by those present. Signatures of Cllr McTavish and Stanton are to be obtained as soon as possible.**

**Action: Clerk to follow up on outstanding signatures**

B **Newsletter – the amended draft was discussed and some amendments agreed for distribution.**

**Actions: Clerk to amend and print; Cllr Gittins to arrange distribution**

11) **Any Other Business**

**Motion (c/fwd from Sept meeting) to approve the purchase and installation of 2 plaques to commemorate the demolished railway bridge in Coughton Lane (design as shown) & to be placed on the seats in situ at the site was discussed and agreed, at a cost to Council of materials only (c £20). A resident's suggestion that an engine logo or the word 'RAILWAY' should be included was discussed and all agreed that 'RAILWAY' and the suggestion originators initials should be added.**



**Action: Cllr Gittins to progress production and installation**

12) **The date of next meeting was confirmed as: Monday 28th January, at 7pm**

**November 2018**

**RFO Finance Report**

**9A Financial Summary (24<sup>th</sup> Sep - 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2018)**

Bank bal c/fwd 1/6/17		<b>10650.02</b>
Payments received	2250.00	
Payments out		<b>1296.99</b>
Balance to take forward		<b>11603.03</b>

**9B Schedule Of Payments (all pre-approved)**

02/10/18	J Pegrum (Clerk's wages Sept)	DT	365.00
05/10/18	Activate Energy (Defib Installation)	DT	300.00
01/11/18	J Pegrum (Clerks Pay – August)	DT	372.00
01/11/18	Taylor Inv Ltd (Shedstore/Nursery shed)	DT	259.99

**9C Internal Checks: information provided to Councillor Carter**

**9D 2nd Quarter Budget Review & 9E - 2019-20 Budget DRAFT v1 (amended 21/11/18)**

**See following pages**

Expense Type	Budget 2018-2019	To date July Review	To Date Oct Review	Notes & Rationale to 2018/19 Budget	Review notes: 1st Qtr July 2018	Review notes: 2nd Qtr Oct 2018
<b>OPERATIONAL COSTS</b>						
Clerk salary	3,644	723	2,023	Allows for annual increment to NJC point 16 - £9.20 p.hr (rounded) for 2018/19	Includes £22.50 under payment from Feb 2018	Slightly above projection
Telephone/Travelling/Office Costs	300	33	58	Includes travel necessitated by training commitments	Training travel expenses	
Insurance	300	149	149	Expected increase due to new insurance co. + increased asset cover & ins tax	New provider - below projection	
ICO Fee - (Data Protection)	35	35	35	ICO registration is a legal requirement but was not on last years budget	Annual fee paid	
Internal Audit	40	50	50		Higher increase than expected	
External Audit	0	0	0	We SHOULD be exempt for 2018 but this is not yet confirmed - now confirmed that we have exemption status & nil costs	Exempt from external Audit	
Printing	0	0	0	Nil: Costs of admin printing are covered under Stationery/Postage below and in office allowance and expenses		
Village Event	150	0	0	Parish Assembly		
Village Maintenance	450	11	211	Ford ongoing costs: weed control and SDC Litter collection; path repair	Repair to signage (amendment: replacement of stolen litter bin at Coughton Ford expense re-assigned to capital expense)	Ford maintenance
Stationery / Postage	10	0	0	1 x toner + 1x ream paper + postage		
WCC - School Hire	95	0	0	Allows for poss rate rise	New venue is currently FOC but may incur some costs	
Election	0	0	0	None planned: any unexpected election cost will be met from reserves		
Website/Internet	55	0	0	Allows for poss rate rise		
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,079</b>	<b>1001.22</b>	<b>2525.325</b>	To be met from precept with shortfall from reserves		
<b>OTHER COSTS</b>						
Clerk/Councillor Training & Resources	1,080	115	115	Includes cost of Cilca certification for Clerk & training for new councillor		
S137 grants & expenses	1,332	12	163	Community services & grants - capped @176 * 7.57 - cap increased 27th March to 7.86 so max spend could be extended to £1383	Fee for plan to accompany planning application for defibrillator	Defibrillator costs + Grant to CAW
Capital expense	1,500	240	296	Seats & recreation etc. + upgrade of Village gates & speed signs	Replacement litter bin	Meeting Chairs & table
Build to reserves	0	0	0	Sufficient reserves are in hand		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,912</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>574</b>			
<b>SUBS &amp; DONATIONS</b>						
WALC membership	100	104	104	Allows for a possible increase	+ small increase	
Link magazine	100	0	0			
Churchyard Maintenance	230	0	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>104</b>			
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9421</b>	<b>1472</b>	<b>3203</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>						
Village Plan sales	0	0	0			
Precept	4,500	2,250	4,500		1st precept payment received	2nd precept payment received
VAT Reclaim	210	439	439		Repayment of VAT on 2017/18 expenditure	
Village Community Fund	0	0	0			
Transparency fund	0	0	0			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,710</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>4,939</b>			

Expense Type	Budget 2018-2019	Projecte d end of year	Draft 2019-2020	Notes & Rationale to 2018/19 Budget
<b>Ongoing OPERATIONAL COSTS (met from precept)</b>				
Clerk salary	3,644	4,000	4,000	Allows for retirement handover period early 2020
Telephone/Travelling/Office Costs	300	300	300	Includes travel for training (including potentially for New Clerk in 2020)
Insurance	300	149	175	Allows for potential increase
ICO Fee - (Data Protection)	35	35	35	ICO registration is a legal requirement
Internal Audit	40	50	50	Under budgeted 2018/19
External Audit	0	0	0	We are exempt
Printing	0	0	0	Costs of admin printing are covered under Stationery/Postage below and in office allowance and expenses
Village Event	150	150	50	Parish Assembly
Village Maintenance	450	1,000	1,500	Allows for ongoing Ford maintenance costs: weed control, SDC Litter collection; path repair etc. The cost of this can initially be covered partially from existing reserves and partially by a gradual increase in precept over the next 3 years
Stationery / Postage	10	10	10	1 x toner + 1x ream paper + postage
WCC - School Hire	95	0	0	No longer applicable
Election	0	0	0	See Below
Website/Internet	55	55	55	Upgrade to improve navigation & usability is desirable at a cost of £500 - 1K; however, if election costs prohibit this, perhaps the WCC or another grant scheme could be utilised
Build to reserves	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,079</b>	<b>5,649</b>	<b>6,175</b>	To be met from precept with shortfall from reserves
<b>OTHER COSTS (met from reserves)</b>				
Election	0	0	2,000	Risk assessed & advised to budget this amount by SDC (G. Raspin) but unlikely outcome - could be as little as £100 if election is uncontested.
Clerk/Councillor Training & Resources	1,080	250	500	I have not taken up Cilca as I plan to retire 12/2019, with potential election costs this year, potential Cilca for new Clerk to be included in 2020-21 budget
S137 grants & expenses	1,332	300	0	£0 planned for start of this budget: any unused election funds may allow applications to be met from reserves later (2018/19 capped @7.86 per capita, so max allowable spend for Coughton = c £1383)
Capital expense	1,500	520	0	Seats & recreation etc. + upgrade of Village gates & speed signs
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,912</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>2,500</b>	
<b>SUBS &amp; DONATIONS</b>				
WALC membership	100	104	110	Allows for a possible increase
Link magazine	100	100	100	
Churchyard Maintenance	230	230	230	
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>440</b>	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9421</b>	<b>7153</b>	<b>9115</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Village Plan sales	0	0	0	
Precept	4,500	4,500	5,000	Planned Increase of approx £2.90 per capita per year for 3 next years to cover the additional operational cost of maintaining the Ford
VAT Reclaim	210	210	100	
Village Community Fund	0	0	0	
Transparency fund	0	0	0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,710</b>	<b>4,710</b>	<b>5,100</b>	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>-4,711</b>	<b>-2,443</b>	<b>-4,015</b>	Negative balance to be used to reduce reserves to a more appropriate level - but this figure will potentially reduce in 2019-20 by £2k anyway, if election not contested
<b>Projections</b>				
End of 2017/18 reserve balance	10,800	10,800	8,357	Disposable reserve + safeguarded contingency
2018/19 expense & disposal bal	-4,711	-2,443	-4,015	
50% of precept figure to be held in reserve for contingencies	-2,250	-2,250	-2,250	
Remaining disposable reserve to c/fwd	3,839	6107	2,092	Final 2019-20 figure may be higher depending on election costs

## **Traffic & Parking Reports from CPC Chairman, Councillor John Gittins**

### **1. Redditch Gateway Development – Routing**

Following an invitation from us to explore a joint approach to influencing the decisions on traffic routing, a neighbours meeting was arranged at short notice prior to a meeting of the Eastern Gateway Steering Group which Studley Cllr. Paul Beaman was attending. The meeting was chaired by Councillor Beaman and present were: myself and Councillor Len Carter for Coughton; Councillors Paul Beaman and Hazel Wright (SDC) for Studley; Mappleborough Green PC Chairman Councillor Steve Coley and WCC Councillor Clive Rickhards. (Sambourne and Alcester Councils were invited but did not send delegates.).

I stressed Coughton's concern that the impact of the Eastern Gateway Development on the Village has been ignored and that it is not clear how we are represented. I also made it clear that we are not objecting to the principle of industrial development, but the manner in which this has been pushed through, with little regard for local communities and the impact on an already overloaded transport infrastructure. The developers' (Stofords) approach to consultation seems to have been one of paying lip service rather than community engagement and identifying important issues - a process that is likely to lead to discontent and failure. The view of everyone present was very similar.

The background to approval of the site was discussed:

The site is located on land covered by three district planning authorities. Both Bromsgrove and Redditch councils had supported the development but Stratford DC gave approval subject to the developers producing a satisfactory mechanism for managing HGVs through Mappleborough Green and Studley. A scheme was devised and although approved by Stratford DC, it was felt by all present and on the Steering Group to be far from satisfactory. Bromsgrove DC has since expressed concerns over the viability of the proposals. The scheme is based on a system that will monitor traffic on the local road network to identify any infringement of the designated routes, backed up by a performance bond of £200,000. There has been no detail over how this would be enforced, both legally and in practice, nor is there any explanation from the developer as to who would be liable – lorry drivers, individual companies, the development company? The developer claims that a similar scheme has operated satisfactorily in North Warwickshire but they have failed to provide details of this.

I pointed out that this 'scheme' takes no account of the impact on Coughton, as it lies on the A435 south of the point where the traffic flows around Redditch would converge at Sernal Ash, already recognised as a major traffic hazard. Everyone confirmed that this and also Crabbs Cross were potential sites of complete blockage. The A435 between Sernal Ash and Alcester carries the second highest level of traffic, according to the Routing Survey carried out in 2017. There is no scope for road improvement within Coughton village as the A435 splits the Village with Coughton Court on one side, and a dozen or so listed buildings on the other. The former Studley bypass proposal and the viability of an alternative route should funding ever become available was discussed, but the timescales involved (ten years or more) would have no effect on the scheme now under discussion. We are also



concerned over the additional impact of future development of the Arden Industrial Estate and Allimore Lane in Alcester.

Len pointed out that Kings Coughton also lies on this same stretch of the A435 but falls within the boundary of Alcester Town Council. They have the same traffic levels but without any pelican crossing and would be affected environmentally because of their proximity to the Tollgate roundabout.

It was agreed that each parish council delegate would put a request to their Councils to fund (on per-capita proportions) an independent traffic engineer, whose purpose would be to analyse the traffic management scheme presented by Stofords and present the arguments over its viability. I also agreed to contact Alcester Town Council to seek their involvement and support and have since spoken to ATC Mayor Cllr Andrew Foster, who will be joining our collective.

## **2. School Traffic and Parking**

I met Mike Gillespie (WCC Asset Management Surveyor - Education Portfolio) on 25th October for the purpose of discussing feedback on his investigation into the background of the school car parking problems. As expected this gave no expectation of a new car park. Essentially, there are competing and more pressing demands for expenditure from other schools out of an ever more restricted budget. As expansion of the school is unlikely in the foreseeable future, its priority does not justify the expenditure and investment is more likely to go to other areas. The cost he was given for a carpark, by one of the officers, was in the region of £350-400k. This is considerably less than the figure given to the school head last year, which was in excess of £1 million and was influential in a scheme not proceeding.

Although we initially pushed for action several years ago, there has been little discussion since between senior officers and the parish council. This may be a reflection of how we (parish councils in general) are perceived by higher authorities as being an inconvenience and having little power in matters of this nature. Also, there have been no accidents or injuries that can be used to justify any major improvement (i.e. expenditure).

It is clear that if anything is going to happen we, the Parish Council/Village, will have to raise our profile. It appears that the County does not place the same value on the pupils' safety as we do, but the difficulty lies in future investment. The school, although interested in the welfare of its pupils, has no jurisdiction outside of the school premises.

During our discussion other options that presented themselves in order to find a solution were meeting the MP, contacting the diocese and obtaining relevant data on school admissions data and population projections. The school has helpfully provided the catchment figures and projections below, but since the catchment area extends beyond the Parish boundary, we are working to identify how these figures break down to within and without the village part of that catchment.

**Roll capacity:** 175 - based on a Pupil Admission number of 25

**Currently on roll:** 159 (was *expected* to be 163)

**Currently on roll from within the catchment:** 20

**Currently on roll from within village:** 6

**Projections for 2019/20:** *expected* to be 161

**Projections for 2020/21:** *expected* to be 169

### **3. Road Erosion/Potholes**

Councillor McTavish has reported that more road erosion is evident in the side roads of the Village, making it at best difficult and at worst dangerous for pedestrians and in particular wheelchair users. The Clerk always makes a formal report to Highways when notified of specific road conditions, but there is only one repair team operating across the County and so work is queued. Safety issues are usually prioritised though and postcodes/photographs are helpful. As well as an official report from CPC, residents can help raise prioritisation by also reporting individually on the Highways web page giving specific location details and again with photos if possible.

## **Ford Maintenance Report –from Councillor Len Carter**

### Contacts made for Estimates

Carl Tough	Cut the weeds once and charged £250.00. Not qualified in the use of weed killer.
Grant Hicken	Many attempts made to get him to give a quote, arrangements made to meet him but to no avail. Approached last December, and several times since.
Names Mislaid	I saw a worker busy cutting the hedges at the Forge (Birmingham Road) and asked him for a quote, met him on site the same day. He responded within 24hrs with a figure for one cut of £1200.00
Names mislaid	Approached the Head Gardener of Coughton Court who was engaged in cutting grass etc. in the cemetery and was assisted by the Groundsman from Coughton Court. Saw him twice but was unable to get a quote. This was due to his personal housing problems which forced him to move house, have not seen him since.
Limebridge Rural Services	Telephoned but no one available left a message on answer machine they called back the same day but after a brief discussion was told that it would be uneconomical to travel to Coughton for such a small job.
Steve O'Connor	Name obtained through Gerde a member of the Ford Group. John Gittins and I met him on site on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> September when a quote was promised. Heard nothing from him, approached Gerde who saw Steve who said he had sent one. He said he would repeat the process that was over a month ago and still haven't heard.
Dave Walker	Contact made through Mark White several weeks ago, I have not Mr Walker myself. A written estimate was sent by hand but got mislaid in transit. I did receive the estimate the estimate on the 6 <sup>th</sup> - Two prices given, to cut and overseed £250 or apply weed killer and overseed £750, both/either action to be taken next Spring.

One or two other contacts were made including The Heart of England Trust who were not able to quote and a couple for which I have mislaid full details. One or two others, including Meadow Green Landscapes can still be contacted if required.

**Recommendation:** if Council agrees to take financial responsibility, in view of the difficulty experienced to date in finding a contractor willing to undertake the work, I favour accepting the RSTS estimate for remedial work in the Spring and will continue to seek another contractor to carry out ongoing maintenance after that.



## Coughton Parish Council

**To: Kirsty Holder**  
**VASA Charity Manager**  
Elizabeth Court  
Church Street  
Stratford-upon-Avon  
CV37 6HB

**Joy Pegrum**

Clerk for Coughton Parish Council  
37 Westbourne • Honeybourne •  
Worcestershire • WR11 7PT

☎: 01386 830995

email: [clerk@coughtonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@coughtonpc.org.uk)

(via email)

1<sup>st</sup> December 2018

Dear Ms Holder

**Re: Request for Council funding**

Thank you for sharing details of the VASA operation. Coughton Parish Council considered your request at their recent Council meeting and agree that you do indeed provide a necessary and useful service, fully appreciating that this comes at a considerable cost.

However, in appealing for all local Parish Councils to provide a standard grant of £500, you are perhaps unaware that we are not divided proportionately, but geographically by parish boundaries. This means that Coughton has just 175 residents, compared to Studley and Alcester who have some 6000 each.

Whilst Coughton Parish Council would like to contribute, they feel sure that you will see that they cannot ask their electors to pay over £3 per resident to support VASA, whilst other parish residents are asked to pay much less, a mere 8 or 9p in Alcester and Studley.

If you would perhaps reassess your overall needs in terms of a per-capita contribution, CPC would be pleased to look again at your request. In that case, please complete and return the grant application form available on the Policies and Procedures page of our website. (Overleaf is a table of district parish population figures from the last census, which you may find useful in understanding CPC's position.)

Yours sincerely

*Joy Pegrum*

Clerk to Coughton Parish Council

## KS101EW - Usual resident population

ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis on 23 July 2018]

population	All usual residents
units	Persons
rural urban	Total
variable	All usual residents

<b>parish 2011</b>	<b>2011</b>
E04009702 : Alcester	6,273
E04009810 : Arrow with Weethley	226
E04009704 : Aston Cantlow	437
E04009728 : Coughton	157
E04009736 : Great Alne	570
E04009741 : Haselor	220
E04009748 : Kinwarton	1,082
E04009813 : Mappleborough Green	857
E04009777 : Sambourne	844
E04009788 : Studley	5,879
E04009806 : Wixford	155