

Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council

MINUTES

MEETING OF WIGGINTON AND HOPWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 6th APRIL 2017, 7.15 P.M AT ST LEONARDS CHURCH HALL, WIGGINTON

Present: Cllr Stevens (Chair), Cllr Croft, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Moore, Cllr Shirtliff.

In attendance: Mrs M Jones (Clerk), 5 members of the public.

Open Forum

Members of the public asked about the proposal for a chicane to slow traffic. Cllr Stevens explained that it was still open for discussion, as the Parish Council needed to know if it was supported in the village first. The responses to the survey received had quoted additional problems with parking and some also asked for calming measures at the north end. Of the responses received so far 15 were in favour and 12 against, out of about 120 delivered, so there was a positive response from a small majority.

On the issue of parking in Main Road, residents described the current difficulties faced by residents trying to drive out of Walrand Close, as visibility was so difficult because of parked vehicles near the junction. Highways had been asked about posts to prevent parking on the pavement near the visibility splays but had not responded yet. It was agreed that parking was more difficult than previously as the care home at Wigginton Cottage could have as many as 9 vehicles, their staff and visitors had been asked to park at the pub but few seemed to be doing so. Regrettably parking had not been taken into consideration when planning permission had been granted.

Various suggestions were made to make it safer to drive past the parked vehicles, such as parking restrictions on the main road, or parking in blocks of 4 with refuges, or taking land from the grassed bank to put in parking spaces, although this would cost a lot for little benefit. Preventing all parking would increase speeds along the road as well as inconveniencing car owners. It was agreed to try to find out from Bromford Housing whether there could be access behind the housing to provide a car parking area and to find out who the land behind that belonged to.

The traffic calming proposal would be put on hold until the parking situation had been resolved, as both issues should be dealt with together. It was agreed that it was important to move quickly on this on the grounds of safety, as it was currently dangerous for children to cross the road. It would be worth residents contacting Highways directly as they were more likely to take notice of a large number of complaints. The Clerk would ask for a representative of Highways to meet Councillors and residents to discuss how the issue could be solved.

1. To receive and approve apologies.

Cllr Biggs, District Councillor Leytham

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None received.



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3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 2nd March 2017.

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes as a true and accurate record.

4. To receive the Clerk's Report.

Goal at Hopwas Playing Field – this had now been installed; hopefully well used.
Comberford parking – Councillors were consulted on a request by a resident, and had agreed not to allow the use of the Millennium Green for parking.

Comberford Church – this had now been restored to the ownership of the family who had originally donated the land. The keys were handed over on April 5th and a group of family members and those who had been involved in the legal dispute attended the first re-opening of the building, which showed signs of neglect.

Pews and interior roof timbers had been removed. The hedge marking the boundary nearby had been removed and it was necessary for a new hedge or fence to be put there so that boundary delineation could be reinstated.

Traffic order – an order preventing parking at the Hints Road/Nursery Lane/Two Trees junction was to be issued on April 20th. Comments on the proposal could be made until 11th May. This would be considered on the next agenda.

5. To consider any planning matters.

(a) Proposed development of up to 250 further houses off Brown's Lane – Cllrs Stevens and Croft had attended a meeting with developers who had outlined proposals, although further information and plans had not yet been sent. The proposal was for housing adjacent to the current development and close to Sill Green. It appeared to conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan which stated there should be no coalescence with Tamworth, and there would be traffic implications. Nothing could be done until a planning application was made.

(b) Consultation on Lichfield District Council's Allocations document, open until 12 May, Cllrs would be sent a copy of the document and this would be discussed at the next meeting; a response should be sent to the consultation as it affected this parish.

(c) 17/00333/CLE (Certificate of lawful use, existing) Bodnetts Farm, Plantation Lane, retention of gated access. Application for consent to an existing use, RESOLVED no objection.

6. To consider traffic calming and parking in Wigginton.

This issue had been addressed in the Open Forum. RESOLVED to defer pending further information on parking issues.

7. To receive an update on Hints Road flooding

The source of the blockage to the drains had been found, but Highways had been unable to do the remedial work yet. The Parish Council would continue to monitor this situation.

8. To consider maintenance

The play equipment required painting again, Greenlands would be asked to do the work after the Easter holidays, and to replenish the bark surfaces. Some trees would require trimming later in the year by a tree surgeon. Greenlands had made safe the gravestone at St John's churchyard and cut the bank at Sill Green.

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- 9. To consider provision of picnic bench at Comberford Millennium Green**
RESOLVED to order a recycled low maintenance picnic bench for the Green.

- 10. To consider a donation to Hopwas Garden Club**
RESOLVED to donate £100 for bulbs and seeds to the Garden Club.

- 11. To receive Councillors' reports.**
None received.

- 12. To receive correspondence.**
SPCA bulletins
MOD Firing Times
Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way modified Definitive Map available for inspection at Tamworth Library from 29 March; Community Paths Initiative bids for Rights of Way funding; County Cllr Ian Parry on workshop on joint working Tamworth District Civic Society, inaugural Tamworth Lecture
Hopwas Garden Club, request for assistance with costs of bulbs and seeds.

- 13. To approve the Financial Report**
Bank reconciliation – this was noted.
A transfer from the deposit to current account was agreed.
Changes to internet banking – use of PIN to be introduced plus new look website
Analysis of payments against budget for the year.
Audit – The Annual Return was to be completed and internal audit arranged, prior to approval at the May meeting.
RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report.

- 14. To approve payments as listed on the payment schedule.**
RESOLVED to make the following payments:
M. Jones, salary, pension, and expenses £499.31;
M & GB Ltd, Hopwas grass cutting, £240, installation of goal £180;
Prontaprint, leaflets, £24.00;
SPCA, membership, £287.00, Councillor training £20;
L. Watkins, maintenance, Hopwas Playing Field, St John's Churchyard, Sill Green £119.30, Comberford Millennium Green £55
Community Council of Staffordshire, membership £25

- 15. Items for next meeting**
Wigginton traffic and parking, Hopwas flooding, Audit

- 16. Date of future Meetings:**
1st June, St Leonard's Church Hall, Wigginton
13th July, Hopwas, Thomas Barnes School.

- 17. Date of next meeting.** 4th May, Hopwas Methodist Church, Hints Road, 7.15
Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

