

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COTTESMORE PARISH COUNCIL, HELD
REMOTELY, ON 16 NOVEMBER 2020, USING THE ZOOM MEETING
PLATFORM**

135/20 PRESENT: Mr C Donovan (Chairman), Mr N Barker, Mrs J Edwards, Mr J Meara, Mrs J Patient, Mrs I Reay, Miss C Simmonds, Ms A MacCartney (Ward Councillor) and Mr K Nimmons (Clerk).

136/20 APOLOGIES: Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs S Smith. Apologies were also received from Mrs S Harvey (Ward Councillor).

137/20 MR ROGER HYDE: A minute's silence was observed to reflect on the life of Councillor Roger Hyde, who passed away on 14 November 2020.

138/20 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

There were no unregistered disclosable pecuniary interests in agenda items to be declared or any requests for dispensations received from members.

139/20 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 five members of the public in attendance but on this occasion it was not taken up.

140/20 PCSO DIANA FREEMAN

PCSO Freeman gave an update on the crime figures for the previous seven days, none of which were in Cottesmore.

Mr Meara expressed concerns over speeding at various locations within the village. PCSO Freeman advised that speeding is one of their priorities, and that Rogues Lane and Main Street are due to be monitored in January.

She also advised that 'Management' require locations for speeding checks to be 'advertised' beforehand. It was suggested that the individual responsible for this be invited to a future Council meeting to explain the rationale for this.

141/20 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes – 19 October 2020

It was proposed by Mrs Reay, seconded by Mrs Edwards and agreed that the **Minutes** of the meeting held on 19 October 2020 were correct, and be approved and signed.

142/20 MATTERS ARISING

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

The Clerk reported that he had been through the Deed, line by line, over the telephone, with the solicitor. The solicitor has now to liaise with the transferor's solicitor over a couple of points, before the Deed is ready for signing.

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

The Clerk advised that the planning application for the removal of the trees had been submitted and it is now out for comment.

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

It is expected that the necessary work will be undertaken in the next few weeks.

Replacement of the Toll Bar Bus Shelter Notice Board

The new notice board has been installed. It was agreed that, although it has a locking facility, it be left unlocked to allow everyone to have access.

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

Mr Barker is yet to attend to the damaged boarding and netting surrounding the court.

Mrs Edwards advised that she is investigating sources of funding to enable the court to be used for a variety of sports/activities.

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

Mrs Harvey has advised that Councillor Lucy Stephenson, Portfolio Holder for Culture & Leisure, Highways, Transportation & Road Safety and Environment at Rutland County Council has offered to attend the December meeting to explain the process for addressing speeding and highway concerns, and also offered to meet on site.

It was agreed that these were good ideas and the offers be accepted.

Trees Adjacent to the Old Chapel House

The Clerk reported that he had been advised that work required to the two trees in question had been carried out. However, if any Councillors, on inspection, thought otherwise, he is to be informed.

The Actions Required Following the Councillors Village Walk

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

The Public footpath Between the Scout Hut and Burley Road

The Clerk reported that the Public Rights of Way Officer had looked at the barbed wire fence alongside the football pitch and didn't consider it an issue given how long it had been there (based on how rusty it is).

However, there is a concern with regard to the more recently installed stretch, and contact will be made with whoever installed it.

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 is yet to install the dog waste bag dispensers.

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

The Clerk reported that feedback is awaited from the landowner.

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

Mr Barker is yet to install the goal.

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

Mr Donovan gave an outline of what was covered at the meeting held on 10 November. This included changes to the Village Hall legal structure which is nearing completion, and re-opening of the hall that is planned for the 2nd or 3rd of December, providing lockdown ends and the area is in the same tier as before lockdown.

The Provision of Allotments

Mrs Edwards gave an update on progress, including details of the draft layout to include a community orchard and pond. Nineteen plots are to be let with one free to the school.

It was proposed by Mr Donovan, seconded by Mrs Edwards and agreed that a budget of £10,000.00 be allocated for the project.

Mr Donovan thanked Mrs Edwards and all those involved for the work done in getting it to this stage.

Village Improvement Working Group

Mr Meara advised that he is investigating the provision of a Trim Trail. The Clerk was requested to enquire of RCC the process to be followed to obtain permission for it to be installed on RCC land.

The Clerk advised that at the end of the current financial year there would be £12,607.50 in the Play Area Sinking Fund.

Mr Barker is to obtain quotations for the installation of a Zip Wire in the Austhorp Grove Play Area.

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

Mr Barker is yet to look at the report to determine what actions are required.

Street Light Faults

It was reported that the lights reported as being faulty at the last meeting are now working as they should be.

AGENDA ITEMS

143/20 CONSIDER WHOM TO APPOINT AS INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2021/2022

It was proposed by Mrs Patient, seconded by Mrs Edwards and agreed that LRALC Internal Audit Service be appointed as internal auditor for the 2021/2022 financial year.

144/20 CONSIDER AN INCREASE TO THE RATE PAID TO THE ROADMAN IN LINE WITH THE INCREASE IN THE REAL LIVING WAGE

It was proposed by Mr Meara, seconded by Mrs Patient and agreed that the rate paid to the Roadman be increased, in line with the increase in the Real Living Wage, to £9.50 per hour with effect from the beginning of November

145/20 CONSIDER THE REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS FOR THE 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR

It was agreed that the information provided by Cottesmore Gardening Group was sufficient for the Council to make a decision as to whether, or not, to provide a grant.

It was agreed that Ways Around Cottesmore (WARCs) need to expand on the evidence gathering aspect within the submitted application before it is considered at the January meeting.

It was agreed that the information provided by Rutland Railway Museum (Trading as Rocks by Rail) was sufficient for the Council to make a decision as to whether, or not, to provide a grant.

It was agreed that the information provided by Cottesmore Parochial Church Council was sufficient for the Council to make a decision as to whether, or not, to provide a grant towards the upkeep of the extension of the churchyard extension on Rogues Lane, and the church clock.

It was agreed that further information, including, a copy of the previous two financial year's accounts, details as to where exactly the lighting and cameras are to be sited, and clarification as to how the items will benefit the village, is required in order for consideration to be given to the application for a grant from Cottesmore Amateurs Football Club. Also, a representative is to be asked to attend the December meeting to discuss this application further, in advance of the decision being made at the January meeting.

It was agreed that the information provided by Cottesmore History & Archaeology Group was sufficient for the Council to make a decision as to whether, or not, to provide a grant towards the cost of updating the Cottesmore Round, and another towards the cost of producing a small book on Cottesmore Hall.

146/20 APPROVE TRAINING COURSE ATTENDANCE FOR COUNCILLORS

It was proposed by Mrs Edwards, seconded by Miss Simmonds and agreed that the attendance of Mrs Reay at the LRALC Councillor Training Course, and Mr Meara at the LRALC Charitable Trusts and Parish/Town Councils – Navigating the Minefield Course, be approved.

147/20 CONSIDER THE PURCHASE OF ARNOLD-BAKER ON LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

It was proposed by Mrs Patient, seconded by Mrs Reay and agreed that a copy of Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration – Twelve Edition, be purchased at a cost of £119.99.

148/20 CONSIDER REGISTERING WITH LAND REGISTRY THE LAND SURROUNDING, AND ON WHICH THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IS SITED

It was proposed by Mr Donovan, seconded by Mrs Edwards and agreed that the land surrounding, and on which the Community Centre is sited, be registered with the Land Registry, using Chattertons, Solicitors, at a quoted fee of £350.00 plus VAT.

149/20 OTHER MEETINGS

Village Hall Management Committee Meeting held on 9 November 2020

Mrs Patient had circulated a report of the meeting that included items on, the re-opening of the hall but not the Sports & Social Club or changing rooms, and the financial position.

Mr Meara added that the Football Club had been offered a lease that was considered acceptable. The Village Hall had confirmed it did not wish to be a co-signatory but would be writing to the Club to ensure that its interests, in such as hosting the firework display and caravan rallies, are maintained.

150/20 CORRESPONDENCE

From Jennifer Blockley – Requesting a donation to help towards the setting up of a new radio station to serve the community of the Rutland and Stamford area, and asking for the opportunity to present the plans to the Council via Zoom. It was agreed that Jennifer be invited to the next Parish Council meeting.

From the FCC Communities Foundation – Advising that they are looking to fund good quality community projects in the area and that they remain committed to helping communities to deliver projects that are important to their local area despite the challenges we are all facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was proposed by Mr Donovan, seconded by Mr Meara and agreed that an application be submitted for funds to refurbish and upgrade the multi-court. Mrs Edwards will complete the application with the assistance of Mrs Reay.

From St Nicholas School - Providing the Rutland Learning Trust's consultation for admissions to RLT schools in 2022. This includes an amendment to St Nicholas' CE Primary School planned admission number for EYFS. This was noted.

From Cottesmore Parochial Church Council – Requesting release of the agreed grant of £1,500.00 towards the maintenance of the churchyard extension and upkeep of the church clock. It was proposed by Mr Meara, seconded by Miss Simmonds and agreed that the grant be released.

From a resident - Suggesting that the Parish Council rent the land to the north of the football pitches and make it into an enclosed, wildlife park area for the use and enjoyment of the whole village. It was agreed that the resident be thanked for the idea and advised that this site is the only site proposed for

housing in the Local Plan, and some of the suggestions can possibly be included in the area where the allotments are to be located.
 From a resident – Advising that ‘rubbish’ has been left in one of the corners of the Heath Drive Play Area. Mr Barker is to investigate.

151/20 PLANNING

Observations

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.

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

Full Planning Permission

Proposed demolition of existing outbuilding and garage. Erection of a two and single storey extension to dwelling, raise the roof on the existing house and clad with a thatch roof.

21 Main Street, Cottesmore. LE15 7DH.

152/20 FINANCE

Income

Interest			0.27
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Expenditure	Net	VAT	Total
Roadman – October 2020			151.13
Elms Landscaping Design Limited	152.50	30.50	183.00
The Poppy Appeal – Donation for two wreaths			80.00
ICO Data Protection Fee (collected by DDM)			35.00
LRALC – Website Accessibility Compliance training			20.00
Cottesmore Village Hall Trust – Agreed grant for emergency works			7,621.20
Cottesmore PCC – Agreed grant			1,500.00
S Rowlatt – Toll Bar bus shelter notice board			320.00
Clerk’s Salary – October 2020			621.92
Clerk’s Expenses – October 2020			18.00

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

Account Balances

HSBC Community Account (as at previous meeting £1.10)	1.85
HSBC Business Money Manager (previous meeting £56,946.60)	46,395.87

Report on Bank Reconciliation Verification Check

Miss Simmonds reported that she was able to verify the bank reconciliation. Mrs Edwards will provide the verification for the December meeting.

153/20 OPEN FORUM

Interpretation Board

Mr Meara reported that the interpretation board opposite the church is in need of a good cleaning and smarten up, including screws being tightened up. He offered to attend to this.

154/20 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled to be held on Monday 14 December 2020 at 19.30.