

Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council

DRAFT MINUTES

MEETING OF WIGGINTON AND HOPWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7th MARCH 2019, 7.15 P.M AT THOMAS BARNES SCHOOL, HOPWAS

Present: Cllr Croft (Chair), Cllr Gibson, Cllr Moore, Cllr Shirtliff.

In attendance: Mrs M Jones (Clerk), two members of the public.

Open Forum: A pothole near to the zebra crossing in Hopwas required reporting. A resident reported that in the Hopwas Playing Field young people had broken down branches, climbed over the fence behind the goal into his garden to retrieve balls, cut the metal fence, kicked balls over the tall trees into the garden, and disturbed neighbours with noise until 11 at night during summer months. The Parish Council were aware of the problem and taking it seriously, they had installed netting but it had not improved matters. This would be discussed later in the meeting.

1. To receive and approve apologies.

Cllr Stevens had apologised as he was away. District Cllr Leytham had apologised as he was attending a District Council meeting.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 7th February 2019.

RESOLVED to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. To receive the Clerk's report.

Road closures – A51 Highway works would start on 1st April for 5 weeks from School Lane to Coton Lane island, for repair of kerbs and resurfacing. School Lane, Lichfield Road and Coton Lane would be closed for the Cathedral to Castle road race on Sunday 7th April. A sign at the Comberford Road/Coton Lane junction indicated road works to widen the junction commencing on 13th March. As the Parish Council had not been informed of this or of the recent 2 week closure of Coton Lane, the Clerk would send a request to Highways for better communication about works taking place close to the parish boundary. Improved diversion signs were required. Co-ordination of repairs with utility companies would also help. The amount of development taking place locally had made disruption on the roads far worse for motorists.

Dog waste bin - Lichfield District Council had now installed this at Syerscote Lane.

Newsletter – this had been printed for delivery by Councillors to all properties. Cllr Croft would arrange for copies for Cllr Moore to deliver in Comberford.

Parish Forum – The Councillors' meeting at Lichfield would be on 2nd April.

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5. To consider any planning matters.

(a) 19/00225/FULH, The Bungalow, School Lane, single storey extension; RESOLVED no objection as there was little impact on neighbours; a request would be sent for no construction traffic to access the site at school times due to the narrow access.

(b) 19/00259/FULM, Land adjacent Coton House Farm, 163 dwellings. The application was largely in Tamworth and formed part of Tamworth's Local Plan but a small area on the current flood defences lay within Lichfield's area. This was not on Lichfield's Local Plan. Comments would be made on the impact on Hopwas, construction traffic, cumulative increase in local traffic. The proposal went against several policies in the WHC Neighbourhood Plan. RESOLVED to object.

(c) Consultation on Local Plan Review – options and policy. RESOLVED to comment on the need for improved infrastructure before any further house building took place on land North of Tamworth. The Parish Council wished to protect the green belt and flood plain around Hopwas, and to prevent coalescence with Tamworth.

6. To consider parking in Wigginton.

Leaflets were to be delivered shortly to properties affected by the proposal to mark double yellow lines around the Walrand Close and Syerscote Lane junctions and responses would be discussed at the next meeting. Funding could be available from Safer Roads Grant for this project and the Clerk would apply. There had been correspondence from two Wigginton residents about the difficulties experienced by parking near their property by staff and visitors from the care home, both intended to contact the home to discuss this.

7. To consider the forthcoming election.

Cllr Gibson would stand down as a member of the Council after April as she was moving out of the area. Hopwas Ward needed 4 Councillors and unless new members came forward there may be only one; the opportunity to join the Parish Council had been publicised locally. Nomination forms needed to be submitted to Lichfield Council by hand between March 19th and April 3rd.

8. To consider maintenance.

Hopwas Playing Field; bark had been replenished but more would be needed later in the year, the rocker bolt had been replaced and bushes trimmed. After discussion about the problems caused by youths using the goal it was decided to remove the goal posts entirely rather than move them as there was no other suitable location which did not involve a risk of injury to children in the playground. The Clerk would enquire whether any football clubs wished to remove and keep the goal.

St John's Churchyard, Hopwas; the lime tree had been trimmed and undergrowth cleared by the tree surgeon.

Wigginton; a resident had requested trimming of trees on the bank. This would not be done at present, as response would be sent. A draft maintenance contract setting out the work to be done by Andrew Cox was agreed. He had begun the mowing at Comberford but the bank at Wigginton did not need doing yet.

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9. To receive Councillors' Reports.

Councillor Gibson reported on correspondence with Highways about the 'no construction traffic' signs. She had made a FOI request last year but this had not been actioned and she had still not received an appropriate answer to her query. Lorries driving to the new development at Dunstall Lane were following satnav past the weight restriction and no access signs and had been reported passing along Hints Road and along Nursery Lane over the canal bridge. She aimed to look at the site plans and asked for construction traffic to be on the next agenda.

10. To receive correspondence.

Staffordshire Parish Council Association bulletins
Lichfield District Council, information items
Resident regarding bushes on the bank at Main Road, Wigginton
Update on local police changes and closure of public access to police stations in Tamworth and Lichfield
SCC asking for details of local activities to prevent isolation.

11. To approve the Financial Report.

The bank reconciliation was noted.
The end of year accounts would be finalised shortly in preparation for the audit.
RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report.

12. To approve the payments as listed on the schedule.

RESOLVED to make the following payments:
M. Jones, salary, pension and expenses £454.89; HMRC £75.20;
Peak Cashflow, M&GB grounds maintenance £120;
A. Robey, handyman work £45
PP Tamworth, printing £110
Nationwide Bark and Play Surfacing, bark £130
Sovereign, swing £1137.76
Arborcare Tree surgery, tree trimming £384
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association, annual subs £287
Comberford Millennium Green Trust, donation £500
Beacon Street Garage, slide repairs (paid out of Trust fund) £1060.79

13. Items for next meeting.

Construction traffic Dunstall Lane
Wigginton parking restrictions

14. Dates of future meetings:

Wednesday 8th May, Thomas Barnes School, Hopwas
Thursday 6th June, St Leonard's Primary School, Wigginton
Thursday 4th July, Thomas Barnes School, Hopwas

15. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 4th April, St Leonard's Primary School, Wigginton

The meeting closed at 20.30 pm.