

Clerk Report

a) Delegated Authority

Insurance renewal processed & paid prior to 1st June under delegated authority. Amount £1600.70

Other payments made under delegated authority (Financial Reg 5.5)

12	Sign Technology	4575 - Telegraph Signage	HPF Repairs	BACS	£ 90.00	£ 18.00	£ 108.00	23/05/2023
18	Dave Dudley	War memorial weedkiller etc.	Wigginton Grass Cutting	BACS	£ 30.82	£ 6.17	£ 36.99	26/05/2023

Planning comments submitted under delegated authority for application 23/00348/FULMEI on 26/05/23.

Wigginton and Hopwas Parish Council are concerned that the vehicle route management plan submitted with this application does not contain any information as to how the farm will manage and enforce the suggested route into and out of the farm to the North.

Given the frequent road closures and diversion on the M42 due to HS2 construction and motorway improvements, no alternative route is provided for and given the volume of traffic generated from the farm's activities this is of concern to how this may affect the village of Wigginton to the south of the development especially with reference to the cumulative impact of other proposed developments.

Residents within the Parish already report HGV's using Main Road, Wigginton despite restrictions on HGV's and are concerned that should this development go ahead these problems may be exacerbated. Further thought should be given to the vehicle route management plan detailing how this will be managed and what the alternative route would be should there be issues upon the M42. Currently there is not sufficient information within the route management plan to allow the council to make an adequate assessment of the potential impact to the Parish.

Relevant extract from page 12 of the Wigginton, Hopwas and Comberford Neighbourhood Plan:

Traffic Through Wigginton

5.27 The traffic along Main Road in the village is of major concern to the residents, as is the traffic using Wigginton Lane. These concerns centre on the speed of the traffic and the number of heavy lorries passing through the village.

Relevant extract/s from Lichfield District Council's Local Plan:

Policy ST1: Sustainable Travel

The District Council will seek to secure more sustainable travel patterns by:

4. Requiring Transport Assessments for all developments that are likely to have significant transport implications, to determine measures required on the surrounding highway network and ensure necessary access by all modes of transport;

6. Only permitting traffic generating development where it is, or can be made compatible with, the transport infrastructure in the area and takes account of:

- Number and nature of additional traffic movements, including servicing needs;
- Capacity of the local transport network;

- Cumulative impact including other proposed development;
- Access and egress to the public highway; and
- Highway safety.

Relevant extract/s from the National Planning Policy Framework:

9. Promoting Sustainable Transport

104. Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that:

(e) patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places.

110. In assessing sites that may be allocated for development in plans, or specific applications for development, it should be ensured that:

(b) safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all users;

(d) any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree.

111. Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

113. All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed.

b) General Maintenance

- Complaints/queries received regarding holes in Hopwas Playing Field, further details requested from residents location / pictures – no further information provided. Chair – Cllr R Pritchard inspected the Playing Field and found no obvious defects. Clerk requested M&BG (Grass Cutting Contractors) inspect the field and report back any potential hazards / Health & Safety issues with the land. None reported. Alan Robey inspected playing field and found some shallow divots and filled these with topsoil.
- Reports of smashed glass on the play area in May / June, Chair – Cllr R Pritchard inspected as contractor was away and glass had been cleared. More smashed glass was discovered the following weekend by the contractor. Unfortunately it appears to be a regular occurrence at this time of year in many recreational facilities. Contractor will contact Clerk if there are any further instances and residents / PC should report to Staffordshire Police any further vandalism or anti-social behaviour.
- Clerk has continued to chase Sovereign for repair quotes. It is anticipated that they will conduct a site visit w/c 10th July to do a full quotation of repairs highlighted in the annual independent play inspection report. Agreed in conjunction with Chair to await quote and take action under delegated authority (in conjunction with the agreement of councillors via email) to choose a provider and schedule repair work.

c) Highways

- SCC confirmed they have replaced the damaged 30mph sign, unfortunately they only replaced on the approach from Tamworth to Wigginton, the sign from Wigginton towards Tamworth is still damaged, Clerk raised a further report with SCC requesting they carry out a further replacement / repair. This has been accepted by SCC however due to the low risk category of the defect may take a while to resolve.

- ii) In early June, SCC Highways had placed tracks upon Main Road, Wigginton to monitor speed.

I. Correspondence

- i) Correspondence received regarding recurring parking issues on the A51 outside the Red Lion and upon the Bridge. Resident advised to report traffic obstructions to Staffordshire Police and parking contraventions to Staffordshire County Council. Resident agreed for his contact details to be passed to the Chair of the Council for further discussion to see whether this item should go on agenda for further discussion as a community issue or whether to request resident discusses this issue as an individual with the County Council in the first instance. Following discussion with the Chair, it was agreed that the County Councillor Alan White & PCSO Costas Karpi would be best placed to deal with this issue in the first instance. Clerk contacted resident who did not wish to forward his contact details but agreed that SCC & the Police were best placed to tackle this issue. County Cllr White asked whether the landlords at the Red Lion had been approached regarding this matter. Clerk contacted the Red Lion on 30/06/23 car park is being fully utilised by staff, patrons and visitors, no parking restrictions on the A51 currently, some double yellow lines upon the bridge may push the parking further up Hopwas Hill which would be safer. County Cllr White emailed with the details of the conversation (cc'd Cllr Pritchard) PC may wish to consider monitoring for a response on this matter.
- ii) Correspondence received regarding farmland on Main Road, Wigginton which was fire damaged last year requesting an update on any plans for the clearance and replanting of land. Resident advised that the Parish Council are not privy to any plans regarding this land as it belongs to a private landowner.
- iii) Thomas Barnes held a successful Sprots Day upon Hopwas Playing Field, thanks were given to the Council for giving their permission to use the field and the school will be in touch for any future events they may wish to hold.

II. Meeting Venue (Hopwas)

Clerk contacted St Chad's Churchwarden, regarding hiring the Church Hall on Hints Road for Parish Council meetings on the following dates:

- Thursday 14th September 2023
- Thursday 11th January 2024
- Thursday 9th May 2024

The Church Hall have a regular group which use the Church Hall on most Thursdays, they would be able to let us know if any of the dates are available once the existing group provide their fixture list for 2023/24. The Church Hall would charge the Parish Council £15 per hour and have advised they have availability on a Monday or a Wednesday for the requested weeks if this would be suitable.

Staffordshire County Council charge the Parish Council £30 for each meeting at Thomas Barnes. There is no reason to believe that the school hall would not be available as usual on a Thursday Evening.

PC to decide which venue and / or dates to move forward with based on the above information.