



COTFORD ST LUKE PARISH COUNCIL

The Community Centre, Bethell Mead, Cotford St Luke, Taunton TA4 1HZ www.cotford-st-luke.org.uk

MINUTES, COTFORD ST LUKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 15th December 2022,
commencing at 19.00 in the Community Centre
(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

Present:

Cllr Coucher (Chair), Cllr Reeves, Cllr Davies, Cllr Woodford, Cllr Charlton (from item 130), Cllr Taylor (from item 137)

Clerk: C Morrison-Jones

No members of the public were in attendance.

SWT Cllr Hassell

Public Speaking

None

SCC and SWT Councillor reports:

Cllr J Hassell reported on matters of interest to Cotford St Luke

SWT Cllr Hassell left the meeting at this point

127/22 Apologies

Apologies of absence received from Cllr Hutson and PCSO Henderson and SC Cllr M Rigby. Cllr Taylor sent apologies for her anticipated late arrival

128/22 Declarations of interest

Two declarations were received from Cllr K Reeves; as a Senior Planning Officer at Somerset West and Taunton Council and as a Community Association Member.

Cllr Davies declared an interest as Chair of the Community Association

Cllr Woodford declared an interest as a Community Association Member

129/22 Minutes and matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th November 2022

the spelling of Bethell Mead (minute number 121/22) was corrected

RESOLUTION: following the correction noted above, the minutes were adopted unanimously as an accurate record of the meeting

130/22 Vacancies on the council, co-option of a new Member

RESOLUTION: to co-opt Scott Charlton as a Member of Cotford-St-Luke Parish Council

Cllr Charlton signed his acceptance of office form and joined the rest of the meeting as a councillor.

131/22 Police update, November

PCSO Henderson's report was read out by Cllr Coucher

132/22 Planning applications

- 132.1. Updates on previously considered applications
Application 53/21/0010
The hearing into the above appeal has now been held. A decision is likely mid / late January 2023
- 132.2. Planning applications received since agenda publication
None

133/22 Finance

133.1 Payments

506	Salaries, December 2022	£1140.60
507	NEST, November 2022	£124.12
508	C Morrison-Jones. reimbursements, November 2022	£21.69
509	Cllr Hutson, reimbursement land registry charges	£53.88
510.	SWT, culvert clearance	£1400.76
511	Kingfisher Tree services, fell dead elms @ Healeys Meadow	£288.00

RESOLUTION: to pay all invoices detailed above.

133.2. Additional work carried out by Country Wide

RESOLUTION: to pay in full the additional work carried out by Countrywide.

133.3. Consider quotes received for maintenance work 23/24

RESOLUTION: to accept the quotes for routine maintenance received from Countrywide and SWT for 23/24.

133.4. Unity bank account application

The clerk reported that she now has the information from councillors to progress the application.

RESOLUTION: to transfer the total money held in the PC HSBC current account, and then close it, into the new Unity account. To retain the HSBC PC savings account

133.5. Budget and precept request for 23/24

The clerk had previously prepared and circulated a proposed budget for 2023/24, together with example precept suggestions. Anticipated costs for 2023/24 have risen significantly from 2022/23 and in order for the Parish Council to continue to carry out the levels of service currently offered, there will need to be a significant rise in the total budget for the year.

The most prudent scenario suggested was to raise the precept to cover the anticipated running costs of the Parish Council for 2023/24, and to move £20,000 from earmarked reserves to ensure that the PC holds sufficient general reserves for the next financial year. This would result in a rise of 34.83% for a band D household which, whilst acknowledged by councillors as a significant percentage rise, would in reality result in an actual increase of £0.27 per week for a band D house.

RESOLUTION: to agree the circulated budget for 2023/24

RESOLUTION: to request a precept of £45,745.00 for 2023/24 and move £20,000 from the earmarked reserves to general reserves

134/22 Accounting software package

The clerk reported that her enquiries into a suitable accounting package for the council was progressing and that she was seeking demonstrations from two separate providers in order to ascertain the merits of both of their systems

135/22 S106 updates (Cllr Reeves)

135.1. Allotments

No update

135.2. s106 Public Arts project – update

The timescales for the project have now been finalised between SWT and the artist:

28th February 2023 - presentation & sign off of concept designs by appointed artists

28th April 2023 - presentation of final detailed designs by Denman & Gould

30th September 2023 - deadline for completed installation of artworks

The artists have booked a visit to the Archives on 22nd December, they are also hoping to attend the last Forest School session at Cotford St Luke Primary School before Christmas, and hold a low key public event in January where people can meet the artists, find out a bit about their work and share with the artists anything they would like about Cotford and their experience of the village.

136/22 Dog waste bins (Cllr Reeves)

SWT have confirmed that they are ordering three bins (dog waste & general waste combined) to replace the existing bins by the chapel, by Graham Way/Dene Road junction, and in the layby towards Bishops Lydeard and anticipate installation will begin in the new year.

A possible suggestion for the placement of a new bin is by steps to the flood plain near Venn Close

137/22 Estates (Cllr Hutson)

Cllr Hutson had provided a report updating matters in his absence

137.1. Essential tree works

A tree survey carried out by Kingfisher Tree services last year identified trees that required remedial work to be carried out with a degree of urgency. A wide ranging quote for has been received for the work detailed

RESOLUTION: before reaching a decision to carry out the work to confirm if the PC is responsible for all the trees noted and to request that the quote is narrowed down to a more specific price range

137.2. Baileys Gate

Investigation with Land Registry appear to indicate that the steps are privately owned and Cllr Hutson recommended that the PC shouldn't pursue any work in that area

RESOLUTION: not to continue with PC involvement regarding the slabs or a new Handrail

137.3. Hard path, Bethell Mead

Due to heavy rainfall, the contractors have postponed the start of work on the path

137.4. Culvert at back of Memorial Grounds

This has now been cleared

137.5. Picnic benches (Cllr Hutson) and Outdoor table tennis table (Cllr Reeves)
Cllr Reeves reported that he had obtained quotes for a concrete table tennis (circa £3000) and a techball table but further enquiries are needed

137.6. Any other matters concerning estates not covered by the above items

137.6.1. Memorial Grounds

Cllr Hutson reported that he had made some progress on establishing ownership but this was still a work in progress

137.6.2. To place the skate park on the agenda for January for discussion

138/22 Bus shelter removal and replacement bench (Cllr Taylor)

No update

139/22 Signs for pedestrian crossing

No further update

140/22 Defibrillators

Cllr Reeves will obtain quotes from electricians for installation

141/22 Cotford St Luke Community Association

- Guttering been repaired
- Split in rendering needs to be fixed

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.33