Cotgrave Town Council  
9th December 2015

Present: Councillors K Chewings (Chairman), H Brumpton, R Butler, M Chewings, P Cousins, W Handbury, L Healy, C Jeffreys, I Shaw, A Wilkie and V Wood

Apologies Approved: Councillors C Chewings, S Chewings, C Denham & S Gardner

In Attendance: The Clerk and 2 members of the public.

The meeting was held at Cotgrave Futures and started at 7.00pm.

Council noted that Councillor Brumpton had sent her apologies, very late and not approved at the meeting held on 11th November.

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Declarations of Interest

409 No Declarations were received.

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Public Open Session

410 Mr J Carlton informed that he was raising funds for Ash Lea Special School and asked if Council could help to support him by raising awareness of the event he is organising.

411 The event taking place is, The Belvoir Wassilers, a male voice choir, who will be holding a concert on 12th March 2016 at All Saints Church. They are hoping to raise £2k for Ash Lea. Tickets are available from Ash Lea School and Mr Carlton, see Council notice boards.

412 Mr Carlton also noted the lack of drop kerbs around Daleside and surrounding streets, this made crossing the road difficult for mobility scooters and wheelchair users.

413 Councillor Butler will investigate this area and contact Nottinghamshire County Council with his findings and report back.

414 Mr Carlton also raised his concerns over 2 recent break-ins at the Bowling Club pavilion and asked if Council could help raise this problem with the local police and the Welfare.

415 The police have attended and been very supportive, but youths have been seen hanging around near this area.

416 Councillor K Chewings said he would phone the Welfare and ask them if they could try to help to prevent the break-in’s by securing the fencing near the pavilion.

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Presentation by South Nottinghamshire Academy

417 Resolved: “To suspend Standing Orders to alter the order of business to allow for the presentation by South Nottinghamshire Academy.

418 The presentation was given by the Head of South Nottinghamshire Academy (SNA), Dan Philpotts and Deborah Giles, Chair of School Governors.
The new school building will be opening in September 2016 and will be a school for 750 students in total. This is an average of 120 students for each year group. The new build will be completed by June 2016, but the students won’t be moved into the new building until September because of exam timetables.

The new school will be environmentally friendly and have many cost saving features.

The school is sponsored by Central College in Nottingham, who also offer additional courses to some of the students.

Part of the new school being built, will include an overhaul of the current sports hall, but the school bus facilities will still be located on Cropwell Road.

The school intake has seen a steady rise in students attending the Academy over the last 3 years and the school has provision to grow and accommodate more students if required. Exams results have also improved steadily over the last 3 years.

SNA would like more members on their governing body and especially some residents from Cotgrave.

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Minutes of the Previous Meeting of Full Town Council

Resolved: “That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th November 2015 be received and confirmed as a true record”.

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Progress

M311 Citizenship Award for Mary Gadd

Mary Gadd has sent her thanks to Council for her recent nomination and award.

Councillor M Chewings suggested that any future citizenship award presentations should be held on a separate evening and make it a more social event and this would allow more time to celebrate with the residents who are nominated.

M316 Land at Stragglethorpe

The planning inspectorate has made a decision that the land at Stragglethorpe cannot be used for dwellings and must be returned to grazing. The residents have been given three months to move from the site.

M317 Thera East Midlands

The Thera Group thanked Council again for helping with funding to allow them to take photographs and produce a 2016 wall calendar.

Council have received a copy of the calendar and additional calendars are on sale at £5 each from the Thera Group.
Mrs Goldstraw has received her letter and cheque for cleaning her coat after the Remembrance Day Parade and thanked everyone for the hospitality she received by all who took part in the event.

The tax base for 2016/17 is 2051.9, a change of 123. This change reflects the new houses which will become occupied during 2106/17.

All the allotments will have an insurance charge added to the rent. This will provide all tenants with public liability insurance and to cover any guest they invite onto the site.

Council have moved to the meeting room at Cotgrave Futures to hold their public meetings and the room is very comfortable and is very quiet.

This is being trialled until March 2016.

The Clerk has been made aware of some funding to apply for, to allow for the repair of the war memorial, the trees pruned and to start work to bring the footpath leading to the war memorial back to a more usable standard.

The funding is from the 'Supporting Local Communities' provided by Nottinghamshire County Council.

The Clerk has suggested applying for £1500, but is waiting for quotes to prune the trees and the length of the path, that requires upgrading. This funding application may need to be greater, to allow for the work to be completed.

A letter to cancel the current CCTV contract has been sent and accepted and the contract will finish on 31st March 2016.

The Clerk is finding quotes for maintenance of the CCTV.

The work is scheduled to start on 18th January 2016, to replace the surrounds around the bark pit and the park is likely to be closed for one week.

New bark will be ordered to arrive that week to replace the bark up to its required limit.

Notices stating the closed period, will be placed on the park gates and on Cotgrave’s Town Council website, from 4th January 2016.

The Clerk has reported the footpath to Metropolitan Housing and they have stated it should be maintained by Nottinghamshire County Council. The residents concern has been passed to Nottinghamshire County Council.
M404 Letters to Police and Crime Commissioner

Members of Council have requested that copies of the letters sent to the Chief of Nottinghamshire Police and the Crime Commissioner by the Chairman of Council, should be made available to all councillors after they received a strong reaction especially in the Nottingham Post.

Some members of Council asked the Chairman to explain some of the content mentioned in the comments to his letter in the newspaper, after it had stated some concerns about him and his status with regard to the police.

Cllr K Chewings assured that he has no issues with the police.

Planning Minutes

Resolved: ‘To confirm the planning minutes recording the decisions taken by Council and those of the Planning Authority’.

Financial Matters

Resolved: “That the payments made since the previous meeting totalling £21,833.66 as recorded on pages 5 and 6 be approved and the invoices awaiting payment be paid”.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

Financial Statements

Members considered the October statement as reproduced on the inside cover of the minute book.

At the end of October 2015 Council has £415,581.58 in hand.

Council’s Representation on Cotgrave Futures Board of Trustees

Cotgrave Futures Board of Trustees has requested Councillor Denham be replaced as one of the Cotgrave Town Council representatives, after non-attendance of three meetings and not sending apologies.

Council noted that he had started a new job and this was not flexible to allow him to attend, but due to his absences. Council agreed to ask the Clerk to write to Councillor Denham, to ask him to formally tender his resignation from the Cotgrave Futures Board of Trustees.
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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 9TH DECEMBER 2015**
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1. Local Government Act 1972 Section 111 – discharge of functions
2. Local Government & Rating Act 1997 Section 31 – crime prevention
3. Local Government Finance Act 1982 Section 21 – audit fees
4. Local Government Act 1972 Section 242 – provision of information
5. Local Government Act 1972 Section 232 – public notices
6. Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003
7. Local Government Act 2972 Section 137 (b) contribution towards a public service
8. H&S at Work Act 1974
11. Local Government Act 1972 Section 143 – subscriptions to Local Government Association
12. Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme 2003
13. Local Government Act 1972 Section 133 – provision of parish building
15. Protection from Harassment Act 1997
17. Occupiers ‘Liability’ Act 1957 Section 2
A new representative will be decided upon at a future Council meeting after receiving his formal resignation.

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**External Auditor**

Local Councils will have the choice to appoint their own External Auditor from 2017 or be part of a new ‘sector-led body’ procurement after the abolishment of the Audit Commission.

NALC and partners have formally been allowed to set up a ‘sector-led body’ company by the Government and this has allowed for the Government to pay the start-up costs and reducing the burdens to local councils.

NALC have recommended all local councils to be part of the ‘sector-led body’ provision.

The ‘sector-led body’ will provide the provision of an External Auditor for the next five years before another decision is required.

Cotgrave Town Council have been provided with the information required to make the decision of being part of the ‘sector-led body’ or providing their own auditor.

**Resolved**

‘To be part of the sector-led body for External Auditor provision.’

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**Christmas Tree Lights**

The Clerk noted that some of the Christmas lights were not working when they were put up at Christmas.

Some of the small trees were not able to have lights on this year and some are becoming old and ready for replacement.

**Resolved**

‘To find quotes for purchasing new Christmas lights for 2016.’

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**Grants – Positive Futures**

Positive Futures have applied for a grant to allow them to extend their work in Candleby Lane School and with the community in line with the end of their project in December 2016.

The funding will help deliver lunch and after school clubs in school and to continue the health and fitness session held on Friday evenings and extend the local apprentice who is currently working on providing the lunch time and after school clubs, to complete his training up to December 2016.

The funding application had asked for two different amounts of money and this needed to be clarified and also when the funding would need to be paid.

Council were ‘in principal’ all in favour of supporting the grant application, but required the amount confirming and if the grant could be paid in two instalments. One instalment prior to 31st March 2016 and one after 1st April 2016.
The Clerk would ask for the information required and update at the meeting on 13th January 2016.

Council have £2460 of grant funding available from this year’s provision.

DBS Checks

All staff have been given an updated DBS check and Council had considered previously if all Councillors should have a DBS check.

The cost of providing a DBS check is £54.00 per person. Councillor Gardner has already had a DBS check done because of his role as Council’s Santa at our Christmas Lights event.

Councillors can come into contact with children and vulnerable adults, but not normally alone.

Resolved: ‘Councillors would not need to have a DBS Check.’

Crime Figures for November 2015

The local police sent the crime figures for November 2015 for noting.

There had been 14 crimes and 7 incidents of anti-social behaviour noted for November 2015 for Cotgrave. This is shown in the table below.

There has been a small increase of crimes recorded from April to November as the same period last year. The increase is less than 2%.

A new PCSO will be joining the beat team very soon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Crime</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st November</td>
<td>ASB Noise Nuisance – Manns Leys</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd November</td>
<td>Criminal Damage to a shed – Scotland Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th November</td>
<td>Theft of golf buggy – Cotgrave Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th November</td>
<td>Violence against person. No further action</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th November</td>
<td>Criminal Damage/Graffiti – Hollygate Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th November</td>
<td>ASB Verbal argument – Ring Leas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th November</td>
<td>ASB Verbal argument – Lawrence Close</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th November</td>
<td>Out of hand party – Hickling Way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th November</td>
<td>Criminal Damage – Manvers Arms. 1 arrest made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th November</td>
<td>Theft of garden furniture – Thornton’s Close</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th November</td>
<td>Possession of a blade article – Eastmoor. 1 arrest made</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th November</td>
<td>ASB Misuse of firework</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>Theft from shop – Sainsbury’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th November</td>
<td>Criminal damage to a fence – Ring Leas. 2 arrests made</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th November</td>
<td>ASB – Lawrence Close</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th November</td>
<td>ASB – Co-op, The Precinct</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th November</td>
<td>Criminal Damage to vehicle – Mensing Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th November</td>
<td>Theft – Non-payment of taxi fare. Prioridge</td>
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<td>30th November</td>
<td>Theft of petrol. Cotgrave Service Station</td>
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<td>30th November</td>
<td>Theft of milk. Cotgrave C of E School</td>
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<tr>
<td>30th November</td>
<td>Criminal Damage. Bowling Green</td>
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Play Ground Equipment and Funding Bid

Council are considering 4 different quotes for purchasing playground equipment and have applied for some funding from Nottinghamshire County Council’s ‘Supporting Local Communities’ fund towards the cost of supplying new play equipment at Ringleas Park.

If all three areas of the park are done as one project, this will cost in the region of £50,000

Two of the quotes are being considered more favourably and some additional information and equipment has been requested from the companies.

Council have submitted a funding application for £19950, to be considered from this fund towards the project.

The Council will be informed if their application for funding has been successful in March or April 2016.

Correspondence

The Local Government Boundary Commission

The Boundary Commission have completed its review of Nottinghamshire and it has decided for Nottinghamshire County Council that the number of county councillors be reduced from the current 67 to 66.

This change will now be implemented by order subject to Parliamentary scrutiny and this recommendation will be in place for the Nottinghamshire County Council elections in 2017.

Inspire

Nottinghamshire County Council have created a new Community Benefit Society, called Inspire, to deliver cultural, learning and library services across Nottinghamshire.

The services to be included will be, all Nottinghamshire libraries including Whatton Prison, Art Services, Archives and Records services and services to schools for educational library service, instrumental music teaching and Nottinghamshire Music Hub.

All staff will be transferred from Nottinghamshire County Council to Inspire and this will be operational from Spring 2016.

Members of the public will see very little change in the services they currently receive.

Nottinghamshire County Council

Funding information for The Great War project has been received and communities across the county can apply for up to £300 to help them commemorate the Great War.

Closing date for applications is 15th January 2016.

Rushcliffe Borough Council - Elections

A letter has been received stating that the election will be held on the 21st January 2016, if it is contested and Cotgrave Town Council will need to formally write to Rushcliffe Borough Council to ask them to issue polling cards.

Cotgrave Town Council will write and ask Rushcliffe to issue the polling cards if required.
Anonymous Letter from a Resident

Another resident has written raising their concerns regarding the political unrest and members conduct within Cotgrave Town Council.

Clerks Report

Comments had been noted on a social media site regarding the fireworks provided by Cotgrave Town Council, stating that the display was excellent but did not last for long enough.

The Clerk informed of the staff working hours over the Christmas period and all councillors received a copy of the rota. This information will be placed on the Town Council website.

The Clerk had been asked by the Chairman of the Cotgrave Bowls Club, if Council could help with protecting the Bowls Club building after two recent break-ins. The bowls club had asked if Council would discuss this issue with Cotgrave Welfare, who are responsible for the area.

Councillor K Chewings said he would phone the Cotgrave Welfare and discuss the issue with the Chairman of the Welfare on behalf of the Bowls Club.

Councillors Reports

Councillor K Chewings suggested that the firework event could be improved and this would be discussed on a future agenda for Council to consider.

Councillor K Chewings noted the first meeting of the Rock Church had taken place at Candleby Lane School on Sunday 29th November, it had been well attended.

Council wished the Rock Church well with their church services.

Councillor K Chewings attended the NALC AGM and noted that there would be a small increase in membership to the association.

Councillor Wilkie informed that a family disco will be taking place on Friday 18th December to raise funds for Ash Lea. The event is being organised by EJ’s Catering.

To propose that the press and the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item/s of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.59pm.

Chairman………………………….. Signed as a True Record (Date)……………………………