



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 cllroucher@cotford-st-luke.org.uk

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

COTFORD ST LUKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held virtually on ZOOM on Thursday 11th February at 18:30

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Adrian Coucher (Chair), Cllr Pete Davies, Cllr Tony Perrett (Vice-Chair), Cllr Lisa Davies, Cllr Matt Woodford, Cllr Kevin Hutson, Cllr Kieran Reeves, Cllr John Hassall and Cllr Mike Rigby joined during the meeting

Clerk: Louisa Gillett

Three members of the public were in attendance.

136/20 Apologies

137/20 Declarations of Interest

A declaration was received from Cllr Pete Davies as Acting Chair of the Community Association Management Group.

138/20 Matters arising from PC meeting of 14th January 2021

139/20 Approval and signature of minutes of meeting of 14th January 2021

The minutes were adopted as an accurate record of the meeting, to be signed by the Chair at a future date.

140/20 Questions from the public (up to 15 minutes)

It was reported that there are several paths in the village that are obstructed with overhanging vegetation. The PC is permitted to remove overgrown plants if they are blocking a public right of way but does not have the budget to carry out this work. Residents with overgrowing gardens will be asked to cut back overgrown vegetation that impedes public rights of way through the village. There have been several instances of contractors in the village driving on the grassy verges. A notice will be posted on FB asking people to refrain from doing this. Ordnance Survey maps are available free of charge to Parish Councils through the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement (PSGA). Maps of the village may be useful for future projects.

Action: Clerk to register the PC with PSGA

A member of the public asked when the culverts around Healy's Meadow will be cleared. The culverts are full, and the water level very high after the recent heavy rainfall. The PC is waiting for an estimate for the work from Countryside Maintenance. Cllr Hutson will follow this up.

141/20 Community matters

141/20.1 Grounds maintenance carried out by residents

A report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that residents are to be encouraged to take care of the grounds around the village while being aware of issues such as nesting birds, emerging bulbs, and work that has been contracted by the PC.

Action: Clerk to write an information notice for the noticeboards and web site/FB page.

141/20.2 Community Chest funding application for laptops

A proposal was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the PC will apply to the Community Chest Fund for £7500 to purchase laptops for school children to assist them with their studies. The laptops will be donated to Kingsmead and Cotford St Luke schools. The PC will match fund £2500. Advice will be sought from the schools on what type of laptop will be useful and where to bulk purchase hardware.

RESOLUTION: The PC will apply for funding from the Community Chest to purchase school laptops.

RESOLUTION: The PC will match fund £2500 to be paid from the general reserve.

141/20.3 Purchase of NHS land by CSL PC

The NHS land next to the village could be purchased for use by the village, for example, for allotments. Cllr Woodford will progress this proposal.

Action: Clerk to investigate Community Land Trust grants for community projects.

142/20 Update from the Media and Communications Working Party

A troll has been posting remarks about the Parish Councillors on the PC Facebook page. A notice has been posted stating that comments are welcome but statements criticizing individuals will be removed.

143/20 Update on estates

143/20.1 Cllr Hutson wrote to SWTC in December 2020 asking for updates on several outstanding matters. SWTC has responded but the matters in the letter have not been dealt with and Cllr Hutson will send a response.

144/20 SCC Councillor: update by Mike Rigby

144/20.1 *COVID-19* COVID rates are coming down in Somerset and lockdown is working. The county is making good progress with vaccination against COVID. Over 70's who have not been contacted by their GP surgeries, should make contact to arrange a vaccination.

144/20.2 *Planning* Local housing developments have been put on hold to resolve an issue of phosphate contamination of local rivers. A solution has been reached with the help of Natural England and Wessex Water, who will strip effluent of phosphates before waste enters waterways.

144/20.3 *Local government re-organisation* Somerset County Council (One Somerset) and SWTC (proposal for two unitary councils) have sent their proposals for the future of Somerset councils to Parliament. If Parliament agrees to either proposal it is likely this year's elections will be postponed. The proposals will be open to consultation in March. In advance of council re-organisation, SWTC is accelerating some of its projects including the cycle path from Taunton to Bishops Lydeard, after which it will focus on a cycle path between Taunton and Wellington. The project will cost between 500k to 1 million, but it is not known when it will be completed. The next stage is for a feasibility study to be carried out on where the path will run.

Cllr Rigby was asked for an update on a request to find out if SCC can conduct a feasibility study for a pedestrian crossing near Cotford St Luke school, and for an update on a trip hazard reported to him in December. He will respond to these matters on Friday 12th February.

145/20 SW&T Councillor: update by John Hassall

145/20.1 *Local railways* There is a proposal for a train service between Bishops Lydeard and Swindon to start in 2022, which will reduce traffic on the A358. The service will be operated by private rail company Go-Op rail. Wellington train station will open in 2025.

145/20.2 *Road traffic accidents* There have been two fatal road traffic accidents locally, one at Oake and one at Kingston St Mary. It is not known if speeding was the cause of the accident but Cllr Hassall would like to see speed limits reduced to 20mph in villages and 30mph on the outskirts.

145/20.3 *Pedestrian thoroughfare in Taunton* There is a proposal to pedestrianise a boulevard between the railway station and Debenhams.

146/20 Police update for January 2021

The police report was circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

147/20 Cotford St Luke Community Association

147/20.1 *Management Committee* Cllr Davies appealed for people to join the Community Association Management committee as one of its members is leaving. If there are no volunteers, the PC will take over managing the hall.

147/20.2 *Repairs to the Community Hall* Cllr Davies has obtained estimates for repairing the guttering and re-painting the hall. The work is likely to start in April. The estimates will be proposed at the March meeting.

148/20 Finance

148/20.1 Payments

148/20.1.1	CSL 400 SWTC emptying dog bins and checking MUGA	£2151.93
148/20.1.2	CSL 401 Courtcare MUGA and tennis court maint.	£1400.00
148/20.1.3	CSL 402 SALC Code of Conduct training	£25.00
148/20.1.4	CSL 403 reimburse Clerk	£34.35

RESOLUTION: The councillors resolved to make these payments.

149/20 S106 projects

149/20.1 *Arts fund* A proposal to use the memorial ground for an Arts garden has been developed. The PC will ascertain ownership of the land to ensure it can be used for this purpose.

150/20 Planning

There are no new planning applications.

The meeting finished at 20:30

Signed.....

Date.....