

# Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Held at Cofton Village Hall, Cofton Hackett

## PRESENT:

### Councillors:

Cllr Mr M Pattison (Chair)  
Cllr Mrs J Fay  
Cllr Mrs J Webb  
Cllr Mr R Deeming  
Cllr Ms A Dale  
Cllr Mr S Chatterley

### Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

## APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr J Slack  
Cllr Mr N Banyard  
Cllr Mr G Cook

## ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

County Cllr Mr A Kriss

5 members of the public

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
097/23	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Slack (family commitment, Cllr Banyard (illness) and Cllr Cook (work commitment), these were accepted.	
098/23	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> Register of Interests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests.</li><li>• To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.</li><li>• To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.</li><li>• Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms 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.</li><li>• 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.</li><li>• Interests were noted to be recorded in the Register</li></ul>	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
099/23	<p><b>Dispensations</b></p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
<p><b>100/23</b></p> <p>100.1/23</p> <p>100.2/23</p> <p>100.3/23</p>	<p><b>Public Forum</b></p> <p>The Church Warden from St Michael's Church spoke about the Churchyard at the church, he said that all residents of Cofton Hackett are entitled to be buried or have ashes interred there. He explained that there is work ongoing on a new burial area and that work is needed on the woodland and on the entrance to the car park. The cost of car park works has been quoted at £7.5k. He asked if the Parish Council would be prepared to contribute to these works and to make an annual donation to church maintenance funds. Cllr Pattison advised that donations of £500 had been granted in some, but not all, recent years. The Clerk noted that these donations were not automatic and only granted when Council was approached by the Church. After some discussion, Councillors agreed to make a one-off donation for this year and to discuss the possibility of future funding at a subsequent meeting. <b>Resolved:</b> to award a grant of £500 towards the cost of car park improvements at the St Michael's Church. Clerk to make payment.</p> <p>Residents raised concerns about overgrown vegetation on the Stocken. The Clerk advised that the Council lengthsman had been working there recently to trim back vegetation. Cllr Pattison noted that the upkeep of the Stocken is not strictly a Parish Council responsibility but is that of the landowners, ownership here is unclear.</p> <p>Upon County Cllr Adrian Kriss' arrival, residents from Oakfield Drive raised further concerns about the trees that were recently planted along verges outside their homes. The Clerk supplied details of the types of trees used, as advised by the lengthsman, residents felt that these would grow too large and asked for action to be taken to resolve the situation. Cllr Kriss agreed that he would ensure the problem is resolved to everyone's satisfaction.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Kriss</b></p>
<p><b>101/23</b></p> <p>101.1/23</p> <p>101.2/23</p> <p>101.3/23</p> <p>101.4/23</p>	<p><b>Reports from Outside Bodies / District and County Councillor</b></p> <p>District Cllr Dale reported that Worcestershire Water will be visiting the Old Sewage Works site to investigate the drainage pipe which is believed to be causing flooding issues on Oakfield Drive, the Clerk will be in attendance.</p> <p>She spoke about the new police speed enforcement operation using speed guns and body-cams as backup, she gave results of the operation on Barnt Green Road and Groveley Lane, which have led to issuing of tickets to 2 speeding drivers. It was clear that drivers were slowing down as they were warned by other drivers. It was noted that police are required to be visible whilst conducting the enforcement. This will continue every two weeks if other commitments allow. County Cllr Kriss has asked for clear 30mph signs to be installed on Barnt Green Road.</p> <p>She further reported that talks on the future of the Artrix are progressing well. Bromsgrove Community Arts will be presenting a plan to trustees and BDC on 14<sup>th</sup> August.</p> <p>Cllr Dale reported she has received calls regarding anti-social behaviour from a group of individuals, it appears there are 59 cases against them. It was noted this is a police matter.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion and Decisions</b>	<b>Action</b>
101.5/23	She spoke about the proposal to close one end of Ten Ashes Lane, highways have opted for the least cost option and will be installing a 'No Entry' sign, with legalities etc, this could take up to 12 months.	<b>Cllr Kriss</b>
101.5/23	County Cllr Kriss was asked to look at highways responsibilities for the entrance to St Michael's Church on Cofton Church Lane, he agreed to investigate.	
101.6/23	Cllr Kriss advised that no real solution to the need for a crossing on Groveley Lane is being offered by highways. Volume of traffic and visibility issues mean that a 'puffin' crossing is needed, and this would prove too expensive (possibly up to £250k). Cllr Kriss will challenge this view as he said there needs to be a solution.	
101.7/23	Cllr Kriss also reported on public health issues (including cancer screening, vaping in younger people), hedge and verge cutting, car parking at schools, road accidents involving motorcycles and public rights of way.	
<b>102/23</b>	<b>Previous Minutes</b>  The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.	
<b>103/23</b>	<b>Chairman's Report</b>	<b>Cllrs Webb / Chatterley / Cook / Dale</b>
103.1/23	Cllr Pattison noted that Cllrs Dale, Chatterley, Webb and Cook, plus the Clerk, will be attending on-line Planning training this month, and asked if Councillors would provide feedback at the next meeting.	
<b>104/23</b>	<b>Highways, Environment and Open Spaces</b>	<b>Cllr Kriss</b>  <b>Clerk / Cllr Pattison</b>  <b>Clerk</b>
104.1/23	The Clerk reported that the 3 vehicle activated signs had been ordered and were due for delivery in the next week. Clerk will advise Cllr Kriss on agreed locations so that poles can be installed, he asked Cllr Kriss if highways would also fit the devices. Cllr Kriss to investigate.	
104.2/23	Speed enforcement by police was covered under item 101.2/23.	
104.3/23	The Clerk again reported no progress from St Modwen's solicitors regarding Old Sewage Works access. The Clerk and Chair will ask solicitors dealing with the Mission Hall Sale if they are able to assist.	
104.4/23	Investigation of drainage pipe at the Old Sewage works covered under item 101.1/23.	
104.5/23	The Clerk reported that there no outstanding street light faults.	
104.6/23	The Clerk reported on work carried out by the lengthsman during the month.	
104.7/23	Item was declared confidential as it concerned discussion of an individual and will be minuted separately.	
104.8/23	Cllr Webb asked that street furniture, to include benches, grit bins, lamp posts be jet-washed, Clerk to investigate contractors and prices.	
104.9/23	Cllr Pattison reported that he had carried out the monthly play area inspection, with no issues noted.	

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<p><b>105/23</b></p> <p>105.1/23</p> <p>105.2/23</p> <p>105.3/23</p> <p>105.4/23</p> <p>105.5/23</p>	<p><b>Finance and General Purposes</b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that the sale of the Old Mission Hall was progressing as expected. He and Cllr Pattison will be meeting solicitors to sign all relevant documents on July 18<sup>th</sup>. The existing tenants will be vacating the building on August 4<sup>th</sup> and we are hoping for completion of sale by the end of August.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison advised that he and Cllr Slack had discussed how to utilise the additional funds resulting from the sale of the Mission Hall, some suggestions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Resurfacing, refurbishment and improvement of the Myhill Field play area.</li> <li>- The lease for Cofton Hackett Village Hall ends in 2029, hold some reserves for whatever is agreed at that point.</li> <li>- On final completion of the new estate, management could be handed over to the residents, money could be held in reserve to assist, maybe with the Arrow Park play area.</li> <li>- Assist with installation of solar panels at Cofton Village Hall.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors were asked to give some thought to other potential uses of funds and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Consideration of grant towards St Michael's church car park covered under item 100.1/23.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on 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="320 1081 1193 1619"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bill Robinson</td> <td>Intenal Audit for 2022-23</td> <td>£204.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yu Energy</td> <td>Street Lighting Electricity *</td> <td>£327.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yu Energy</td> <td>Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *</td> <td>£30.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Exchange On-Line Subs</td> <td>£10.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Land Registry Fees</td> <td>£39.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Grass Cutting</td> <td>£260.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Lengthsman Services</td> <td>£240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Office Costs June - July 2023</td> <td>£45.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Salary June - July 2023 (by S/O)</td> <td>£749.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax &amp; NI June - July 2023 (by S/O)</td> <td>£212.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">* Approved and paid during the month</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Payment	Bill Robinson	Intenal Audit for 2022-23	£204.60	Yu Energy	Street Lighting Electricity *	£327.67	Yu Energy	Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *	£30.56	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Exchange On-Line Subs	£10.80	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Land Registry Fees	£39.90	Gary Haynes	Grass Cutting	£260.00	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£240.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs June - July 2023	£45.80	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary June - July 2023 (by S/O)	£749.91	HMRC	Tax & NI June - July 2023 (by S/O)	£212.23				* Approved and paid during the month			<p><b>All</b></p>
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<p><b>106/23</b></p>	<p><b>Community Services</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>																																								
<p><b>107/23</b></p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>No applications received or determined this month.</p>																																								

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108/23	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>108.23</p> <p>108.1/23</p> <p>108.2/23</p>	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported on an email regarding fitting of bat-friendly streetlamps instead of white LED lamps. Cllr Pattison advised he had seen some research that pipistrelle bats, common in Cofton Hackett, are not particularly affected by bright lights. Clerk to ask enquirer if they have evidence.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported that Cllr Slack had received an email regarding costs of classes at Cofton Village Hall, to which he has replied, and also asking that the Council considers installation of boxes for nesting swifts. One possible location for such a box is at the Village Hall and he will seek the opinion of trustees. The Council's overall approach to bio-diversity should be seriously considered, Cllr Webb suggested the Council owned land next to the Myhill Field allotments could be utilised in this regard.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
109/23	<p><b>Items for Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Clerk – revised date for January 2024 meeting.</p>	
110/23	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm.</b></p> <p><b>The meeting ended at 9.45pm.</b></p>	