

COATES PARISH COUNCIL
 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 2 MARCH 2020
 7.30PM COATES VILLAGE HALL

Present:

In Attendance:

Councillors and Officials:	
Harrison, Richard (RH)	Chairman and Clerk
Austin, Keith (KA)	Councillor
Harris, Stephen (SH)	Councillor
Hobson, Andrew (AH)	Councillor
Torry-Harris, Gilly (GTH)	Councillor

Members of the Public:	
Berry, Tony	Cotswold District Councillor
Hirst, Stephen	Gloucestershire County Councillor
Simon Large	Coates Tree Warden
+4 members of the Public	

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received

2. ALLOCATION FOR MINUTE TAKING

It was agreed that AH would take the minutes.

3. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

No changes to the register of interests were received.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6 January 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. ACTION POINTS FROM LAST MEETING

- a. Neighbourhood Watch - Carried forward to next meeting to enable JD to speak to Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator.
- b. Table Tennis - Carried forward to next meeting to enable JD to investigate options for hiring Village Hall.
- c. Recruitment of new Parish Clerk - RH reported on the recruitment exercise that he had carried out with GTH and about which he had briefed Councillors via email prior to the meeting.
 RESOLVED that the post should be formally offered to the candidate previously identified in email communications.
- d. Progress made on Parish Questionnaire - KA referred to his recent emails to Councillors on this topic. Carried forward to next meeting to ensure that all Councillors have received the relevant emails and considered their contents.
- e. Distribution of Cotswold District Council Budget. RH confirmed that this had been done.
- f. Speed Monitoring Training - RH confirmed that a Speed Monitoring Device had been purchased with grant monies and KA confirmed that some training will be taking place on 4 March 2020.

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6. COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION AND CO-OPTION

RH confirmed that no election is required following the resignation of Libby Harrison as a Councillor and it is therefore now possible for a new Councillor to be Co-Opted. RH is to be informed should any potential new Councillors come forward.

7. WARD & COUNTY COUNCILLOR & INTERESETED PARTIES REPORTS

Gloucestershire County Council

Councillor Hirst informed the meeting about Gloucestershire County Council's 2020/21 Budget. He circulated a briefing document which he agreed could be published in The Watershed and on the Council Website. Councillor Hirst confirmed that Gloucestershire County Council were engaged in the containment of Coronavirus cases at the present time. He mentioned his concern about the high number of Road Traffic Accidents that had occurred at the junction of Trewsbury Road and Tetbury Road and a discussion took place about this in which excess speed and poor visibility at the junction were identified as contributory factors. It was also pointed out the junction was particularly dangerous in icy conditions. Councillor Hirst intends to raise the issue with Gloucestershire County Council Highways Department.

Cotswold District Council

Councillor Berry informed the meeting on the latest developments at Cotswold District Council. Including some road closures in the Parish which had been the subject of prior email communications. It was also stated that the money that Cotswold District Council had spent in relation to flood alleviation had helped prevent recent flooding. Councillor Berry also indicated that Cotswold District Council were mindful of the potential issue of Coronavirus and urged all to follow Central Government advice in that area. Councillor Berry advised that Cotswold District were interested in developing a cycle path that would link the village with Cirencester. It was generally agreed that the development of a cycle path was in accordance with current thinking about Climate Change. Councillor Berry explained that should a light railway be constructed between Kemble and Cirencester it would incorporate a cycleway.

8. PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE USAGE POLICY

RH referred to a draft Policy Document that he had recently sent to all Councillors.

RESOLVED that the draft policy should be adopted by the Council forthwith.

The Clerk advised councillors that their email account was receiving a large amount of SPAM via the Contact form. It is proposed that our Website provider, Athena, is asked to install ReCaptcha at a cost of £35+VAT.

RESOLVED installation of ReCaptcha on the Parish Council approved

9. PLANNING

No planning applications received:

10. COUNCILLOR INSPECTIONS

Playground

KA reported that some defective items had been replaced and the gate at the back of the Playground had regrettably been vandalised. KA will inform Bromford Housing of the issue with the gate as they own it.

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Defibrillator

RH reported that there were no issues with the Defibrillator save that he will organise the replacement of the contact pads.

11. FINANCIALS

1. Councillors received and approved summary of accounts 2019/20.
2. Budget Spend Variance document - This had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting
3. Bank statements were checked and approved by RH.
4. Councillors were advised that two invoices had been paid in advance of the meeting. Early payment was accepted by the Councillors.
 - AJ Arborists (Tree Felling) - £288.00
 - Greenfields Ltd. (Playground repairs) - £477.60

The following payments were approved for payment:

- Interim Clerk's Allowance - £32.00
- RH (Office supplies) - £15.58
- Purchase of Speed Monitoring Device - £130 (Covered by grant)
- SH (Payment for Land Registry Office Copies) - £36.00
- SH (Payment for Land Registry Office Copies) - £6.00

With further regard to Financial Matters RH referred Councillors to some correspondence received from Mr. and Mrs. Crane which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The fence on the boundary of their back garden and land belonging to the Council at the entrance to May Tree Close was at risk of collapsing. RH indicated that Mr. and Mrs. Crane would like to replace the fence with a brick wall and wanted to know if the Council would be amenable to this. SH explained that as it was not clear from the relevant Deeds who owns the fence it should be treated as. 50/50 split between the Council and Mr. and Mrs. Crane.

RESOLVED the Council will offer to contribute towards the construction of a brick wall but only to the extent of the 50% of the cost of repairing the fence.

RESOLVED should the fence be replaced with a brick wall an agreement should be reached with Mr. and Mrs. Crane confirming that the Council should not be responsible for maintenance and future repair of the wall.

RESOLVED RH will take matters forward on behalf of the Council with Mr. And Mrs. Crane.

12. FUTURE USE OF VICTORY GREEN

This item was moved to later on in the meeting to tie up with a discussion in relation to Tree Planting in Coates that took place later in the meeting.

The Council discussed the future use of Victory Green which it was agreed could be used for the planting of Apple trees and wildflowers, as long as there was no interference with the Right of Way that runs over the land.

13. CRICKET FIELD LEASE UPDATE/SPORT IN COATES

RH updated the meeting in relation to the Cricket Field Lease and said that the issue had gone rather quiet since the Landlord had appointed new agents. It was confirmed that there is currently no Lease in place and RH will try to pursue the matter with the new agents.

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With regard to sport in Coates RH referred to the excellent work that had been done by Libby Harrison in this area and that it was important that one of the Councillors took this matter forward. JD volunteered to do this.

A Member of the Public indicated that he had been cutting the grass on the Cricket Field (not the wicket) at his own expense and he anticipated that the field will continue to be used for Rounders and Handball on an informal basis. It was generally felt that the Cricket Field provided a safe place in the village where sporting activities could take place.

RESOLVED that the Council will continue to use KP Gardens as mowing contractor for the forthcoming season especially as they do not intend to increase the cost of cutting the grass in the village.

14. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (21 APRIL 2020)

The Agenda and speakers were discussed and the following possible speakers identified as follows:

- Village Club Chairman
- Mrs. Crane (Art in Coates)
- Rev. Kemp (St. Matthew's Church)
- Mr Clegg (CEO, Bathurst Estate)
- A representative of the Tunnel House Inn
- Mr Burr Village Hall Committee Chairman
- Mrs Farnsworth Watershed RDA Chair
- Mr Edmonds (Wildflowers in Coates)
- Mr McMichael (Tree Planting in Coates)

15. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Tree Planting in Coates - RH referred to an email that he had previously circulated with Councillors from a Member of the public, Mr McMichael, who wanted the Council's support in relation to the planting of a large number of trees in the village. Mr. McMichael addressed the meeting stating that the planting of trees was desirable for a number of reasons, including reducing the "carbon footprint" of the village. It was also pointed out that a number of trees had recently been planted on verges in Kemble and this could possibly be replicated in the village to good effect. A discussion then took place in the course of which Mr. Large (Tree Warden) explained that grant monies should be available from The Woodland Trust, subject to certain conditions. Mr. Large explained that a large number of trees, perhaps around 5000, would need to be planted to make a real difference in the village. It was also made clear that any grant application would have to be made as soon as possible and would have to be accompanied by a detailed schedule setting out where any trees were to be planted. Mr. Large also pointed out that the relevant landowners would have to give their agreement to the planting of trees on their land. Councillors agreed that they would support the planting of trees on land belonging to the Council in the village.

RESOLVED that a sub - committee should be formed with a view to taking forward the planting of trees in the village and that the sub - committee should comprise of Mr. McMichael, Mr. Simon Large and KA plus any other interested persons.

b. Village Litter Pick

RH advised the meeting that this had previously been organised by Mr. Geoff Moore. It was generally agreed that this was a good idea and should be taken forward if possible.

c. Gloucester Playing Fields Association Survey on Children's Play Facilities
RH indicated that he had responded to this survey on behalf of the Council.

d. Watershed RDA Dementia Mornings

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RH informed the meeting that these were taking place and that the RDA were looking for volunteer help.

16. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

None specifically raised at this stage

The meeting closed at 9:59pm.

Chairman Signature:	Parish Clerk Signature:	Date:

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 4 May 2020 7.30 pm, Village Hall

Electronic copies of these and Previous Minutes are available from:
the Parish Clerk: clerk@coatesparish.org.uk