

**COTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 8 MARCH 2011 AT 7 PM IN THE WI HALL**

Present: Cllrs: G Diplock (Chairman), R Darling, B Smart, C Thorne, S Godward, D McLoughlin and W Sadler.

In attendance: Cllr F Burkitt (District Councillor) and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Comments and observations from members of the public and reports from County & District Cllrs

No County Councillors, members of the public, or District Councillors at this point, were present.

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Storkey (out of parish), and County Cllr Fiona Whelan (unwell).
- 1.2 Cllr Diplock declared a personal interest in Item 6.1 as a member of the Village Hall Committee. Cllr McLoughlin declared a personal interest in Item 6.4 as an employee of the School.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 8 February 2011

The minutes were unanimously approved^(Prop WS, 2nd BS) and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from that or a previous meeting

- 3.1 (3.1) Bennys Way play area refurbishment and proposed new equipment, including funding and grant applications^(RD)
Cllr Darling reported that, having spoken to the supplier, it would cost £7000 to install the proposed roundabout. The matter was carried forward for a further month to allow one more attempt to obtain funding.
- 3.2 (3.4) SCDC Hedge and Tree packs
As Cllr Storkey was not present, this matter was carried forward to the next meeting.
- 3.3 (3.5) Bus Shelter cleaning
It was noted that Community Payback did not undertake regular cleaning of this type and Cllr Godward agreed to draft an advertisement to appear in the Coton Community News for someone to clean both bus shelters once a month.
- 3.4 (7.4) Allotments pest control
The reply from Dr Gohler detailing her requirements should this be progressed was considered. It was decided to hold the matter in abeyance for the time being and monitor the situation. Information on the use of lavender bushes as a deterrent for rabbits is awaited.
- 3.5 (3.2) Handrail at the Recreation Ground
Cllr Godward reported on her meeting with the contractor. A one-metre wide path, with a very hard-wearing plastic matting surface, and a metal handrail with three uprights on the left hand side going up the slope, is to be installed.
Concerns were expressed at the risk of damage from large vehicles turning in an area restricted by the presence of parked cars.

4. To consider planning and tree works applications received since the last meeting

4.1 Planning applications

None.

4.2 SCDC Decision notices to note

None.

5. Finance, procedure and risk assessment5.1. To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

The finance report and the bank statements and invoices were checked by the Chairman before the cheques and bank reconciliations were signed. Payments as listed below were unanimously approved ^(Prop RD, 2nd WS), plus HM Revenue and Customs (PAYE) £426.00. It was unanimously agreed ^(Prop RD, 2nd DM) to withhold payment of the invoice for £450.00 covering the repainting of the play equipment, until the paint had been reapplied satisfactorily by the contractor.

LG Stoehr (Salary)

£142.06

LGS Services (Admin Support)

£719.38

Cllr Burkitt was invited to give his report, which included the anticipated funding cuts from Central Government and their potential impact on the District Council's activities and grants, Council house transfer implications and that footpath link to Grantchester between Barton Road and the footpath leading to the Rugby Club is now open. Cllr Burkitt hopes to pursue the opening up of the final stretch of the route in due course. Cllr Burkitt was asked whether the blue recycling bins could be collected more frequently and whether a large blue bin could be provided for the School. A blue bin is shortly to be provided for the Recreation Ground. The success of the blue bin scheme was noted. Cllr Burkitt was thanked for his report and he left the meeting.

5.2 Annual Audit and recording of assets

It was noted that the new Accounts and Audit Regulations are being reviewed and if approved the year end accounts will be prepared accordingly. The Internal Audit was noted.

5.3 A Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency

The consultation was noted. The Parish Council has no comments to make.

5.4 Parish Council elections

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council elections were noted. An election pack was handed to all existing members.

6. To consider correspondence/communications received including6.1 Village Hall – request for support for SCDC grant application

Cllr Diplock, having declared a personal interest as a member of the Village Hall committee, left the room and Cllr Darling assumed the Chair for this item. The grant application to SCDC was considered. It was agreed ^(Prop CT, 2nd SG) to support the Village Hall's application to the District Council as the Village Hall is the sole amenity of the village, well used by multiple groups and individuals.

Cllr Diplock re-joined the meeting.

6.2 Resident – Parking at The Footpath

The email from a resident, expressing concern at the difficulty in passing parked vehicles on The Footpath, and the difficulties for heavy vehicles turning at the entrance to The

Footpath and consequent surface damage, was considered. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of parking restrictions at the end of The Footpath at the opposite side of the road to the new walkway and handrail, which should also protect it from damage. Cllr Godward undertook to discuss this and the potholes/drain humps with the Highways Department and Cllr Thorne will speak to an adjacent resident. The matter of parking in the village generally will be raised in the Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting. A reply is to be sent that the Parish Council is looking into the matter and will respond more fully in due course.

6.3 Cricket Club – grass cutting at the Recreation Ground

The request to increase the frequency of grass-cutting was considered. The Parish Council was unable to fund additional cuts but it was agreed to send a list of the Cricket Club fixtures to the Contractor and ask if cuts could be arranged to accommodate the home fixtures. It was agreed to enquire about the cost of any additional cuts and inform the Cricket Club that if it wishes to fund them, this could be arranged.

It was observed that the bulbs were now coming up on the verges in Cambridge Road and The Footpath and it was agreed to ask the Contractor to refrain from cutting the verges in this location while the bulbs were growing.

6.4 School – request to use Recreation Ground for Fun Run

The Parish Council had no objections ^(Prop GD, 2nd WS).

6.5 CCC Library Services

It was agreed to respond that the Parish Council hopes that the Mobile Library Service and the Comberton Village College Library will continue, as they provide a valuable service.

6.6 CCC – Highway Wardens Scheme

The Parish Council agreed to register its interest in the Scheme. Cllr Godward was appointed as the Highway Warden for Coton.

6.7 CCC – proposed bus service changes

Noted.

7. Members' Reports and items

7.1 To receive play equipment inspection reports

Cllr McLoughlin reported.

Recreation Ground – the slate on the square bin by the Pavilion is loose. Jim Lewis is to be asked to repair this. Some dog fouling. A dead rabbit was found.

Skateboard – A small burrow will be monitored.

Playground – The clover leaf and motorbike need replacing. Disappointment was expressed that the paint on the equipment was coming away. It was noted that this was to be reapplied by the Contractor.

The books were signed by the Chairman.

7.2 Footpaths report ^(BS)

Nothing to report.

7.3 Traffic including Speedwatch ^(SG)

Cllr Godward reported on the Speedwatch training session had taken place with 10 members of the community present. Other volunteers have since come forward and another training session will take place on 29 March. Cllr Godward outlined the operation

of the scheme. Historical data is to be obtained to provide a baseline. Cllr Godward will place details in the Newsletter and on the website.

7.4 Allotments ^(CT)

Cllr Thorne reported that a couple of allotment holders have given up their allotments but there are others on the waiting list. One allotment holder wishes to give up half their plot.

7.5 Trees ^(AS)

Cllr Storkey was not present to report.

Cllr Darling raised, on behalf of a resident, the matter of the ash trees opposite the resident's property which the resident hoped would be cut back due to mess being caused in their garden. The Parish Council did not consider that these trees were affecting telephone lines, and decided not to take any action at this time.

7.6 Salt bins

It was noted that the salt bins in Silverdale Avenue and St Peters Road were empty and it was agreed to request that all the salt bins be topped up as required.

7.7 Website

Cllr Godward reported on the village website, which is being increasingly used. An email group has been set up for those interested in Speedwatch. A diary/calendar to record village events will be included and Cllr Godward asked for any information to be included to be passed on to her. A meeting is to be arranged for those interested in developing the website, either technically or editorially. This will be publicised in the Community News. Cllr Diplock reported that the Parish Council website was being updated.

8. Closure of Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 12 April at 8 pm, after the main Parish Council meeting commencing at 7pm. Cllr Diplock asked for reports to be submitted.

There was no further business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)