

COTFORD ST LUKE PARISH COUNCIL

The Community Centre, Bethell Mead, Cotford St Luke, Taunton TA4 1HZ

www.cotford-st-luke.org.uk

Chairman Adrian Coucher

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Louisa Gillett clerk@cotford-st-luke.org.uk Tel: 07531898272

Minutes 9th January

1931 start – due to large turn out by public

27/19 – Apologies - Louisa

28/19 – Declaration of interests – Pete Davies, CSLuke community committee.

29/19 – Jonathon Stevens

Update on flood plain – To confirm that due to previous ownership in administration the land has now passed to the Crown estate, a government body.

There was an opportunity to resolve ownership of land and possibilities of transferring to SWT but the time ran out.

SWT are entering into talks about the possible purchase of the land, no plans have been made with what to do with it thus far, all ideas are in fruition. It may be that SWT purchase it and the Parish council purchase after or a partnership between the two parties.

Ideally a friends group would be set up to manage the land comprising of local people. There are similar initiatives in operation in the district, Longrun meadows is a good example. A management plan would need to be drawn up, this may mean keeping as is (yet to be decided). This is seen as an amenity for the village which we would like to protect which we are currently doing at our expense as a duty of care.

Pockets of land have already been purchased by local residents and that is fine, unsure if planning permission would be granted to those plots but as extended gardens there is no issue.

Several agencies such as RSPB and Somerset Wildlife Trust have been contacted about how best to manage the land for minimal disruption to plant / animal life.

It may be that Cotford corners would be that managing body as it is a community group.

Jonathon replied to a question about missed work on broken banks and gulleys and stressed that as of this moment the land is not owned by either the district or parish council so any work undertaken so far is more of a responsibility taken than mandatory work. They will however, look at work they have missed.

The purchase of the land is not believed to be a huge cost to the council as it is not worth a financial income. Also, the Crown Estate received the land through default so there was no cost to them.

When ownership is relinquished to either party a consultation will be in full swing between the parish council and residents about how to move forward. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

30/19 –

Pocket parks funding, due to the amount of preparation work and red tape involved we were too late to apply for funding. However, in conversation with several parties it is understood that there will be another opportunity later in the year. We will be notified once released and will make an application accordingly whether they are upgrades to existing facilities, a new park or a different kind of park which benefits the whole community e.g an exercise gym park.

Boiler installation – it has been confirmed that a new boiler was required but only for the hot water supply. The heating boiler was perfectly ok. The boiler has now been replaced.

Pedestrian crossing by school – To confirm that the County Council will not install a new crossing unless 1st there is a accident. The Parish council and its inhabitants believe prevention is better than

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a cure approach. A community investment is the only way however a feasibility report must be done first. John Hassall will take this forward.

31/19 – all signed

32/19.1 – One person handed in an application at the start of the meeting. We had several volunteers on the day that put themselves forward for a position of Parish Councillor. Council to go through process and recruit.

32/19.2 – Adrian Jones (dept Head at CSLuke Primary) has said that he is willing to work alongside (he is a parish councilor for NFW and advised maybe we make contact to pull resources) to help celebrate VE Day. Schools are off due to that day being a Friday but is sure there will be children interested in the village celebrating.

An idea of a street party.....

Sarah Snowden at The Chapel said that they are doing something for VE Day so again an idea for people to pull together to make a larger event for all.

A conga around the village was suggested.....

A representative to be decided to take this forward.

Shelagh Grover has offered to help with the music side of the event.

32/19.3 – happy with agenda

33/19 – Mike Rigby

Planning, currently SWT have two plans for planning from two former councils, Taunton Deane and West Somerset. They have 5 years to put 2 plans into one but are looking to accelerate this.

Consultation starts Monday 13th for nine weeks. Anyone can contribute to this, including developers and you can have your say by logging into the SWT website.

There was a target set for 17000 new homes to be developed by 2028 but the current council believe that this target is more realistic to cover until 2040.

With the local development order a lot of new houses are being erected but there is a lack of work space which they are looking to address. There is land that was earmarked for industrial which has now got housing on it.

It is being looked into a possibility of building premises up to 2000 feet sq without planning but it would have caviats attached.

Taunton park and ride has had its funding extended and the bus operator contract is up in September. It is hoped to reduce funding however.

Road crossings – there is a scheme for District Councillors called the small improvement scheme which allows bidding for up to two improvements. CSLuke crossings could be part / fully funded this way.

There is also a community infrastructure levy, John Hassall will have a look at this option.

There are plans in discussion to merge all councils into one central council leaving just district and parish councils below. This idea in principal would save an estimated £47 million pounds. It would also lead to a more financially stable council.

It is hoped the idea of Taunton being a garden town would extend to villages in the surrounding areas. This would hopefully help increase things such as cycle paths and how developments are set out.

34/19 – John Hassall

Local update:

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Watchet harbor wall has been patched up as an emergency due to a whole appearing in its defenses, as well as a landslide nearby.

The sale of Taunton bus station and the relocation are up for consideration. It is wanted to be kept as central as possible rather than increasing distance which if located by the railway station would do just that.

A possible sale of the Brewhouse.

The Firepool development.

Somerset waste partnerships are operating well together with TRIM THAT WASTE CAMPAIGN.

There is a new incinerator at Avon which will specialize in the recycling of plastics, this should be up and running in May.

35/19 – as reported

36/19 – There is to be an improvement of the booking systems, to move online based.

Also, the committee is working closely with the school on a maintenance policy.

The committee are looking for new recruits to join the current team.

37/19.1 – not covered

37/19.2 – RESOLVED: ALL COUNCILLORS WILL BE SIGNATORIES TO THE BANK ACCOUNTS. This will be arranged when there is a full contingency of councillors.

37/19.3 – RESOLVED: CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER, LOUISA GILLETT, TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL BANKING BUSINESS.

37/19.4 – as Clarke is unwell have agreed to meet and sign at SWT meeting Tuesday 14th, all payments agreed.

37/19 – planning application:

This is the 3rd application on the same site for the NHS. Previous applications refused due to height of new houses and access.

It is understood that they are selling unused pockets of land to reinvest.

Is there a bylaw about the park use turning over time?

Has this land always been designated for future building?

The outlay if the planning has not changed from the last one but what has changed is no longer 8 two storey houses but 5 bungalows.

It was explained that the application was submitted December 17 and they hope to make a decision early February so now is the time to log your objections on line for it to go to committee.

Can we add to social media to engage more villagers?

Objections and a spokes person needs to be coordinated for the planning meeting.

Is drainage going to be an issue.

It was stressed to all present that an objection cannot simply be that it is not aesthetically pleasing but a major concern.

The PC agreed to object to the application. The councillors will compose a letter and send it to the planning department of SW&T.

Meeting finished 2129

Signed

Date

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