

COTON IN THE ELM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2022 at 6PM
Held in Coton in the Elms Community Centre

Present:

Councillors: Cllr K Bradford (Chairman), Cllr A Wolfe (Vice Chairman), Cllr C Bradford, Cllr M Leech, Cllr M Kinson, Cllr S Swann, Cllr A Wheelton. Clerk: Susan Hughes

1. Apologies – Cllr S Ackroyd. Cllr A Leese (verbally via Cllr Leech)

2. A member of the public attended the meeting to discuss speed limits on Lullington Road. Lisa Jones lives in Little Liverpool and has raised concerned that the 60mph limit up to the edge of the village is too high and should be reduced to 40mph approximately 800m before the speed limit becomes 30mph. Through Cllr Swann, Lisa contacted Highways, who are not prepared to make any changes. Lisa has been invited to a meeting on Monday morning (17.1.2022) as Cllr Swann, Cllr Leech will be meeting with the Safer Neighbourhood team.

3. Cllr Swann report:

Culvert Survey:

Further to my report to the Parish Council last month and Cllr Leech's recent question, I have requested an urgent update on the culvert situation from officers. As soon as I have further information, I will forward it to the Parish Clerk.

Church Street Road Surface Works:

Officers inform me that the repairs required on Church Street have been delayed due to emergency works elsewhere. I have made the Highway Maintenance Manager aware of the importance of completing this work and he has assured me that it is intended that it will be undertaken this financial year. I will update the Parish Council as soon as I have a date for the works.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Meeting – HGVs, etc:

I have arranged a meeting with PC Holmes and PCSO Thompson of the SNT on Monday 17 January at which I will join Cllr Leech, et al to discuss any assistance that can be provided on the HGV issue and any other relevant matters.

Walton on Trent Bypass and Bridge:

Further to my report last month in respect of the developer-led construction of the Walton bypass and new bridge, which remain integral to the SDDC planning permissions relating to the major housing developments at Drakelow. I have provided a detailed update to Walton on Trent Parish Council and the key points from it below may be of interest:

It is reiterated that as developer-led schemes the timescales are outside the control of Derbyshire County Council (DCC). That said, DCC is doing everything it can to assist the delivery of these projects.

It is anticipated that the construction period will be in the region of 15 months.

Providing the developer submits and completes all the outstanding items in the next couple of months then DCC considers a start date of late summer to be realistic with completion in 2023. Whilst the developer, Countryside Properties, continues to be confident of an early start on site, there remain significant outstanding elements of the design, legal agreements and traffic orders which are yet to be agreed. DCC has stressed to the developer the need to engage with local communities at key stages before and during the work on the schemes and the requirement for clear and accurate information, not least in respect of start dates and timescales.

DCC 'Do It Now' Reporting System:

The online system for reporting highways issues has been updated allowing users to register an account, which saves them having to input their details each time they use it. This should particularly benefit frequent users such as Parish Clerks and local councillors.

Deadline for Primary School Applications: Saturday 15 January

The deadline for applying for a place at infant, junior or primary school is looming.

Parents are encouraged to apply before Saturday 15 January if they haven't already.

Applying online is quick and easy and allows parents to make changes to an application at any point up to the closing date. Anyone who applies online will receive an email to confirm their application has been received.

When completing the application form parents will be asked to list, in order of preference, the three schools they would most like their child to go to.

Parents who cannot apply online can Call Derbyshire to apply on 01629 533190 between 8am and 6pm on weekdays and 9.30am and 4pm on Saturdays.

Foster Carers to be Rewarded for Referring a Friend. Foster carers in Derbyshire are set to receive £1,000 if they recommend a friend who goes on to become a foster carer too.

DCC looking to expand its team of foster carers and find loving, stable homes for more than 900 children of all ages and abilities in the authority's care.

DCC has many different types of fostering opportunities which fit around work, family, and various lifestyles. Those interested in fostering and already familiar with the requirements through their family or friends; experience can often go on to become approved carers themselves.

Interim Executive Director Appointed:

Following an internal recruitment process Pete Handford, DCC's current Director of Finance and ICT, will take up the temporary role of Executive Director for Corporate Services and Transformation (CST) from today (Monday, 10 January).

The Executive Director for CST post became vacant following the appointment of Emma Alexander to the role of Managing Director.

The interim arrangement will be for a maximum period of six months while a permanent Executive Director for CST is appointed.

Health and Wellbeing at the Touch of a Button:

Derbyshire County Council is working with ORCHA (the Organisation for the Review of Care and Health Applications) to provide a health apps library for Derbyshire residents.

With so many different health apps available, the library will make it quicker and easier to access safe and accredited health and wellbeing apps which can make a real difference to people's lives. Apps are a fantastic opportunity to provide people and communities with information to prevent poor health, advice, and support to help manage health conditions and adopt healthier lifestyles through exercise and healthy living.

From support for long term health conditions to apps that can help people to stop smoking, sleep better and improve their mood, there are 100s to choose from.

DCC has also commissioned 'Lower My Drinking' and 'My Quit Route' – apps to support people looking to reduce alcohol or smoking without them needing commissioned or council run services.

Cllr Swann added he was disappointed that the Culvert and Church St items hadn't moved on further.

Cllr Wheelton commented on the new village signs and how good they look and also congratulated the Clerk on the new PC website. The PC raised an issue with Cllr Wheelton received from a member of the public about the amount of dog fouling on pathways. Cllr Wheelton replied that she would contact the waste cleansing and Environmental Health with respect to a pavement clean but has stated that the department are extremely busy at present and also that the planning department are still under immense pressure from staff changes and number of applications.

4. Brook Maintenance – Awaiting update from Phil Linton (SDDC). Clerk will contact and report at next meeting.

5. Speed watch – Cllr Leech reported that Speed watch sessions have successfully been taking place in the village. DCC were approached by CREST (Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team), the team which co-ordinate Speed Watch, with a request to attach Community Speed Watch signs alongside existing Speed Limit signs in a similar way to other surrounding County areas. DCC Highways were not supportive of this, despite the request coming from CREST which is part of Derbyshire Police Constabulary. It has been commented that DCC have an unhelpful response. The enforcement of the 7.5 weight limit, in Derbyshire both the police and trading standards are able to carry out enforcement, but in practice people find themselves directed by one to the other and back again, and very little enforcement and even less prosecution particularly in S Derbyshire. Cllr Swann has organised a meeting for us with the Safer Neighbourhood team on Monday, 17.1.2022. The meeting is to discuss traffic concerns for Coton, principally speeding traffic and unauthorised HGVs. A meeting on Monday evening is a follow up to the meeting in July when Cllr's Bradford and Leech met with representatives from Walton-on-Trent, Rosliston and Castle Gresley to discuss traffic related issues. Finally, a date that the cabinet minister for Highways from DCC, Cllr Athwal, and Highways officer Richard Hanbury can attend one of Rosliston's Parish Council meetings for 30 minutes. To make best use of that time members met previously to agree which topics should be put forward, suggestions were:

1. Why have DCC have chosen to interpret Dept of Transport guidance in a quite different way to neighbouring counties, putting us out of step with them on a number of safety related topics such as use of VAS and speed limits on the edge of villages
2. The safety (or lack thereof) of the Drakelow crossroads
3. Enforcement of the 7.5T weight restriction
4. Parking problems in certain locations contributing to safety concerns
5. The state of repair of the roads

30 minutes is intended to cover all these topics, but expectation is that the Drakelow crossroads topics may occupy a large portion of the discussion.

6. Minutes of previous meeting, November 15th 2021. These were circulated prior to the meeting, taken as read and will be signed as a true copy. A copy will also be shared on the website.

Chairman Cllr K Bradford added that Peter Davies's family had sent thanks for the donation made to Cancer Research UK in his memory was greatly appreciated.

7. Finance

Balance sheet £18916.89 at 13.12.2021

Payments for:

- a. £192.42 Clerks expense
- b. £25.23 Mark Horton invoice - November 2021
- c. £160 Steve Jackman
- d. £1698 M Signs

Balance and payments all approved.

8. Bank charges and internet process

Clerk informed PC that HSBC bank account will now incur a £5 per month charge and a 50p charge for all cheques presented. Due to this the members agreed to progress with internet banking.

It was resolved at a meeting of Coton in the Elms held on 12.1.2022 that The Clerk, Susan Hughes be nominated as Primary User for the purposes of HSBC UK Business Internet Banking. It was acknowledged and agreed the Primary User would have full access and authority over the HSBC UK bank accounts, authority to appoint Additional Users, no restriction on what they can do using HSBC UK Business Internet Banking, as appropriate.

9. Precept for 2022/2023 Agreed by all members for the amount of £7427.00, to be submitted to SDDC no later than 7.2.2022.

10. Village sign – All new signs are now in place and a grant for 50% of the cost has been agreed by The National Forest.

11. VIB Christmas lights – A donation has been agreed in principle by members and amount will be finalised when a bill amount has been received.

12. Summer Scheme 2022 – Dates agreed and Clerk to book with SDDC

Wednesday 27th July 2022 - PM Play mobile

Thursday 11th Aug 2022 - AM Adventure Mobile

Tuesday 23rd Aug 2022 - PM Sports Mobile

13. Website – This is now live <http://www.cotonintheelmspc.info/>

14. Clerks hours to be increased from 5 to 6 hours per week from January 2022. January's extra hours will be added to February payroll.

15. Meeting dates – Future meeting will take place the 2nd Wednesday of every month @ 6pm, excluding August and December. Meeting dates to be placed on website and Standing Order updated.

16. The press and public asked to leave for the remainder of the meeting for PC to discuss following - Apologies, agendas, communication. It was also agreed that a £50 'time critical expense' to be put in place for emergency payments.

Chairman concluded the meeting at 19:15 pm

Next meeting is 9th February 2022 @ 6pm