

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COTTESMORE PARISH COUNCIL, HELD
REMOTELY, ON 14 DECEMBER 2020, USING THE ZOOM MEETING
PLATFORM**

155/20 PRESENT: Mr C Donovan (Chairman), Mr N Barker, Mrs J Edwards, Mr J Meara, Mrs J Patient, Mrs I Reay, Miss C Simmonds, Mrs S Harvey (Ward Councillor) and Mr K Nimmons (Clerk).

156/20 APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Ms A MacCartney (Ward Councillor).

157/20 MRS SHIRLEY SMITH MBE: In view of the letter of resignation received from Mrs Shirley Smith, Mr Donovan offered the heart felt thanks of the Council and residents for the 33 years of service, and said that this will be properly acknowledged and celebrated as soon as possible in the new year.

158/20 DECLARATIONS OF UNREGISTERED DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN AGENDA ITEMS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS FROM MEMBERS ON MATTERS IN WHICH THEY HAVE A REGISTERED DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

In view of the fact that Mr Barker had provided quotations for five parts of the work required to establish the allotments, he had submitted a request for a dispensation to participate in the discussion on 'the provision of allotments' under Item 8. 'To update and deal with the **Matters Arising** from the previous minutes' on the Agenda.

The dispensation was sought in order that his professional opinion on the items could be provided.

The Clerk decided that a dispensation be granted, and Mr Barker can participate in the discussion as to the specific work required, but will leave the meeting when the quotations are discussed and a decision made as to which contractors are appointed.

There were no other unregistered disclosable pecuniary interests in agenda items to be declared, or any requests for dispensations.

**159/20 GUEST SPEAKER – COUNCILLOR LUCY STEPHENSON,
PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CULTURE AND LEISURE,
ENVIRONMENT, HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION & ROAD
SAFETY – THE RCC PROCESS FOR ADDRESSING SPEEDING AND
HIGHWAY CONCERNS**

Councillor Stephenson expressed her gratitude for the site meeting with Councillor MacCartney, Mr Donovan and Mr Meara.

As a result of this meeting she had spoken with the Head of Highways with regard to the installation of 30 MPH repeater signs on Rogues Lane, if possible, without the need for a feasibility study. The Leader of the Council had spoken with the Commandant at Kendrew Barracks and been advised that army

personnel become civilians on leaving the Barracks and as such speeding on Rogues Lane is a Police matter.

Implementation of the two outstanding items agreed in 2018 (introduction of improved gateway features on the B668 entering the village from Oakham and from Greetham and relocation of the existing vehicle activated sign at the Ashwell Road/Main Street junction) are to be followed up to ensure completion of the previous traffic calming project.

The general concern of traffic speeding through the village was acknowledged and it was advised that this concern should be submitted to RCC, supported by data logged by the Parish Council, and not purely dependant on Police data. A meeting with Officers from RCC was encouraged as part of the process. It would then be likely that RCC would carry out a feasibility study to determine the proposals to address the specific issues identified.

Mr Donovan thanked Councillor Stephenson for her attendance and said she would be most welcome to attend a future meeting.

160/20 GUEST SPEAKER – COUNCILLOR ALAN WALTERS, PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE, AND COMMUNITY SAFETY – QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS BY THE PARISH COUNCIL THAT CAN BE TAKEN IN TO ACCOUNT IN MY ROLE OF INFLUENCING HEALTH PROVISION IN RUTLAND

Councillor Walters stated that he wanted more residents to express their opinions on the Leicester's Hospitals reconfiguration and was looking for ways to encourage greater involvement. The main concerns locally with regard to the reconfiguration centre around the closure of the maternity unit at Melton Mowbray and the change in uses of the General and Royal Infirmary Hospitals in Leicester.

It was pointed out that there is good health and social care facilities in Rutland, to the extent that other Local Authorities look to learn from Rutland. There are currently no plans to change the health and social care infrastructure in the County but it could be that a new treatment centre may be more beneficial to residents than the Memorial Hospital.

Mr Donovan thanked Councillor Walters for his attendance.

161/20 GUEST SPEAKER – JENNIFER BLOCKLEY, RUTLAND & STAMFORD RADIO – PLANS FOR A NEW RADIO STATION TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF THE RUTLAND AND STAMFORD AREA

Jennifer, a former Drivetime presenter on Rutland Radio, under the name Jennifer Lee, highlighted what had been lost in terms of all things local as a result of Rutland Radio being taken over.

She then went on to advise that she had set up a Community Interest Company, and to outline the plans for a new online and FM station to serve Rutland and Stamford, in order to provide what had been lost. The estimated total cost in the first year is £200,000, and donations and sponsorship are being sought.

Jennifer asked the Council to endorse the project and consider making a donation.

Mr Donovan thanked Jennifer, and it was agreed that this request be considered at the January meeting.

162/20 PUBLIC TIME

Fifteen minutes are allocated to public time, as an opportunity for members of the public to bring matters to the attention of the Parish Council. There were two members of the public in attendance but on this occasion it was not taken up.

163/20 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes – 16 November 2020

It was proposed by Mrs Edwards, seconded by Mrs Patient and agreed that the **Minutes** of the meeting held on 16 November 2020 were correct, and be approved and signed.

164/20 MATTERS ARISING

Parish Council Taking on the Ownership of the Heath Drive Play Area

The Clerk reported that the Council's solicitor is waiting to hear back from the transferors' solicitor in order to resolve two issues prior to signing of the Deed.

Report of the Risk Related Inspection of the Trees on Parish Council Land

The Clerk advised that Rutland County Council District Council had decided not to exercise its powers to make a provisional Tree Preservation Order, and that the work to remove the trees and tidy the hedge on the boundary between the Sun Inn and Community Centre grounds could be undertaken.

Mr Barker will advise the contractor.

Water Collecting on the West Side of the New Build Out on Main Street

The effort by Mrs Harvey to ensure the necessary work is undertaken is to be supported by Councillor Stephenson also following it up.

Action to be Taken in Connection With the Multi-court, Including Possible Repairs, Bearing in Mind Possible Future Uses

It was reported that there had been no further deterioration to the condition of the multi-court and that until the outcome of the grant application submitted to, and accepted by, FCC Communities Foundation, is known, no work can be carried out.

Speeding Traffic in the Village and Possible Actions to Help with Traffic Calming

This had been discussed under **159/20** above.

The Actions Required Following the Councillors Village Walk

Councillors are still to check items included on the schedule that are the responsibility of residents and advise if attention is still needed.

Measures to Address the Problem of Dog Fouling, Including the Purchase of a Further Supply of Fluorescent Marker Paint for Spraying Dog Mess,

the Installation of Signs Instructing Dog Owners to Clean Up After Their Dogs, and the Provision of Dog Waste Bag Dispensers

Mr Barker reported that he has installed the dog waste bag dispensers.

Concern About the Condition of the Trees Opposite Nos. 10, 11 and 12 Cresswell Drive

The Clerk reported that the Arboriculturalist has recommended to the landowner that only minor work to the trees is required. The Clerk will advise the residents.

The Siting of a Football Goal on the Grass Area Adjacent to the Village Hall

Mr Barker advised that the installation had been delayed due to the weather and that he would attend to it in the New Year.

Update From the Liaison Meeting held With Representatives of the Village Hall Management Committee

There had been no meeting since the last Parish Council meeting and there was no update.

The Provision of Allotments

A resident expressed concern about Jubilee Gardens being used as an access point to the allotments and the safety of children if a pond was to be included on the site. It was advised that Hawthorn hedging, and a gate that will be locked, could be used on the western boundary to prevent entry from Jubilee Gardens. If a pond is built it will include a safety grill.

If agreement could be reached with the residents to allow access for grass cutters to access the Public Open space via Jubilee Gardens then it may not be necessary for the gate to be installed in the hedge.

Mr Barker left the meeting whilst consideration was given to the quotations received for various aspects of the work required to establish the allotments. It was proposed by Mr Meara, seconded by Miss Simmonds that the entrance gate be installed by Chris Whatton.

It was proposed by Mr Donovan, seconded by Mrs Patient and agreed that Mitsi Landscapes prepare the hard standing for parking.

It was proposed by Mrs Reay, seconded by Mrs Patient and agreed that the ground clearance be undertaken by Mitsi Landscapes.

It was proposed by Miss Simmonds, seconded by Mr Meara and agreed that Mitsi Landscapes provide the grass seed for the footpaths.

It was agreed that further investigation into the type of fencing is required before a decision is made as to which contractor to use for the fencing. It was proposed by Mr Donovan, seconded by Mrs Patient and agreed that this decision be made by circulation of emails.

It was proposed by Mrs Reay, seconded by Miss Simmonds and agreed that the legal fees of the landowner be paid, but that the ability of the Council to reclaim the VAT be followed up.

Mr Barker re-joined the meeting.

It was proposed by Mr Donovan, seconded by Mr Meara, and agreed that £2,000.00 be added to the previously agreed budget of £10,000.00.

Mr Donovan thanked Mrs Edwards for the work done to get the project to this stage.

Village Improvement Working Group

Mr Meara highlighted the problem of obtaining like for like quotations for the Trim Trail.

The Clerk advised that he was waiting to hear back from RCC with regard to the possibility of the Trim Trail being sited on the Pastures Paddock.

Mr Barker advised that he has a quotation and details for a Zip Wire.

As residents have raised concerns about consideration being given to the siting of a Zip Wire in the Austhorp Grove Play Area it was agreed that an item be included on the January agenda to consider this in more detail.

The 2020 Certified Inspection Report on the Play Areas and Multi-Court, and the Actions Required

Mr Barker has looked at the report to determine what actions are required and reported that the Rotaweb item of equipment was in need of toping up with wood chip that he would attend to without charge. There were no other items in need of immediate attention.

Registering with Land Registry the land surrounding, and on which the Community centre is sited

The Clerk confirmed that the legal fees for this work would be £350.00 plus VAT, assuming that all necessary deeds are available and no statements are required to deal with title defects. He also advised that there is a registration fee, dependant on the value of the property (e.g. £200.00 for a value between £200,001 and £500,000) payable to the Land Registry and potentially some search fees against the names of previous owners, usually £2.00 to £30.00.

'Rubbish' deposited in the Heath Drive Play Area

Mr Barker advised that he would investigate this later in the week.

Cleaning and smartening up the interpretation board

Mr Meara reported that repairs to the board are required, and questioned whether the manufacturer should be contacted due to the relatively short amount of time since it was installed. The Clerk will make contact.

AGENDA ITEMS

165/20 CONSIDER FURTHER, THE REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

As requested, an updated application providing greater detail on the evidence gathering aspect had been received from Ways Around Cottesmore. It was agreed that the Council now had sufficient information to make a decision at the January meeting as to whether, or not, to provide a grant.

As requested, Cottesmore Amateurs Football Club had provided a copy of the previous two financial year's accounts. A representative of the Club gave details as to where exactly the lighting and cameras are to be sited, and clarification as to how the items will benefit the village. It was agreed that the Council now had the information required in order for consideration to be given to the application at the January meeting.

166/20 CONSIDER THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2021/22

The Clerk had circulated an initial draft budget for 2021/22 and requested that any questions be emailed to him prior to the January meeting at which the budget will be agreed and the precept set.

In the meantime, he would contact the Scouts for an update on the progress on the work required to the hut, and ascertain if the agreed grant of £5,000.00 will be needed in the current financial year, or in 2021/22.

167/20 DISCUSS FILLING THE VACANT COUNCILLOR POSITIONS AND ROLES

RCC are to be advised of the two Councillor vacancies resulting from the passing of Mr Hyde and the resignation of Mrs Smith.

The filling of the roles vacated will be considered when the vacancies have been filled.

168/20 OTHER MEETINGS

There were no other meetings to be reported upon

169/20 CORRESPONDENCE

From a resident – Request for financial assistance to attend to the hedge on the west side of the Community Centre car park. It was agreed that the Council would cover the cost of the work, and that two further quotations, in addition to one obtained by the resident, be obtained.

From the son of a former resident – Requesting consideration of the provision of a memorial (possibly a bench) for his father who recently passed away. The orchard area of the allotment was suggested as a possible site. It was agreed that it be further discussed at the January meeting.

From a resident – Expressing concern about the public access to the allotment site, and requesting, a plan of the proposed area to be used, and that residents of Jubilee Gardens be contacted with regard to proposals for future development. This was noted.

From The Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland – Advising of the launch of a new initiative, ‘Dying Matters in Rutland’. This was noted.

From a resident – Advising of the broken benches in the multi-court. This was noted.

From Office of National Statistics – Requesting support to reach as many communities as possible, trying to get an understanding of what (if any) challenges or barriers may be encountered with completing the first digital Census in March 2021. This was noted.

From a resident – Requesting consideration of the possibility of having a Christmas tree on the green near The Sun Inn. It was agreed that this was a good idea and it be included on the agenda for consideration at the September meeting, when ways of engaging the public could be suggested.

From Society of Local Council Clerks – Request to renew the membership for 2021 for a subscription of £130.00. It was proposed by Miss Simmonds, seconded by Mrs Patient and agreed that this be renewed.

From a resident – Advising of mole activity on the grassed area to the east of the village hall. It was agreed that this be discussed at the January meeting.
 From Mrs Shirley Smith – Tendering her resignation as a Councillor after thirty three years in the role. It was agreed that an event to recognise and celebrate this service to the community be discussed at the January meeting.

170/20 PLANNING

Observations

Erection of 2 No. detached dwellings.
 Land to the Rear of 30A Main Street, Cottesmore.

It was agreed that the comments of objection previously submitted be reiterated.

T1 – Cupressus Lleylandii – Fell to ground.
 Clatterpot House, 4 Clatterpot Lane, Cottesmore. LE15 7DW.

It was agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to this application but that the tree should be replaced with a suitable variety.

Notice of Decision in Respect of a Section 211 Notice Proposing Work to a Tree or Trees in a Conservation Area

T2 – Silver Birch – remove 3 lowest primary branches back to trunk where overhanging the driveway.
 Beechcroft 25B The Leas, Cottesmore. LE15 7DG.

T1) Lower Garden: 1 x Ornamental Cherry Plum Tree (Prunus Cerasifera) – Reduce crown by 5 metres, removing mostly a large amount of dead wood in the process. Tree currently unhealthy and did not bear fruit for the first time in 25 years.

T2) Upper Wooded Garden – 1 x Portuguese Laurel (Prunus Lusitanica Angustifolia) – Fell as regularly growing into electricity cables and very low amenity value.

The Anchorage, 46 Main Street, Cottesmore. LE15 7DJ.

Rutland County Council District Council decided not to exercise its powers to make a provisional Tree Preservation Order in these instances.

171/20 FINANCE

Income

Interest			0.48
HSBC Compensation			100.00

Expenditure	Net	VAT	Total
Roadman – November 2020			154.38
Elms Landscaping Design Limited	152.50	30.50	183.00

RCC – Community street lighting 2019/20			1,750.64
Shouler & Son – Land Agent, allotments	780.00	156.00	936.00
Biffa Environmental – Grass cutting	1,031.20	206.24	1,237.44
SLCC – Membership renewal			130.00
Zoom Video Communications			115.10
Clerk’s Salary – November 2020			621.92
Clerk’s Expenses – November 2020			18.00

Payment of the expenditure as detailed above, was proposed by Mrs Edwards, seconded by Mrs Patient and agreed.

It was proposed by Mr Donovan, seconded by Mrs Edwards and agreed that the landowner’s legal fees of £3,030 + VAT be paid

Account Balances

HSBC Community Account (as at previous meeting £1.85)		1.37
HSBC Business Money Manager (previous meeting £46,395.87)		41,350.35

Report on Bank Reconciliation Verification Check

Mrs Edwards reported that she was able to verify the bank reconciliation. Mrs Reay will provide the verification for the January meeting.

172/20 OPEN FORUM

Jubilee Gardens Adoption

Mrs Harvey is to check whether Jubilee Gardens has yet been adopted.

173/20 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 18 January 2021 at 19.30.