

Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council

MINUTES

MEETING OF WIGGINTON AND HOPWAS PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7th SEPTEMBER 2017, 7.15 P.M AT ST LEONARD'S CHURCH HALL, WIGGINTON

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

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

Open Forum:

A resident mentioned the current consultation by the County Council on cutting bus subsidies, which was likely to mean the closure of the 82 bus service through Wigginton, and asked whether the Parish Council could do anything to help. The Chair said that the Parish Council would comment on the consultation to reflect the concerns of several residents of Wigginton and Comberford who did not drive and relied on the service to reach shops and services in Tamworth. The Clerk mentioned that a meeting for concerned users of the bus service had been arranged with Chris Pincher MP and Alan White, County Councillor at Harlaston Village Hall on 16th September, 10.30 to 12.30. Another member of the public said that while cycling in Syerscote Lane she had been struck by a resident of the care home who was walking there with a carer. Although unhurt she was concerned that this may represent a risk for local children. The incident had been reported to the police and PCSO Costas Karpi had visited her and spoken to the care home. A neighbour expressed her worries about verbal outbursts heard at Wigginton Cottage and her worries for her children. In addition to the problems with staff parking it was becoming clear to local people that the care home was increasingly causing problems for the village. Police cars had frequently been seen in attendance. It was agreed that Cllr Stevens would arrange a meeting between the manager and some of the Councillors to draw these concerns to their attention.

Another resident thanked the Parish Council for listening over the past few months to information on the Dementia Friendly initiative. If the Parish Council wished to be involved it could hold sessions for local people to make them aware of the condition. Cllr Gibson had agreed to pass on information to the Councillors.

1. To receive and approve apologies.

Cllr Moore had apologised as he was on holiday. The apology was accepted.
District Cllr Leytham had apologised as he had another meeting to attend.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest.

None received.

3. To approve the Minutes of the meeting of 13th July 2017.

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



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4. To receive the Clerk's Report.

Cllr Biggs had resigned due to work commitments, and had been thanked for his service as a Councillor. The vacancy notice was displayed and co-option could now take place if prospective members came forward.

The Armistice Day Service would be held at Tamworth Hall of Memory, however none of the Councillors were able to attend to represent Wigginton and Hopwas. Playground inspections had been booked to take place in September. Wood chip would be purchased for the slide area at Comberford.

Highways would be contacted again about the lack of weight limit signage for vehicles turning right from Plantation Lane onto Hopwas Hill.

Street lights in Sill Green were still obscured by ivy, this would be reported again. A member of the public had reported that protected trees were being removed in Comberford, the tree officer had checked but this was due to electrical works. The MOD had confirmed that Hopwas Woods right of way was not obstructed. Work on the drainage at Hints Road had begun but this was not yet finished. Data protection training would be required due to forthcoming legal changes. Councillor training was available on finances and code of conduct.

5. To consider any planning matters.

The District Council had consulted on various local Neighbourhood Plans.

There was no further information on housing at Arkall Farm or Brown's Lane.

Application 17/01146/FUL Spion Kop, Lichfield Road, Hopwas, Tamworth:

Raising of roof to first floor section including 4 bedrooms and ensuites; single storey extension to side to extend family room

RESOLVED No objection. It was agreed to comment on consideration for neighbouring properties during construction as the access was very narrow, and that the property should be used only as a private residence.

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

Councillors had met a representative of Traffic Technology to look at their speed signs, and would purchase two devices if the price for an additional data capture feature was reasonable, this would be confirmed at the next meeting. Cllr Shirliff would look at an alternative device if location details were available. The Clerk would discuss installation quotes and arrangements with Highways.

A resident had suggested involving local school children with making anti speeding posters, it was agreed that Cllrs would approach the schools to ask if this could be done to coincide with road safety awareness week.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact Cllr White to request that the provision of double yellow lines to limit parking around Walrand Close be added to the Divisional Highways Programme.

7. To consider Hopwas Playing Field

The gate to the field had been damaged and needed replacing, RESOLVED to obtain quotes for a new gate for discussion at a future meeting.

A neighbour had reported that the trees behind the goal had been damaged by children kicking balls, climbing on trees and fences and breaking branches.

RESOLVED to ask the grounds contractors to move the goal forward by about 15 metres and to prune the trees.

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8. To consider bus consultation response.

RESOLVED that a response would be sent to Staffordshire County Council on options for subsidised services, Councillors agreed on option 1.

Comments would be added that any closure of the service would cause serious difficulties for users from Comberford and Wigginton.

9. To receive Councillors' reports.

Cllr Stevens had attended code of conduct training, and found it a useful insight.

10. To receive correspondence.

SPCA bulletins

MOD Firing Times

Lichfield District Council, Electoral Registration canvass, Financial changes

Residents of Wigginton regarding traffic and speeding

WMAS – asking for display of ID numbers on defibrillators

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association AGM and subscriptions information

Community Council AGM

12. To approve the Financial Report

Bank reconciliation; this was noted. Comparison of payments against budget were given. A transfer of £3,000 had been made to the current account.

Lichfield DC had announced a plan to end the payment of Local Council Tax Support Grant from April 2018 which could mean an increase in precepts, further details would be given in time for the budgeting process.

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, and expenses July/August £451.37; HMRC PAYE;

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

L.Watkins, maintenance, Hopwas Playing Field, Tollgate Lane, Sill Green £172.70

Wigginton PCC room hire £30 Comberford Millennium Green grass cutting £110.

14. Items for next meeting

Speed indicator signs, gateways, next newsletter

15. Date of future meetings:

Thursday 2nd November, St Leonard's Church Hall, Wigginton

Thursday 7th December, Thomas Barnes School, Hopwas

Thursday 4th January 2018

16. Date of next meeting.

Thursday 5th October, Thomas Barnes School, Hopwas; 7.15

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.