

Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council

MINUTES

MEETING OF WIGGINTON AND HOPWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7th DECEMBER 2017, 7.15 P.M AT THOMAS BARNES SCHOOL, HOPWAS

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

In attendance: Mrs M Jones (Clerk), one member of the public.

Open Forum: No comments received.

1. To receive and approve apologies.

Cllr Moore, working away; Cllr Shirtliff, personal reasons;
District Cllr Leytham, attending another meeting. The apologies were approved.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None received.

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

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

4. To receive the Clerk's Report.

Comberford – The Clerk had asked the District Council's street cleaning team to clean the road edges. Wood chip had been delivered for the Millennium Green.

Les would be asked to attend to the gate catch and do other work required.

Hints Road drainage – this matter had now been resolved apart from a recent blockage caused by leaves, the householder had expressed his thanks to those who had helped bring this long - standing matter to a conclusion.

Hedges in Wigginton – the hedges along Main Road needed cutting by the farmers who owned adjacent fields.

Electoral Register – a new edition had been issued to the Clerk by the electoral department in December.

Data Protection Briefing - this had been attended by the Clerk and Cllr Gibson. Information had been given on best practice for complying with the new data protection legislation which would be law in May. Some requirements, such as the need for an independent Data Protection Officer, may not apply to Parish Councils, and further information would be given in due course.

5. To consider any planning matters.

(a) Application 17/01560/FUL at 16 Hints Road, rear extension and porch; the Parish Council had confirmed no objection to this.

(b) The Parish Council had been consulted on the Fradley Neighbourhood Plan.



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(c) Arkall Farm application; various new documents were available and comments could be made to the Planning Inspector who would hear the Inquiry in January. The Parish Council would respond that despite the new reports its views on the development were unchanged regarding the quantity of housing; a large number were being built in the area and the impact of these was not yet known. It was regrettable that the County Council had withdrawn the offer to monitor and manage the traffic, and this would also be commented on.

6. To consider speed indicator signs and traffic calming solutions.

The Police and Crime Commissioner had asked for expressions of interest in a scheme for Parish Councils to negotiate discounts on speed signs, but Councillors felt that this could take too long to arrange.

A site meeting had been held with Councillors and the Community Highways Liaison Officer to advise on the best sites to install the signs, and the Clerk had then contacted the installers and Highways regarding permission. Cllr Stevens would contact the nearest householder.

Hopwas heavy lorry traffic – this had been reported to Trading Standards, and discussed with the PCSO. Cllr Gibson had asked Highways for 'no construction traffic' signs and would contact the developers of the site on Coton Lane to ask them not to route lorries over the canal bridge.

7. To consider Hopwas Playing Field.

RESOLVED to order a field gate and installation from Cannock Gates.

The Annual Inspection Report had been received, no major problems reported. Cllr Gibson offered to meet the maintenance team to discuss the size of fencing required behind the goal when it was moved further along the field.

8. To consider options for the bus service

Cllr Stevens had attended the joint meeting of Mease Valley Councils, which had discussed various options; it had been confirmed that the subsidy required to run the service was around £59,000 a year. As only part of the parish was affected, with few users, RESOLVED not to contribute to subsidies. Arriva would be requested to consider extending the Brown's Lane service via Wigginton.

9. To consider reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan

RESOLVED that a meeting would be arranged in mid January or February and Steering Group members would be invited to attend.

10. To consider Rights of Way Questionnaire

It was agreed not to contribute to the consultation.

11. To receive Councillors' reports.

Cllr Croft had discussed with a resident a suggestion to rebuild a Village Hall in Wigginton; he had identified land which could be available and would contact her further in due course.

Cllr Gibson continued to attend Dementia Friendly events.

She reported on a hedge in Hints Road which was obstructing the pavement for pedestrians, this would be monitored.



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She said that residents of Walrand Close still had concerns about road safety and wanted double yellow lines at the junction of Wigginton Road. The Clerk said that a request had been made to Highways for this to be added to the Divisional Highways Programme which could take some time.

Cllr Stevens reported that he had continued to try to arrange a meeting with Wigginton Cottage, but a date had not yet been confirmed.

He reported on a further issue which had arisen as improved fencing was needed between the school and the back of the property.

12. To receive correspondence.

SPCA bulletins,

MOD Firing Times

Staffordshire County Council, Highways information, Rights of way consultation, information that the X55 bus service between Tamworth and Lichfield through Hopwas would finish on 23rd December.

Christopher Pincher MP regarding setting up a memorial to local armed forces personnel who had died in conflicts since 1945.

12. To approve the Financial Report

Bank reconciliation; this was noted.

Forms were completed to add Cllr Gibson as a signatory on the Unity Trust accounts.

Changes to the External Audit procedure had been announced.

RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report.

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

RESOLVED to make the following payments:

M. Jones, salary, pension, expenses including bank supplies £601.31; HMRC PAYE;

M & GB Ltd, Hopwas Playing Field grass cutting, £120;

L. Watkins, maintenance, Sill Green and Tollgate Lane £75; Comberford £133.60

Prontaprint, newsletter printing, £92; Ian Smith Group, stationery £18.61;

Cllr Gibson, expenses, £6.40; Wigginton PCC, room hire, £60.

14. Items for next meeting

Ongoing matters

15. Date of future meetings:

Thursday 1st February, Thomas Barnes School, Hopwas

Thursday 8th March, St Leonard's Church Hall, Wigginton

Thursday 5th April, Thomas Barnes School, Hopwas

16. Date of next meeting.

Thursday 4th January 2018, St Leonard's Church Hall, Wigginton

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

