

COTON IN THE ELM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th OCTOBER 2021 at 7PM
Held in Coton in the Elms Community Centre

Present:

Councillors: Cllr K Bradford (Chairman), Cllr A Martin (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Leech, Cllr M Kinson, Cllr J Heaven, Cllr Leese, Cllr A Wheelton. Clerk: Susan Hughes

1. Apologies – Cllr A Leese. Cllr S Swann

2.

a. Email read, as requested by Heather Wheeler.

Dear Clerks, I understand at the Extraordinary Special Meeting of Rosliston Parish Council, attended by representative from Walton and Coton Parish Councils people may have been given the incorrect impression that I have not put my objections in to the companies involved and the Planning Portal for the Application for the Solar Farms.

I cannot imagine how anyone could possibly have had that misunderstanding or repeated it. I have made it clear to the companies from the first moment of being contacted (when you were all contacted) that I object to the use of farm land for this purpose. I would be most grateful at your next meetings if this could be read out and entered in your Minutes, for all to see
Yours sincerely Mrs. Heather Wheeler. Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire

b. County Councillor - Cllr Swann sent a report and this was circulated to the Parish Cllrs via email:
11th October 2021

Highways Issues:

I am meeting Traffic & Safety Team's Project Engineer in the village on Wednesday to discuss a number of Highway matters.

Meanwhile, Parish Councils in the area have sought clarification around the relative responsibilities of the Police and Derbyshire County Council in terms of parking enforcement, etc. Therefore, the information below should be useful:

If someone complains about parking and the Police or local SNT say immediately it's a Council matter, this might be factually incorrect in terms of the law/legislation. For example, if the parking is simply in the view of the complainant causing a danger or obstruction, and is not parked on existing restrictions or over a tactile crossing or a dropped kerb then it is for the Police to determine if this parking is committing an offence. Such matters are not the responsibility of DCC within the Civil Enforcement process.

Essentially moving traffic offences such as speeding, contravention of one-way streets, contravention of Pedestrian/Restricted Zones, contravention of Prohibition of Driving Except for Access remain the responsibility of the Police to enforce. In respect of the contravention of Weight Limits it is a moving traffic offence and the Police's responsibility to address, DCC does offer the services of its Trading Standards to assist within the law, but there is no requirement for the Highway Authority to provide this service.

A vehicle blocking someone's access (driveway) can be dealt with by the Police and DCC under Civil Enforcement Powers. The Police will attend if a person is physically prevented from exiting their driveway, subject to their service commitments, however they will no longer attend if you cannot access your driveway from the road due to a parked vehicle.

They will advise that the obstruction is not critical and that you can park on your drive later when the obstruction has left. DCC through Civil Enforcement can offer a service to people if they cannot exit their driveway due to a vehicle obstructing their driveway, this is explained in more detail in the relevant link copied below.

<https://www.parksmarter.org.uk/dropped-kerbs/dropped-kerbs.aspx>

<https://www.parksmarter.org.uk/what-we-do/what-we-do.aspx>

<https://www.parksmarter.org.uk/what-we-do/what-the-police-do/what-the-police-do.aspx>

Executive Director of Children's Services:

Jane Parfremment, after many years of service in Derbyshire, is leaving to take up a national role and Carol Cammiss, currently Director of Children's Services at Wokingham Borough Council, will become the County Council's Executive Director of Children's Services in December.

c. The Chairman reported that an article in The Burton Mail stated that the County Council are aware of a number of proposed Solar Farm developments in the South Derbyshire area.

d. Cllr Leech is hoping to agree a time to attend a meeting with Cllr Swann and a member of the Traffic & Safety Team on Wednesday 13th October, taking place in the village to discuss highway matters.

e. Cllr Wheelton distributed Rural and Crime leaflets and information.

3. A member of the public attended the meeting to discuss the continual flow of heavy goods traffic through the village and to report actual damage made to the hedge on their land. These HGV's are also noisy and cause houses to vibrate as they pass through. Photographs were also presented of new signs in Netherseal showing HGV restrictions and the question was asked whether Coton could have these installed.

The Clerk will contact Netherseal PC to ask how these signs were obtained.

Cllr Leech will also try and raise this matter at the meeting on 13th October 2021 with Cllr Swann and Highways when they make their visit to the village.

4. Minutes of previous meeting, September 6th 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.

5. Finance

Balance sheet at 29.9.2021 £22358.08

a. £37.70 Clerks expense

b. 10 hours overtime

c. £303.81 Mark Horton September invoice

d. £50 donation to Royal British Legion

e. £481.39 Speed watch equipment.

All payments and balance sheet approved

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6. £489.90 + vat quote approved from M Sign Ltd for 4 refurbished 'welcome' village signs.

A donation from The National Forest towards the cost of these repairs will be applied for.

7. Rosliston Solar Farm

Developers of this site will be keeping the PC informed of progress and have offered a zoom meeting to the PC if required. The PC will be monitoring this development.

8. The Brook

- a. Cllr Wheelton informed the PC that Trent Rivers Trust are interested in the brook and may be able to offer funding if parties involved are considering a biodiversity approach. Options are being explored.
- b. Mr Phil Lenton also meeting with third parties and will report back to PC.
- c. Cllr Heaven and Cllr Kinson will be arranging a meeting with Heaths to discuss works needing to be carried out.
- d. Cllrs Heaven and Kinson have also secured assurances from the farmer of the land where the brook exits the village to clear the overgrown vegetation by the end of the year.

9. Website

Clerk to continue creating new website. Cllrs to email their preferences for which personal details they wish to be shared on website. Photographs of village required and this request will be put on the village Facebook page.

10. Purchase of cabinet and Fire 'safe' boxes approved for storage of PC documentation in the Community centre.

11. Flooding – Cllrs are being regularly informed by Phil Lenton of work in progress being made.

12. Remembrance Day

Two wreaths have been ordered from the Royal British Legion by the PC. Church service TBC. Suggestion made of a commemoration on Armistice Day being held at the memorial, also TBC.

13. VIB are hoping to arrange the Christmas lights this year for the village and the Chairman will update the PC on this once confirmation has been received.

14. Dates of meetings in 2022. Jan 10th, Feb 14th, Mar 14th, Apr 11th, May 9th, June 13th, July 11th, Sept 12th, Oct 10th, Nov 14th commencing at 6pm.

Chairman concluded the meeting @ 8.35pm

Next meeting is 15th November 2021 @ 7pm