

COTON IN THE ELM PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held on Wednesday 11th September 2024

Present: Cllr K Bradford (Chairman), Cllr Leech (Vice Chair), Cllr Lang Cllr Antcliffe, Cllr Kinson, County Councillor Swann.

Clerk Sue Hughes.

Members of the public 21

1. **Apologies:** Cllr C Bradford, Cllr Wolfe. District Cllr's Wheelton & Jones.
2. **Declarations of interest:** None
3. **County Councillor:** Cllr Swann sent a report to members before the meeting and asked if there were any questions. Cllr Lang asked if a report on a visit he arranged with Mrs Eley could be sent to Mrs Eley to explain what was discussed. Cllr Swann agreed to do this. Cllr Leech informed Cllr Swann that the PC wished to go ahead with Highway recommendations on HGV signage and an email would be sent via him. Cllr Swann reiterating that he supported the PC on this.
4. **Members of the public:**

The meeting was well attended by the public, all of whom had strong concerns on the Brook. An email with these concerns and suggested plans were sent to the PC before the meeting. A lengthy discussion was held and comments received from the public included:

 - Re wilding taking up too much, brook overgrown.
 - Brook being unrecognisable.
 - Grass and reeds are overgrown.
 - Wildflowers not growing well, too wet.
 - Brook not clean.
 - Affect to properties prices.
 - Concerns about the affect on flooding.
 - Ducks unable to get into the water.
 - It was asked who is taking ownership of the brook, SDDC or PC?
 - Villagers are unhappy and feel helpless.
 - Comments that there is bias in decisions made, and the management (individual) in charge is unapproachable
 - It was stated that the public are willing to compromise and it was asked that the PC support the suggestions made.
 - Details of when Parish Council meeting take place and how it is advertised was also raised. These comments were acknowledged*by the PC.

*See 8c for Brook item on agenda

The Chairman thanked the public for attending and encouraged all to attend future meetings.

The meeting was closed to the public for Parish Council members (only) to discuss PC business.

5. **Approval of minutes from meetings on:**
 - a. 10th July 2024 – These minutes were circulated, approved and signed as a true copy by the Chairman. Minutes will be posted onto the website.
 - b. Matters arising – 9a. new site for defib and sandbags. Deferred to Oct 2024 meeting.

6. Finance

Balance of accounts @ 12.8.24 Current account £13274.62. Savings account £10247.03.
Statements were shared before and during the meeting and Chairman signed statements
Receipts:

- a. £3701 Precept from SDDC – 2nd instalment
- b. £5 Clifton PC – mobile phone – paid every month

Payment was approved for:

- a. £57.70 Clerks expense Sept 2024
- b. £120 Aug Invoice 1007. £120 Sept Invoice 1009 - Village Gardeners, Ground maintenance
- c. £200 SDDC donation towards seed cost for brook

- d. Interest rate account change on Savings account - **acknowledged**
- e. Reserve amount of £10,000 for 6 months operating costs - **approved**

7. Policies – approved and adopted

- a. Financial Regulations policy
- b. Communication policy

8. Community

- a. Memorial refurbishment – Cllr Kinson to take and share photos of proposal with members at the next meeting.
- b. Signage for notice boards – cost agreed of £27.99 (incl VAT), per notice board for wooden house sign.
- c. Brook – A letter will be drafted to TRT, SDDC & Cllr Wheelton with recommendations from the PC and members of the public, using a plan from a member of the public for future works. Clerk to forward letter via email once members have agreed to it.
Cllr Antcliffe working party to be formed with members of the public, VIB and PC, With 2 members from each. This will be considered and discussed at the next meeting.
- d. Snow Warden scheme – members encouraged to join scheme on a personal level, not as a PC representative.

9. Highways

- a. HGV signage – Cllr Leech to draft an email to be sent to Highways via Cllr Swann accepting their recommendations with additional comments. Clerk to forward email.

10. Clerk

- a. Holiday 16-23 October 2024 - **Approved**
- b. 5 hours overtime to be paid. 5 hours to be banked and used in December - **Approved**

11. Contracts

It was agreed by all members to terminate Ground Maintenance contract with The Villager Gardeners company from end of September 2024.

Quote from Aspens Tree Surgery Ltd was agreed* as new contractor from October 2024.

*Contract is subject to an onsite visit between Aspens and a PC representative.

AOB Clerk unable to attend meeting on November 13th, Cllr Leech has offered to minute the meeting.

Meeting concluded @ 8:20pm

Next Parish Council meetings on Wed 9th October 2024 @ 6pm