

Minutes of the Cotesbach Parish Council Meeting on Monday 5th November at 7.30pm

Present

Mr Ed Hunt (Chair, EH), Mr Tom Haywood (TH), Ms Olivia Newton (ON), Ms Margaret Wild (Clerk, MW)

1. **Apologies**

Invited but no apologies received from Cllr J Bateman; Cllr B Pain; PC Andrew Cooper

2. **Councillor's Declaration of Interest**

Ongoing planning application for Margaret Wild (18/01469/FUL)

3. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes approved and signed off as a true record

Actions from previous minutes:

Fly nuisance – Tom hasn't spoken yet with David Haynes.

Action – TH to speak to David Haynes directly to begin a conversation about plans for next year and whether insecticide can be applied more regularly.

Action – TH to speak to Harborough District Council to understand what can be done to enforce increased pesticide spraying by David Haynes to mitigate against another bad influx next year and / or monitoring of the situation

Action – Parish Council to re-circulate Environment Agency / Harborough District Council Environmental Health contact numbers in Spring next year to encourage people logging complaints.

Parking on pavements – MW has sent new flyer to EH for circulation.

Action – EH to reprint and distribute flyers

Village Notice Board – see minutes below

Tarmac – Liaison meeting on 28th November for ON to raise following outstanding actions

Action – ON to ask Tarmac whether they are responsible for litter picking on A426, or whether they've done it on goodwill in the past.

Action - ON to ask Keith Wharmby why the Cotesbach application was not put in following the scoping plan and receive confirmation in writing if possible.

Action – ON to further understand why Tarmac are not cleaning the crossing

The open forum raised questions about the investigative drilling on A426. The original quarrying plan saw trees being planted on the back of that field to create a boundary which they now appear to be crossing.

Action – ON to understand how Tarmac can now be scoping to quarry an area outside of the original boundary

Planning – Parish Council responded to MW's application

Highways - Aubrey Adcock in the open forum reported that he has seen highways working on gulleys. ON spoken to highways and there isn't a clear maintenance schedule, contrary to

what Cllr Pain reported in a previous meeting. Important to take care of gulleys in light of flooding in May. Perhaps problem is higher up on A426 rather than in the village, but we would be keen to have schedules for both.

ON hasn't asked about grass verge.

Action – ON to ask Leicestershire Highways about the schedule for gulley clearing on the A426 and Cotesbach Main Street

Action – ON to find out whether the grass verge it can be cut back imminently and thereafter the splay be wider.

Vehicle activated sign – can they be moved? Aubrey Adock in the open forum confirmed they can be.

Action – TH to look at practicalities of moving one sign to bend in Main Street.

Defibrillator – TH still working on finalising a date for a training session in Spring, hopefully in April.

Speed Limit on A426 – open forum raised the interest from residents to have a pedestrian slowing sign on the A426

Action – EH to explore what's involved in changing the speed limit and installing pedestrian signs on the A426

4. Matters Arising

a) **Idle Torque Meet & Greet**

Jack is always vigilant about pre-warning customers to keep noise and speed down when they visit for events. Always keeps events between 5pm and 8pm and doesn't hold them on weekdays. EH – someone reported at a recent bike night that bikes were seemingly doing laps of the A426. Jack happy for anyone to contact him any time if there are any problems. Noted that it's always a very small minority of audience that cause trouble. Jack willing to put up signs at each end of the village to ask people to slow down during events, and will put events in the future on the village social page in advance.

b) **Notice board** – EH has had a design from Dan and is waiting for a price from him. Will also seek one other quote.

Action – EH to seek another quote

c) **Police presence in village** - MW not getting any response from Police Constable Andrew Cooper when inviting to council meeting. She will try and contact our local PCSO Laura Bolton

ON reported of police presence a fortnight ago around the church after it was reported that someone with a flash light looked suspicious. ON says that Laura Bolton is the best point of contact. Agreed that everyone needs to be vigilant. Scrap metal truck has been going through the village regularly. Everyone agrees that it would be good to be reporting anything unusual on the Cotesbach Village facebook page.

Action - ON to send Laura's email and mobile no for circulation.

Action – MW to contact Laura and understand how to receive updates on policing in the area, specifically reporting back on recent criminal activity

d) **Precept planning** - EH keen to increase the precept. Currently everyone pays £8 per year into the precept. Averages for village the size of Cotesbach are approximately £25 per annum per household. EH keen for that perhaps to be increased in order to put more into local services and amenities. Would give us more opportunity to do more as a village. EH keen to get ball rolling now as decision has to be made by 18th January. EH suggests that we bring forward next parish council meeting to mid January to coincide with a public meeting to discuss and agree the increase of precept.

Open forum agreed that it would be more efficient for the council to put together a proper proposal of how to spend the money to present rather than opening it up to everyone. EH looking into the idea of paying a clerk noting that it is rare for clerks to be unpaid – they hold a lot of responsibility and deal with public money. Everyone is stretched for time and to keep up with the amount of administrative work isn't easy. MW raised the issue that everything is getting more complicated and there are increasing legals involved.

Council to get together and put together a plan. It must be agreed at a public meeting by the public and by the council.

Action – All councillors to arrange a date to come together and put together a proposal of how increased precept would be spent.

5. Specific Items

a) **Tarmac liason** - ON to report following next tarmac meeting on 28th November – possibly to coincide with precept meeting

b) **Harborough District Council (HDC) local policy updates** – HDC Local Plan has completed its independent inspectorate hearing. The Strategic Development Area of Lutterworth East was not closely scrutinised or highlighted as “unsound”. The inspector has pushed back on the proposals for such high volumes of warehousing. HDC need to better justify within the plan what the evidence for these volumes is. Further outcomes expected in December.

c) Leicestershire County Council (LCC) Ccombined authority - LCC want to combine the district council and the county council to save money. There has been a negative response from local MPs. Leicestershire county council are seemingly ploughing ahead anyway.

d) **Magna Park** – EH attended the recent Magna Park Community Forum. Gazeley updated attendees that construction of the DHL site has started. If things go according to plan it should be a quick process. It should be completed in June 2019. They will be widening a section of the A5 to turn a single lane into a dual lane.

The open forum highlighted the ongoing traffic issues, raising the need for further traffic monitoring around the gibbet roundabout the roads coming off it. Traffic has been very heavy during peak times. EH highlighted how monitoring was part of all the Magna Park applications, and scrutinised where possible by Cotesbach Parish Council and Magna Park is Big Enough. Until many accidents occur or traffic volumes are recognisably high, little will be done.

6. Planning

Application has gone in for Moorbarns for another large building (18/01833/FUL)

Action: EH to highlight the application to TH and judge whether to respond

7. Finance

£1420.03 in hand. 16-17 year has been published on the website.

8. AOB.

Light in phone box not working. Aubrey Adcock has replaced it in the past and agreed to replace it again.

Action – TH to check if Aubrey needs help / get the spec of the lightbulb from Aubrey so it can be replaced in future

Very loud firework display on Friday night at 2am. Lots of debris on the lane.

Action - ON to speak to Keith Wharmby about clearing lane of debris and general clean.

Guy keen to be a councillor in 2019.

Action – EH to follow up with MW and arrange paperwork for Guy to join, taking the role of the vacant councillor

Traffic calming on A426 – still keen for a 50mph limit but not very hopeful. With increasing development the road is only going to get busier.

9. **Date of next meeting**

TBC