

COWBIT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of Cowbit Parish Council held on Monday 07 September 2015
in the Village Hall, Cowbit commencing at 7.30pm

Present:- Cllrs. Tyrrell, Simpson, Sharman, Back, Kendall

In attendance:- Darren Harper, Richard Fairman (County Cllr.), Shirley Pugh and approx. 3 members of the public

Apologies:- Anthony Cassen (District Cllr.)

253.14 Public Forum

A member of the public raised a concern with the 15 or 16 boys that play football on the green near Curlew Drive. They mentioned that the football keeps going into their garden and are accessing their garden without consent, the neighbours once had to get them out of their garden whilst they were away on holiday. The police were called and every time they try to call the PCSCO she is not there. Cllr. Tyrrell advised to keep calling the police on 101 and that the land is maintained by the District Council. Cllr. Tyrrell suggested that he will speak with Anthony Cassen (District Cllr.) regarding this matter.

254.14 Consideration of Minutes from Meeting Held on 20 July 2015

Minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting that took place on 20 July 2015. This was proposed by Cllr. Back and 2nd by Cllr. Tyrrell.

255. 14 Feedback on Issues raised during the last Public Forum

Cllr. Tyrrell read out to the Parish the email received by Richard Davies with regards to some issues that were posed to him in the June council meeting. In addition, Cllr. Tyrrell confirmed that a mirror for the end of Mill Drove South has been ordered at a cost of £185 + VAT and takes approximately 8 weeks to be delivered.

Cllr. Tyrrell also confirmed that the Parish Council will purchase the post on Cllr. Simpsons land for £1 to enable the mirror to be fitted on. Clerk to action and draw up a contract.

A16 Swales – PC advised these were an environmental measure installed to help with water control and pollution. Why are we now cutting them down, and Peterborough are leaving them?

Swales are an essential part of the drainage for the road and, as such, do help with water control as they act as soakaways – which is a much more sustainable way of dealing with water run-off from roads. Although an essential part of their purpose, their role in pollution control is less important along the main line of the road. At roundabouts and junctions (where there is a higher risk of pollution eg from a fuel spill), there is a conventional drainage system with gullies and pipes together with an interceptor to contain any potential contamination before it reaches the natural water source. Along A16, the maintenance required for all elements of planting (including the swales) is set out in the Landscape and Ecology Maintenance Plan. This states they should be cut twice a year, between April and October, with a possible additional cut if required. Currently, we are doing three cuts in line with our flail mowing activities, but this may have to be reduced to two if funding is limited. The Plan is due for review in 2017. Incidentally, last year Peterborough enquired what contractor we were using

for this work – maybe they had yet to appoint contractors to carry out the work, or perhaps they had insufficient budget to do so. Subject to clarification, there could be an opportunity to align our maintenance plan with Peterborough at 2017 review.

A16 Gate access, Century Bank – Roland (the landowner) has requested we stop up this access and permanently block it. Only he and IDB have rights of access and both are happy to abandon this right, apparently. They are having huge problems with illegal access, and this is predicted to get far worse.

If the landowner is requesting the access be stopped up, he will have to meet the costs of processing the legal stopping up order. The best way of moving forward would be for Roland to write to Highways at Pote Hole, giving precise details of the location and a request to consider stopping up. This will then be considered, and he will be provided with an outline of the process, together with expected costs.

Barrier Bank – blocked gullies are causing drainage problems. Can we clean the gullies, and perhaps cut some grips?

The gullies are cleaned on our regular cleansing programmes. No blockages have been found so the system is working. Cutting grips would not help as, due to the camber of the road, the water falls towards the footpath on the lower side of the road. When reported previously by the Parish Council, the site was visited but there was nothing obvious that could be done. It may be that water stands slightly longer than it used to as the decreased volume of traffic does not disperse it sufficiently. I understand you have been informed of this.

256.14 Matters Arising not elsewhere on the Agenda

Cllr. Simpson confirmed that the Speed Indicative Device (SID) battery is currently on charge and will be back up tomorrow. Councillors are happy to consider buying a second battery but Cllr. Back raised that he is also happy to charge the battery should it run low. Cllr. Back also confirmed that he is making new mounting plates to put these up at different sites for the SID.

257.14 Police Matters

Nothing to report.

258.14 Highways Matters

Cllr. Kendall asked whether traffic calming measures is still to be done. Cllr. Tyrrell advised that average speed cameras are under review for the A16 and that we will have to work with the Road Safety Partnership to monitor the A1073.

259.14 Playing Field / Pavilion

Cllr. Tyrrell mentioned that the current football trainer has asked for a curtain to be put in the Pavillion and asked how much this will cost. Cllr. Tyrrell asked him to attend this meeting to discuss further. The football trainer has not turned up and Cllr. Tyrrell has agreed to set a separate meeting up with him.

260.14 Church Matters

Shirley Pugh mentioned that there is a flower festival happening at the church from the 25 September to 27 Sept, finishing at 4.30pm each day. On Saturday the 26 September there will be a fire punt gun that will be set off at 3.30pm.

261.14 Planning Matters

Planning application for 83 Backgate was considered by the Councillors and all agreed that it was over development of the site and would not support the application.

The outline permission for Mill Drove South was reviewed and no comment was made.

262.14 Finance Matters

a) Payments to be made

Clerks Wages:	£362.01
HMRC:	£51.80

Cheques were signed by Cllr. Tyrrell and Cllr. Simpson.

b) other matters

None.

263.14 Correspondence

The Clerk mentioned a Leader Workshop and some additional training courses that may be of interest to the Parish and Council members.

264.14 Any other business by leave of Chairman

Cllr. Simpson raised the “Fun on the Field” event and whether dogs are to be permitted or not. It was agreed that the ban will remain in place as it could be a confusing message.

Meeting closed at 8.37pm

Chairman