

Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council

MINUTES

MEETING OF WIGGINTON AND HOPWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 5th JANUARY 2017, 7.15 P.M AT THOMAS BARNES SCHOOL, HOPWAS

Present: Cllr Stevens (Chair), Cllr Biggs, Cllr Croft, Cllr Shirtliff.

In attendance: Mrs M Jones (Clerk), 3 members of the public.

Open Forum

Two members of the public had attended to ask for the Parish Council's assistance regarding the problem of regular flooding in Hints Road and the lack of resolution of this issue by Staffordshire Highways' contractor Amey. This was discussed under item 7.

1. To receive and approve apologies.

Cllr Moore had apologised as he was on holiday, District Cllr Leytham had also been unable to attend. The apologies were accepted.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 1st December 2016.

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

4. To receive the Clerk's Report.

The cherry tree to commemorate HM Queen's 90th birthday had been purchased by Cllr Biggs and planted by Les Watkins at St John's churchyard. Cllr Stevens had ordered a plaque and would install it shortly, a photo would be taken and information sent to the Tamworth Herald. Les had done an excellent job of tidying the bushes around the churchyard.

Quotes for grass cutting in Wigginton and Comberford had been requested, these would be considered at the February meeting.

The issue of parking in Wigginton had been discussed with PCSO Costas; he had said no offence was being committed unless buggies could not use the footpath. Broadband speeds were to be improved in Wigginton but unfortunately this did not include Wigginton Fields, where homeowners had been quoted an unachievably high sum to be connected to superfast broadband.

A consultation on proposals to limit parking with double yellow lines around the Hints Road/Two Trees Close/ Nursery Lane junction had just begun. Over the last few years there had been many representations to the Parish Council asking for vans to be prevented from parking there, as drivers' visibility was affected. Councillors would seek the views of neighbouring residents on this and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting. An extra few days to reply to Highways on the consultation would be requested.



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5. To consider any planning matters.

(a) 16/01309/FUL 12 Hints Road, Hopwas – The Parish Council had objected to this application on conservation grounds and as it contravened the Neighbourhood Plan policy WHC3.

(b) 16/01291/FUL Five Gables, School Lane, Hopwas – comments had been sent confirming that the Parish Council had no objection to this application.

(c) 14/00516/OUTMEI Further consultation had taken place on the Arkall Farm development following the receipt of updated Transport Assessments. The Parish Council would not comment further on the technical documents provided.

(d) 16/01435/COU, 72 Ashby Road, conversion of stable to 3 bedroom dwelling, erection of detached double garage and associated works. The Clerk was asked to check if the property was in this parish. RESOLVED no objection.

(e) The Neighbourhood Plan had been confirmed as made and the Decision Statement issued. The Clerk would check with Lichfield Planning Department on the process for annual monitoring and updating of the Plan.

6. To consider purchase of goal posts for Hopwas Playing Field.

Discussion took place regarding siting, the age groups who might use these and types of goals available. RESOLVED to purchase a single goal, 7 feet high, and to arrange installation through a specialist firm.

7. To receive an update on flooding in Hints Road

Residents had been reporting to Highways for two years the problem of the road near the Tame Otter flooding every time it rained. It had been established that it was not the gullies which needed clearing, but a blockage somewhere in the system, but there had still been no progress in resolving the issue by the contractors Amey despite regular reporting of this to Highways. This was affecting the quality of life for those in the nearest properties who could not access their drives, and it also affected pedestrians and road users. RESOLVED to write to Cllr White, and to copy this to the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council to ask that this be dealt with as a priority. The brewery would also be contacted to ask if they could improve drainage from their car park.

8. To consider traffic calming in Wigginton

It had been proposed that the installation of a chicane to slow traffic at the bottom of the dip in Main Road would be best solution to the contentious issue of speeding traffic through the village. This could be funded partly through the precept and partly through the Wigginton Village Hall Trust fund, details to be agreed when the cost was known. RESOLVED to arrange a meeting later in January with the Community Highways Liaison officer to discuss this issue.

9. To consider a Welcome Pack for new residents.

Following discussion, it was agreed to produce a welcome letter for those moving into the new properties off Memorial Drive near Browns' Lane. The Clerk would prepare details about the responsibilities of the various local councils and information about the Parish Council. Cllr Stevens offered to visit the site office to find out what information was currently available and he would then produce a draft letter for consideration at the next meeting.



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10. To consider request for debt, benefit and consumer advice funding.

An email had been received from Cllr White explaining that due to cut backs the County Council was unable to continue funding of the advice service provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau as previously, and asking for Parish Councils and other bodies to consider contributing to this. Councillors felt that this was not the role of the Parish Council and RESOLVED not to contribute.

11. To receive Councillors' reports.

Cllr Stevens had attended the SPCA AGM and reported back on a presentation from Highways which explained future changes due to cuts in funding, such as the ending of Lengthmen's agreements and the Neighbourhood Highways Teams. THE SPCA had stressed the importance of membership for local Councils.

12. To receive correspondence.

SPCA bulletins

Christmas Greetings from Chair of Lichfield District Council and other bodies.

13. To consider the draft budget for financial year 2017-18

The draft budget was discussed and minor amendments made. RESOLVED to request a precept of £19,000 from Lichfield District Council.

14. To approve the Financial Report

Bank reconciliation – this was noted.

Audit – The Auditor's Report for financial year 2015-16 had been received. RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report.

15. To approve payments as listed on the payment schedule.

RESOLVED to make the following payments:

M. Jones, salary, pension, and expenses £490.92;

Peak Cashflow, M & GB Ltd, Hopwas grass cutting, £120;

Information Commissioner, Annual fee, £35;

Toplis Associates, Audit fee, £110.70.

16. Items for next meeting

Grass cutting quotes

Parking in Hints Road

Information for new residents

Wigginton traffic calming

17. Date of next and future Meetings:

2nd March, Thomas Barnes School, Hopwas

6th April, St Leonard's Church Hall, Wigginton

4th May, Thomas Barnes School, Hopwas

18. Date of next meeting.

Thursday 2nd February, Wigginton Church Hall, 7.15

The meeting closed at 21.10 p.m