

# COTON IN THE ELM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 Held in Coton in the Elms Community Centre

Present: Cllr K Bradford (Chairman), Cllr Lang, Cllr Wolfe, Cllr Leech. Clerk Sue Hughes.  
County Cllr Swann, District - Cllr Wheelton and Cllr Jones.

Members of the public – 2.

Oakland Farm representative: Jillian Adams, BayWa r.e, Ashley McInnes, BayWa r.e,  
Mark Lever-Green, ITP. Will Morgan, Thirty4/7 Communications.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those in attendance that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of the minutes.

**1. Apologies** Cllr C Bradford, Cllr Kinson

**2. Declaration of Interest** – None

**3. District and County Councillors**

Cllr Swann shared his report with member before the meeting, please see attachment below. It was reported that a 'Give Way' sign is damaged at Lads Grave and Cllr Swann asked for the case number to be shared with him once the Clerk had reported it. Cllr Leech requested help on new HGV signs being requested from DCC and Cllr Swann acknowledged this.

Cllr Jones was welcomed as a new District Councillor to the meeting by the Chairman. Cllr Jones apologised for not being at the last meeting due to training and said he was there to help if needed.

Cllr Wheelton reported that there had been some arson by Drakelow crossroads and on the edge of Coton and crime teams are aware. Extra patrols are in the area. The brook – SDDC Operational Team as a gesture of goodwill, agreed to purchase and plant 8 bags of daffodils (total of 480 bulbs) to support the work being undertaken by the Coton In Bloom volunteers. These will be planted in October during our scheduled work. Cllr Wheelton asked if VIB had a preference of where the bulbs should be planted and this was briefly discussed with VIB representative Christine Oliver.

**Also**, please see attachment below from Cllr Wheelton regarding Pessall Brook restoration, shared with members and VIB.

#### **4. Members of the public**

Christine Oliver from VIB raised notes from the recent residents meeting and thanked Cllr Wheelton and Cllr K Bradford for attending.

VIB are in support of the brook restoration work but stated they are not responsible for it and have informed the public to raise concerns with the PC and not the VIB members. It was also shared that they have received a lot of comments supporting the scheme and some not in favour.

Suggestions that have come from the meeting were:

For VIB to offer help with mowing and ensure that PC contractor and mowing schedule is supported and taken into consideration. Ensure that any individual undertaking any public space maintenance is covered by public liability insurance. Any work carried out on the village greens is to be approved by the Parish Council. VIB is covered by RHS/NFU public liability insurance and these documents have been shared with the PC.

It was asked if planters requested by some of the public could be placed on The Green during this restoration period but this was refused for at this time by the PC who are waiting for Trent Rivers Trust to release a management report.

It was reported that an Elm tree needs to be removed and also the stump from cherry tree. VIB wanted it known that once the work has been completed in a few years they would not want the responsibility to take this on as VIB members are only amateur gardeners. This was acknowledged and noted by the PC.

The 2024 planting scheme will compliment the colours used in the restoration scheme. Plans are to rebuild planters on entrance to the village and on the brook later this year ready for planting next year.

VIB have offered support to help residents with overgrowth on the lower green.

The Christmas extravaganza will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Cllr Wheelton shared that she had met with the Biodiversity Officer and he thinks that more flowers can be planted. Work is continuing on around the brook this week.

The maintenance contractor and anyone helping must collect grass cutting.

Cllr Wheelton also thanked the Chairman for attending the recent public meeting.

HGV issues were once again raised by a member of the public stating that vehicles are coming into Chapel Street during the day and during early hours of the morning.

The old cottages in this area have no foundation as the houses are shaking.

Cllr Leech shared that she has once again raised that signs are not in the relevant area's and this is still being looked at by DCC Highways. It seems that signs that were put out on the A444 for summer events seemed effective and it is hoped that DCC recognise this and this would help. It was also noted that no HGV drivers have received any convictions for breaching the 7.5T restriction.

It was advised by Cllr Wheelton that the public and members attend the area forum meeting taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept to raise their concerns as there will be the Police and DCC representatives attending.

The current signs display 'not suitable' for HGV ideally these would read NO HGV, however we recognise this is not possible as HGVs are legally allowed to use this route to access anywhere within the 7.5t Weight Limit Area.

- 5. Approval of minutes July 2023 Minutes – These were circulated, read as a true copy and approved. The Chairman signed the minutes and these will be posted on the website.** Matters arising – item 13a. It was reported that the rowan trees needed to be pruned, however, Cllr Kinson has been advised by an expert that this is not necessary.

## 6. Planning

a. **Oaklands Farm Solar Limited** – Representatives attended the meeting to answer any questions raised by members. All relevant documents with maps was shared with members before and during the evening.

Oaklands shared that they are hoping to submit their application in late October, early November and will let the PC know before this is done. There will then be an examination process where any individuals can ask questions or issue.

Members comments/questions – **comment/answers from Oaklands reps**

A major concern is the oversized vehicle entering the village via Chapel St and turning into Mill St. It does not seem possible that a vehicle of this size will be able to negotiate this.

**Oakland reps explained that this vehicle will have an escort and have controlled movement, i.e Police, Highways in attendance, and the surveys they have, show that this is can be achieved.** Members were still not convinced that this could be done as the junction is just not wide enough and properties will be damaged. It also raises the question of where all the resident's cars would be moved to for this load to go through as Mill St/Church St is on street parking and there are no car parks in the village. The route from A42 via A444 is challenging for a standard HGV, so this also does not seem viable. **The weight and size of the vehicle is unknown and the PC have asked for this information to be sent through.**

The question was asked if Highways had sent documentation through to say this route was Ok and **they answered that there had been emails correspondence and were waiting for further documents.** The PC commented that Highways may not understand the impact of this. Culverts are also a concern that they may not take the weight. **The weight of the load is not known.** Documentation has been requested by PC to prove that the culverts have been considered and informed the reps that flooding can also be an issue. **The time of year for the transportation is not yet known.**

Entrances to the property was also discussed and explained as was the compulsory purchase, **which is an ongoing discussion with Land Owners/Tenant farmers, no decision has been reached.**

The 'back up' route through the village could mean that HGV's will use this route more often as a short cut. It is felt that this will not be monitored and it is only the residents who will police this. Also, the supposed route will almost certainly have roadworks on it, so this 'back up' will be used much more frequently than the plan proposes.

The conclusion from the PC is that whatever plan is in place, the village will still have traffic coming through as the community is always overlooked.

Asked about the main site entrance - **This will be through Park Farm during construction and the Lads Grave entrance will be just 2 trips, hopefully not using the 'back up' route. Once operational are completed HGV's will no longer be needed and the land will be reinstated.**

General comments on benefits of solar farm and support ongoing diary farm and grazing, will there be any capacity for the loss of grain? **Land will be outlined and assessed.**

**Community benefit fund will be an annual amount each year managed and application can be made by different community groups.** Concerns on this is that it will go to all off South Derbyshire where not all in this area will be impacted on this development. **It was confirmed that the benefit would be used for those affected and it can be managed locally.**

**Oaklands representatives have advised that the Parish Council will be kept informed on the process of this development and will get back with answers for questions that could not be answered at the meeting**

6b. DMPA/2023/0930 Update. The installation of a new access at Land off Coalpit Lane, Coton in the Elms – **This is being taken to the Planning Committee. Date to be advised and it has been agreed that if any member is free to attend, they will represent the PC.**

6c. Reference: CW9/1022/22 The proposed construction and operation of the Swadlincote Resource Recovery Park – **No comment made.**

7. **Ground maintenance and Brook** – This was covered in item 4.  
Confirm date of receipt for the Management plan from Trent Rivers Trust.

8. **Highways**

- a. Little Liverpool sign – Approval for installation of signs for £1516.60 to DCC agreed.  
Clerk informed members that this cost may be reduced as discussion taking place with DCC  
b. Mill Green Close sign – This has now been replaced.

9. **Finance**

**All documentation shared before and during the meeting**

The balance of the accounts on the bank statement was

£11911.65 @ 12.8.2023 current account

£10050.32 @ 1.9.2023 savings account

Chairman signed bank statement

**Receipts**

- a. Precept from SDDC £3,726.50

**Payment approved for following:**

- a. £37.70 Clerks Expense – Aug/Sept 2023  
b. £362.66 Mark Horton – Invoice 414  
c. £97.14 Karen Bradford – Ink cartridges & paper  
d. £75 donation to RBL for poppy appeal wreaths and to be paid on delivery

10. **Clerks holiday** approved for 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

11. **AOB - Report from Coton In the Elms Primary School.**

Wonderful news on the outcome of the OFSTED inspection, which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The school received an overall grade of GOOD with OUTSTANDING for personal development. The school is finally having major roof repairs to the main school site; the school secured a grant from Derbyshire County Council 3 years ago. The roof leaks have been relentless and caused damage inside the school building overtime so we are glad this is now being resolved. We appreciate this may cause some inconvenience to local residents and for that we apologise and appreciate their understanding. We anticipate the works to be completed by the end of October. A card has been delivered with a message from our co-chair of governors to immediate residents who may be affected the most.

Cllr Leech asked if the PC vacancy had been advertised. It was confirmed this has been put on the notice board and on the website but will check with Cllr C Bradford about Facebook

**Meeting concluded at 19:50**

**Next meeting Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**



Pessall Brook Restoration Project.pdf



PC Report from Cllr Swann - Coton 12-07-23.pdf