

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th February 2023

Held at Cofton Village Hall, Cofton Hackett

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mr R Westbury (Chair)

Cllr Mr M Pattison

Cllr Mrs J Fay

Cllr Mr N Banyard

Cllr Mrs J Webb

Cllr Mr R Deeming

Cllr Mr G Cook

County Cllr Mr A Kriss

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

There were 3 members of the Public in attendance.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr J Slack

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
016/23	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Slack (holiday), these were accepted.	
017/23	Declaration of Interests Register of Interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.• To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.• To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.• Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the code of conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items. Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.• To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – written requests to be with the clerk at least 4 clear days prior to a meeting.• Interests were noted to be recorded in the Register	
018/23	Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received.	

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<p>019/23</p> <p>019.1/23</p> <p>019.2/23</p>	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were 3 members of the public in attendance.</p> <p>Councillors were asked if they knew of any available land in Cofton Hackett, near the Birmingham border, which may be suitable for establishing a market garden. Councillors replied that the Council did not own any land which would be suitable but the enquirer may wish to approach St Modwen developments, who own large areas of land in the Parish, not necessarily for development purposes.</p> <p>Two residents from Groveley Lane reported that there had been further problems with the bus stop outside their houses, following the re-routing of the number 20 service. Drivers have again been laying up at the bus stop with engines running, while drivers take a break, even though they had been asked to take breaks in the layby opposite. Complaints to Transport for West Midlands and National Express, supported by the Parish Council, have brought some respite to this particular problem. However, as the number 20 route now commences from this stop, residents have experienced anti-social behaviour, littering, noise and inappropriate comments from people waiting at the stop. The residents suggested that the starting point for the number 20 route should be moved to the layby opposite and the stop outside their houses removed, they asked for the Parish Council's support.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury noted that the Parish Council had provided extensive support to residents regarding this problem in the past and it was thought the issue had been resolved. However, it was agreed that the Clerk should send a further letter of support to TfWM, copying the County Councillor. Residents were urged to contact the police on 101 if they experience anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>020/23</p> <p>020.1/23</p> <p>020.2/23</p> <p>020.3/23</p> <p>020.4/23</p> <p>020.5/23</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Cllr Adrian Kriss was in attendance. He reported that the latest budget had been finalised and is seen to be balanced and substantial. There is a good allocation for highways and for bus services.</p> <p>Cllr Kriss will be attending the public meeting regarding traffic safety on Thursday 23rd February, along with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Highways Officers and police representatives. He has asked for up-to-date speed data for Cofton Hackett. Speed of traffic along Barnt Green Road was discussed, Cllr Kriss suggested that additional 30mph repeater signs should be installed, as some older satnav devices may indicate that the limit is 40mph.</p> <p>Cllr Kriss advised that Ten Ashes Lane is due to be closed this week for road works. Following that closure he intends to survey all residents, including Lickey Coppice, to seek their views on a possible permanent closure of one end of Ten Ashes Lane.</p> <p>The Clerk asked if the County Council would provide assistance should the Parish Council wish to install vehicle activated speed signs, Cllr Kriss said that the County Council will install suitable poles when locations have been agreed, the Parish Council would need to fund the cost of the signs themselves.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury asked if the locations for tree planting on Oakfield Drive had been agreed, Cllr Kriss said he would forward agreed locations to the Clerk.</p> <p>Cllr Kriss, and members of the public left the meeting at 8pm</p>	<p>Cllr Kriss</p>

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021/23	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 16th January 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
022/23	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>The Clerk advised on the timetable for Councillor elections in May. The deadline for receipts of nominations is April 4th, these must be hand delivered to Bromsgrove Electoral Services. The Clerk offered to deliver these if Councillors were unable to. Clerk to bring nomination forms to next meeting.</p>	Clerk
<p>023/23</p> <p>023.1/23</p> <p>023.2/23</p> <p>023.3/23</p> <p>023.4/23</p> <p>023.5/23</p> <p>023.6/23</p> <p>023.7/23</p> <p>023.8/23</p> <p>023.9/23</p>	<p>Highways, Environment and Open Spaces</p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported that a meeting had been held at the Old Sewage Works allotments site, involving a representative from the National Allotments Society, fencing contractors, soil testing contractors and tree surgeons. The allotments representative agreed it is a good site and could be used 'as is'. He felt that 16-20 plots could be accommodated, although some areas of the site can be boggy at times. Given that there appears to be some unexpected opposition from local residents, it may be advisable to proceed slowly, with 2-4 plots initially. The Clerk advised on quoted costs for fencing off the new access pathway and for fencing the boundary between the site and Cofton Gardens. Results of the soil testing are expected soon.</p> <p>The Clerk advised he had contacted another director of Cofton Gardens, to see if he was aware of the B13 notice served on the Council. The director said he was not aware of this but it may have been a consequence of Cofton Gardens formally registering their land with the Land Registry. Cllr Webb agreed to continue her investigations and report back to Council.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that he was still waiting for finalisation of the transfer document for the Old Sewage Works access, although this now appears to have some momentum.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that all payments for allotment plots for 2023 have now been received, except for plot 6b, item 023.5/12 refers.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the holders of allotment plot 6b had decided not to renew for 2103, they have said the plot is difficult to cultivate due to the large apple tree on the plot. The next person on the waiting list has declined the offer of the plot for the same reason. The Clerk asked if Councillors wished to remove the tree (estimated cost £400), decommission the plot, or offer it to the next person on the waiting list. It was agreed to offer the plot to others on the waiting list.</p> <p>The Clerk advised on quotes received to fell the tree on the allotment plot 7 at the OSW site. Councillors agreed the preferred quote Clerk to advise contractor.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that all outstanding street light faults have been attended to. Cllr Deeming asked if the light which is embedded in the hedge on Lickey Road could be looked at.</p> <p>Lengthsman's report not received in time for the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported that he had carried out the monthly play area inspection, with no issues noted.</p>	<p>Cllr Webb</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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<p>024/23</p> <p>024.1/23</p> <p>024.2/23</p> <p>024.3/23</p> <p>024.4/23</p> <p>024.5/23</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>It was agreed the Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 17th May.</p> <p>The Clerk advised he had spoken with the grants specialist, results so far have been disappointing but more are likely to become evident in the allocated 3 month window.</p> <p>The Clerk reported he was waiting for a second valuation for the Mission Hall and would advise when this is received. Letters to nearby residents has resulted in two expressions of interest.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to circulate the current budget vs expenditure status.</p> <p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 741 1273 1317"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting Maintenance</td> <td>£580.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Padlock for OSW Gate and Key Cutting</td> <td>£23.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Microsoft Exchange Online</td> <td>£10.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yu Energy</td> <td>Street Lighting Electricity *</td> <td>£555.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yu Energy</td> <td>Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *</td> <td>£33.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proper Agency</td> <td>Website Maintenance</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Healy Fencing</td> <td>Soil Testing at OSW Site</td> <td>£568.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Lengthsman Services</td> <td>£300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Office Costs January - February 2023</td> <td>£74.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Salary January - February 2023 (by S/O)</td> <td>£749.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax & NI January - February 2023 (by S/O)</td> <td>£212.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">* Approved and paid during the month</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Payment	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting Maintenance	£580.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Padlock for OSW Gate and Key Cutting	£23.97	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Microsoft Exchange Online	£10.80	Yu Energy	Street Lighting Electricity *	£555.91	Yu Energy	Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *	£33.52	Proper Agency	Website Maintenance	£30.00	Healy Fencing	Soil Testing at OSW Site	£568.00	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£300.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs January - February 2023	£74.80	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary January - February 2023 (by S/O)	£749.91	HMRC	Tax & NI January - February 2023 (by S/O)	£212.23				* Approved and paid during the month			<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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<p>025/23</p>	<p>Community Services</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>																																											
<p>026/23</p> <p>026.1/23</p> <p>026.2/23</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>22/00896/FUL – Single storey side extension – 11 Oakfield Drive – it was agreed that the Council has no objections to this application.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the application 22/00701/FUL at 109 Barnt Green Road, to which the Council raised an objection, had been granted.</p>																																											
<p>027/23</p> <p>027.1/23</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>Councillors agreed they were pleased with the new website and agreed that it could now go live.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>																																										

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<p>028.22</p> <p>028.1/23</p>	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>The Clerk reported he had received an email regarding pruning of trees on the Village Green Area of Lickey Coppice, he has again advised that the Parish Council has no jurisdiction on the Village Green and this is a matter for residents.</p>	
<p>029/23</p>	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <p>None requested.</p>	
<p>030/23</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 20th March 2023 at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.50pm.</p>	