

COTON-IN-THE-ELMS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held on 4th September 2017, at the Community Centre, Cotton-in-the-Elms.

Present

Councillors Mrs K Bradford [Chairman], Mrs C Bradford, M Kinson, A Lees and MJ Mason.

District Councillor Mrs M Hall was also in attendance.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Leese and District and County Councillor P Murray.

Mr PG Davies, the Parish Clerk, was also present.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2017, be approved and signed as a correct record.

2. PAYMENTS

RESOLVED

That the payments included on the Agenda, together with the following additional payments, be authorised:-

Payee	Item	£
The Clerk	➤ Stationery [VAT £3.00]	17.98
Trent Creative	➤ Printing [VAT £6.78]	40.68
The Clerk	➤ Postage	6.84
Grant Thornton	➤ External Audit [VAT £20.00]	120.00

3. NEW LEASE

Councillor Mrs M Hall kindly agreed to speak to Mr J Houghton in the hope of expediting preparation of the new lease for the Recreation Ground.

4. DOCUMENTATION

The Clerk tabled the following documents for circulation to Members:-

- Press releases from South Derbyshire District Council
- Crime Report – July
- Minutes of the Safer Neighbourhood and Area Forum meetings held on 28th June 2017

6. ACCESS TO RECREATION GROUND

The Parish Council considered that in order to improve access to the Recreation Ground, it would be beneficial if a suitable non-slip surface was provided. Such a solid surface would improve access for all pedestrians and be of real assistance for disabled persons.

RESOLVED

That the District Council be requested to undertake this work to facilitate improved access to the Recreation Ground.

6. EXTERNAL AUDIT

The external audit had been successfully completed with the auditor advising that all financial arrangements were in accordance with proper practices and all relevant legislative and regulatory requirements had been properly met.

Members noted a comment regarding action by the internal auditor answering 'yes' to Objective 7 in relation to petty cash. This should have stated 'not covered' as the Parish Council did not operate a petty cash system.

RESOLVED

That the comments of the external auditor be duly noted.

7. RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

The Clerk was pleased to report that the Parish Council had been allocated £385.00 towards the maintenance of public footpaths and public bridleways.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk request Councillor A Leese to identify work required to public footpaths in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and to report thereon to the next meeting.

8. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

The Parish Council noted that the District Council was carrying out a review of private hire licensing policy.

The Clerk circulated a note from the Vice-Chairman suggesting additional changes to the current policy as follows:-

1. *"A full command of the English language be compulsory for all drivers.*
2. *That driver ID be displayed at all times.*
3. *That the issue of a receipt for the fare be compulsory at all times.*

A complaint against a licence holder form is available on line at South Derbyshire District Council website and perhaps its existence could be more widely publicised where it would be most effective – in the cab."

The Parish Council noted that the policy had already been amended so as to make it mandatory that all new and existing drivers must receive Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training.

RESOLVED

1. That the comments of the Vice-Chairman be submitted to the District Council as this Parish Council's response to the review.
2. That the District Council also be asked to consider the need for training on the subject of identifying radicalisation as part of the 'Prevent' programme and the need to inform the Police of any concerns.

3. That the District Council be asked to provide clarification in respect of 'Uber' as it is understood that some licensed drivers also work independently for that company.

9. VILLAGE BROOK

The Clerk reported he had received correspondence from Mr D Brookes, Coton-in-Bloom, regarding the untidy state of the village brook.

Members acknowledged that further clearance work was required to the brook and it was:-

RESOLVED

1. That the Clerk write to Trelawn Services formally requesting them to carry out further clearance work to the brook as soon as possible.
2. That the Clerk inform Mr D Brooks of the action being taken.

10. ANNUAL INSPECTION OF PLAY EQUIPMENT

Zurich had carried out their annual inspection of play equipment and had recommended that in respect of all swings the rigid swing suspension should be replaced by flexible suspensions.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk draw this matter to the attention of the District Council and request that they carry out the necessary remedial works.

11. FINANCE REPORT

The Report of the Clerk showing income and expenditure of the Parish Council as at 31st August 2017, was submitted for information and noted.

12. REPORT BACK ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports to the meeting.

13. REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There were no matters on which to report to this meeting.

14. REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The County Councillor was not present at the meeting.

15. PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

16. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council considered the following planning applications:-

9/2017/0787

Retention of roof lights and boundary fence, the revised positioning of parking spaces and the formation of three parking spaces for neighbours to use Old Band Room, Chapel Street.

9/2017/0890

Lawful Development Certificate for the erection of an outbuilding
Crosses Farm, Lullington Road.

RESOLVED

1. That no objection be made to 9/2017/0787.
2. That in respect of 9/2017/0890, the District Council be informed that more information was required to enable the Parish Council to comment on this planning application and the Clerk, in his letter, identify the areas of clarification required.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

The Parish Council had previously agreed that the next meeting would be held on 9th October 2017, at 7.30 p.m.

[Chairman]