

COTON IN THE ELM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Wednesday 8th November 2023

Present: Cllr K Bradford (Chairman), Cllr Lang, Cllr Leech, Cllr Wolfe, Cllr Kinson

Clerk Sue Hughes. County Cllr Swann, District - Cllr Wheelton and Cllr Jones.

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
2. **Declaration of Interest** - None
3. **Members of the public questions** – No public members in attendance

4. **District and County Councillors** -

Cllr Swann sent in a report to the PC before the meeting – see attached.

Cllr Swann was asked when the posts for the new 'Little Liverpool' signs would be installed and about the HGV signs for Rosliston/Grangewood that was first raised over 18 months ago – Cllr Swann will chase these.

Cllr Swann was also asked when Drakelow crossroads works is due to be completed especially as there have been accidents there recently. Cllr Swann reported that flashing signs have been ordered and are waiting to be installed. There is now high friction surface by the give ways signs. Clearing of hedgerows will also help (after negotiations with the landowner) and this will improve the visibility. It was commented that an island would help, however, Cllr Swann stated that Highways do not believe this would be beneficial.

It was also commented that all the new developments is putting a lot of pressure on this stretch of road, so more people are driving through villages to avoid this and the County Council need to address this situation.

A question was asked to DDC/SDDC Cllrs - Who is responsible for cutting the hedges and tree's that are obscuring the 30mph speed limit signs on entrance to the village? The answer given, that it is the landowner is responsible and this should be reported via DCC, who will address the issue.

Cllr Jones sent in a report to the PC before the meeting – see attached.

Cllr Jones was asked about the Overview and Security Committee meeting he recently attended and with regards to the 'lack of local surgery' was asked if this is in any particular location? Answer was it is all of Seales Ward area. No other questions were raised.

Cllr Wheelton advised ref: Coal Pit lane DMPA/2023/0930, that a planning meeting is on Tuesday 14th November at 6pm and a site visit at 3pm. Residents can listen but cannot comment.

VIB had emailed asking for SDDC schedules for cutting verges, kerbs and clearing drains and Cllr Wheelton is going to provide the information on this (see item 6) and advised blocked drains are to be reported on line to DCC.

Cllr Wheelton reported that she had been informed that St Mary's Church in Coton is becoming an inclusive church and they had received press involvement with this.

Cllr Wheelton informed the PC that Rosliston PC are initiated a meeting regarding Drakelow crossroads and Coton PC will be invited to this meeting in due course.

New railings which were recently fitted on the green, the side owned by SDDC. Question was asked, if this is appropriate solutions and was a risk assessment done? The PC were not aware or consulted on these barriers being fitted. See item 8.

Item 4 cont'd

A report was made of a metal railing on pathway from Glebe Close and Church St has sharpe edges is dangerous, requires repair. A photograph will be taken for Clerk to report to DCC. Brook - Cllr Wheelton advised that 'The Management Plan' has been completed for the brook and will be shared with the PC before the end of November.

Discussion of maintenance costs for each year have been had between Cllr Wheelton and SDDC. After a long discussion it was revealed that the costs drawn up by SDDC, for both brooks (owned by SDDC and the PC) and based on what TRT had costed and to include 37 volunteered hours, would be £2700 and this is for everything that needs doing each year except the mowing. Cllr Wheelton has fixed it for 4 years and hoping that the expectation is, the PC will pay £500 per year towards this cost for the next 4 years and for the PC to also contribute towards planting when and if required. See item 7.

There will be a newsletter on brook update in the Spring.

The public and guest Councillors are welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting but cannot speak or be involved whilst Parish Council members ONLY discuss PC business.

5. **Minutes** of previous meeting held on 13th September. These were circulated, read as a true copy and approved. The Chairman signed the minutes and these will be posted on the website.
6. **VIB report** on overgrown verges and blocked drains. Cllr Wheelton will advise on schedule from SDDC for this and it is was commented by members that drains no longer look blocked.
7. **Brook –** Donation for bulbs and maintenance cost for 2024/2025
It was agreed that there would a £200 (capped) contribution per year if needed for bulbs. It was agreed for the PC to pay a £500 contribution towards the maintenance of the brook.
8. **safety barrier** by New Road. The PC were not consulted regarding the fitting of these barriers. Clerk to contact SDDC to ask if a risk assessment was completed and if so, what were the recommendations and is the fixture necessary.
9. **Finance**
Documentation shared before and during the meeting – The Chairman signed all statements.
The balance of the accounts on the bank statement was
£10,420.55 @ 12.10.2023 current account
£10,050.32 @ 1.9.2023 savings account. Please note: statement quarterly only.
Payment approved for:
 - a. £37.70 Clerks Expense – Oct/Nov 2023
 - b. £0 – awaiting invoice from Mark Horton
 - c. £45 Supply and fit new laptop battery
 - d. £775 + VAT. Pending receipt of invoice from SDDC for Summer play scheme**Donation approved for:**
 - e. £75 Netherseal Young Farmers Tractor Run
 - f. £700 Village in Bloom annual donation - An invitation will be sent out to VIB to discuss next year's plans for spending.

10. Planning

a. Reference: CW9/1022/22 The proposed construction and operation of the Swadlincote Resource Recovery Park – No Comments made

b. Proposed development by Harmony Energy Ltd of a new Battery Energy Storage System on land off Walton Road, Drakelow. Concerns were raised on traffic through the village. Clerk to contact developers to request details of routes being used for traffic and to include abnormal loads.

c. Coalpit Lane DMPA/2023/0930. It was agreed Cllr Leech is to attend and speak at a meeting being held with the Council Planning Committee on 14.11.2023 on behalf of the PC. Local residents in Coalpit Lane will be informed of a site visit also on 14.11.2023 @ 3pm. Clerk to inform Democratic Services that Cllr Leech wishes to speak.

11. Adoption of Policy Risk Register approved.

12. Meeting dates for 2024– Agreed for 2nd Wed of each month @ 6pm excluding August and December. Dates will be posted on the website.

13. AOB

a. Cllr Kinson has been asked if storage can be found for the soldier silhouettes, that are on currently on The Green, as the owner no longer wants them. The Chairman will speak to the Community Hall about storing in the shed.

b. Clerks pay award as per NALC pay scales, approved at £1 per hour back dated to 1.4.23.

Meeting concluded at 19:42

Next meeting Wednesday 10th January 2024



Cllr Swann report Cllr Jones report to
for Coton PC 08-11-Coton PC - Nov 23.p