

Coton in the Elms Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Councillors: Mrs K Bradford (Chairman), Mrs C Bradford, Miss A Martin, Miss M Leech,
M Kinson, J Heaven

Clerk: Susan Hughes

Chairs Report

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

Our last APM was in 2019, last year being postponed due to Covid which impacted on our face to face meetings. After some initial difficulties we were able to resume with meetings being held via Zoom, a challenge for some of us. I would like to thank all councillors for adopting to this new, electronic way of communicating. The winter of 19/20 was a difficult one for many residents due to the flooding which affected parts of the village. Since then we have worked with our MP, County and District Councils and residents to try to mitigate against any future flooding. We are grateful to Andrew Hill who has assisted with work to the Pessall Brook where it runs through his land. A new group has been formed of Jim, Martin & Margaret to monitor the watercourses through the village and I am grateful to them for all their continuing hard work on this. We also have the challenges of the proposed solar farm planned for Lullington. We will continue to monitor this as the proposal develops. Since our last APM we have sadly lost two of our long serving fellow councillors, Alan Lees and Melvyn Mason. Alan held the post of VC for many years and was a dedicated and hard working PC. Melvyn was our liaison with the Community Centre Trustees and we miss his humor and often late arrivals at meetings! We welcome new PCs Margaret and Lexy and hope you will enjoy the challenges of PC life! Peter Davies our clerk for over 35 years decided to retire earlier this year. Peter has seen the coming and going of numerous councillors, overseen the acquisition of the community centre and provided us with dedicated support and advice. We wish both him and his wife Ruby – his unofficial PA – a very happy and healthy retirement. We also welcome our new Clerk Sue Hughes to our pc family. Sue has the challenge of keeping us all in check and well as getting to grips with all the files Peter handed over. Finally I would like to comment on Coton's response to 2020/21. A volunteer group was quickly formed to support our elderly and vulnerable residents, which still continues. We stood on doorsteps to clap for our carers, stood silently to say goodbye to those we lost and dressed our trees with yellow ribbons. Santa drove round to wave to the children and our trees were decked with lights.

Thank you all.

Closed Meeting

Parish Council Meeting continued ...

1. Apologies – Adrian Leese
2. Members of the public to speak after meeting
3. Minutes of February 2021 approved
4. No matters arising from minutes
5. All payments shared and approved as per agenda
6. Ground Maintenance work to be continued by Mark Horton - approved
7. Flooding - awaiting quotes from Heath's via SDDC for gravel boards to shore the bank and work was explained to widen the brook to match other sections and to stop blockages. It was also suggested that 'Village Bloom' be contacted to help with appearance and also ask the Environmental agency. Cllrs asked to arrange a site visit to discuss.
8. Suggestion for design of signposts to Cllr Leach at least 10 days before next meeting
9. Finance – bank statements shared and approved. Year end report will be shared at next meeting.
10. No report from outside bodies
11. District Councillor Cllr Wheelton commented on how lovely the village looked and appreciated all the hard work Parish Councillors were doing and added it was a privilege to work alongside them
12. No report from County Councillor
13. Planning App 9.2018/0703 – comments required by 6.4.2021
14. Other Matters - Bank mandate approved for change of address to new Clerk, Susan Hughes (Responsible Finance Officer) and to add new Clerks signature
Contact SSW about footpath dropping by water tap on Elms Road
Contact Martin Horton to clean path area on New Road
Contact Cllr Wheelton regarding position of notice board
Xmas lights to be taken down
Increase of 0.7% on council tax bill when Precept unchanged – question?
15. Public speaking session
A PC Cllr to visit the travellers site to reassure them regarding to fly tipping/littering concerns
Acknowledge the work Brian Wolfe does for the community

Next meeting

5th May 2021

Meeting ended at 20.45

Signed off by Chairman