

# Cofton Hackett Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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### PRESENT:

#### Councillors:

CLlr Mr R Deeming (Chair)  
CLlr Mrs J Fay (Vice Chair)  
CLlr Mrs J Webb  
CLlr Mr R Westbury  
CLlr Mr K Duncan  
CLlr Ms C Fryer

#### Apologies:

CLlr Ms W Birch

#### Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau (AB)

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
017/17	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Birch and were accepted.	
018/17	<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 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.</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 recorded in the Register</li></ul>	
019/17	<b>Dispensations</b> There were no applications for dispensations received.	
020/17	<b>Public Forum</b> There were no members of the public in attendance.	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion and Decisions</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>021/17</b>	<p><b>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</b></p> <p>Mr Steve Hinton, Senior Ranger at Lickey Hills Country park was in attendance and gave the Council an overview of his role and current problems affecting the Country Park.</p> <p>Mr Hinton explained that he and his team cover 61 parks within Birmingham, 24 of these with high nature value. Lickey Hills is a local nature reserve within the Country Parks network, the heathland there is unique, Bilberry heathland is found elsewhere only in the Lake District, Cornwall and Scotland. The heathland is disappearing fast and has reduced from 600 acres down to 75 acres due to the effects of man. He explained how the team are working to reverse the effects of this.</p> <p>Mr Hinton spoke about phytophthora ramorum, a disease which is affecting trees in the Lickey Hills and the work which is ongoing to try to eradicate it under the direction of APHA and Defra. Councillors reported they had been extremely alarmed by the amount of trees being felled and the piles of logs awaiting removal but now better understood the reasoning following Mr Hinton's presentation. Councillors discussed the apparent lack of communication about the issue, Mr Hinton said that it had been reported in local magazines, parish council notices etc.</p> <p>It was agreed that an article will be included in the next Parish Council newsletter, Mr Hinton to supply the article.</p> <p>Councillors and Mr Hinton discussed parking charges at the Country Park. Mr Hinton invited Councillors to join the Lickey Hills consultative committee of they wished.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Mr Hinton for attending and for his clear presentation, Mr Hinton then left the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr McDonald was unable to attend but had sent a note via the Clerk reporting on the Council's 3% tax increase and continual cutbacks. Also the deplorable state of our social services that were found to be inadequate when it came to Looked After Children.</p>	
<b>022/17</b>	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Westbury seconded by Cllr Duncan with all in favour.</p>	
<b>023/17</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>Cllr Deeming referred to the recent article in the Bromsgrove Standard publicising the Groveley Lane traffic calming scheme, with the County Councillor in attendance. He pointed out that the article did not state where the money for the scheme had come from. He informed Councillors that his reply to a recent letter from a resident had not been published because he had named the County Councillor. Cllr Deeming will prepare an article for publication in the forthcoming Cofton Parish News.</p> <p>Councillors felt that the scheme is unlikely to reduce the speed of the traffic on Groveley Lane.</p>	<b>Cllr Deeming</b>
<b>024/17</b>	<p><b>Community Services</b></p> <p>In her absence, Cllr Birch had asked the Clerk to inform Councillors that she had been investigating possible suppliers for catering at the Xmas party but was awaiting replies.</p>	
<b>025/17</b> 025.1/17	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that he had received several pieces for the next newsletter and asked Councillors to send their items to him this week. The Clerk has received an alternative quote for printing the newsletter but Councillors agreed to continue with the current supplier due to the higher quality print.</p>	<b>All</b>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion and Decisions</b>	<b>Action</b>
025.2/17	Cllr Fryer will be creating a Facebook group for the Parish Council and will update everyone when this is in place.	<b>Cllr Fryer</b>
025.3/17	The next public drop-in session will go ahead on Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February from 10am – 12 noon. The Clerk will be in attendance, no requests for Councillor appointments had been received so far.	
<b>026/17</b>	<b>Highways and Bridges</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
026.1/17	Cllr Fay reported that decoration of the Bilberry Centre had been completed and the appearance is much improved, Councillors were pleased with the result. She confirmed that the coach house and the remaining side of the building will also be decorated.	
026.2/17	<u>Lengthsman</u>	
026.2.1/17	The Clerk reported that he had made the claim for repayment of lengthsman costs to WCC. The Claim amounted to £1,777 but the maximum we can claim is £1,739, any further lengthsman work this year will need to be paid for by the Parish Council. Councillors discussed lengthsman payments and payment of mileage for travel around the parish. Councillors agreed that a new contract should be drawn up to commence from April 2017 with an agreement on duties covered and mileage costs.	
026.2.2/17	Cllr Duncan reported on the work completed by the lengthsman on the allotment gates and security fencing. Cllr Webb asked that in future, work of this sort is fully quoted and agreed before work is started.	
026.3/17	<u>Street Lighting</u>	
026.3.1/17	The Clerk reported two quotes had been received for the disconnection and reconnection of the street light outside 54 Ashmead Rise, Western Power at £1,286.92 and EON at £456, Councillors agreed to instruct EON to carry out this work. The Clerk advised that any claim on insurance was likely to be unsuccessful as the issue is largely due to wear and tear. Councillors agreed not to pursue a claim.	
026.3.2/17	The Clerk reported that Western Power have now rectified the wiring fault at Cofton Church Lane, the electrician now needs to attend to complete the work.	
026.3.3/17	Faulty posts 138 – 140 on Groveley Lane are being replaced as part of the traffic calming scheme.	
026.3.4/17	The Clerk reported post 70 on Groveley Lane (behind the Oak Tree pub) has faulty wiring due to deterioration, Clerk to report to Western Power.	
026.3.5/17	Cllr Fryer reported a faulty street light outside 16, East Works Drive, Clerk to report to St Modwen's.	
<b>027/17</b>	<b>Environment</b>	<b>Clerk</b>
027.1/17	Councillors discussed the recent demand for payment from BDC for bin emptying and the change in billing methods. Councillors queried which bins this relates to and where they are situated, Clerk to investigate with BDC.	
027.2/17	Councillors discussed the service charge applied to residents on the new development, Clerk to write to St Modwen's to ask which services this covers and for what time period (copy to Cllr Deeming first).	

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027.3/17	<p>Cllr Westbury reported that it had not been possible to arrange a meeting of the Myhill Field working party due to Cllr Birch's absence. The working party will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr Westbury</li> <li>- Cllr Birch</li> <li>- Carol Barrett</li> <li>- John Sadler</li> <li>- Carissa Dickerson</li> </ul> <p>The working party will meet when Cllr Birch returns.</p>	
027.4/17	Cllr Birch has advised that the possible donation towards a new bench will not now be going ahead.	
027.5/17	The Clerk reported that the Tesco Bags of Help grant application had been submitted, but that it may be up to 6 months before a decision is made.	
027.6/17	The Clerk reported that allotment rental demands had been sent out and all but 3 have been paid. Clerk to send reminder letters if the outstanding payments are not made.	<b>Clerk</b>
027.7/17	The Clerk reported that the Play Area Inspection will occur in March but a definite date has not yet been set. Clerk to advise when confirmed.	<b>Clerk</b>
027.8/17	The Clerk reported that he had requested and received a quote for grass cutting on Myhill Field and Rose Hill Island, Councillors asked that 2 further quoted be obtained.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>028/17</b>	<b>Planning</b>	
028.1/17	Cllr Duncan reported that the application 16/1193, for an extension at 47 Middle Drive had been approved.	
028.2/17	Cllr Duncan reported that application 16/1213 at 402, Groveley Lane had been received for change of use from hairdresser to coffee shop.	
028.3/17	Cllr Duncan reported that the Council has raised no objections to the development of 150 houses on the Longbridge East area, southern end, but had raised concerns regarding the security of the new properties.	
028.4.17	Cllr Duncan reported that following complaints received and a meeting with St Modwen's, the location of the new Village Hall has been changed to the entrance to East Works Drive with an increase of car parking spaces to 21. This was a pleasant surprise and was a good achievement.	

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<p><b>029/17</b></p> <p>029.1/17</p> <p>029.2/17</p> <p>029.3/17</p>	<p><b>Finance and General Purposes</b></p> <p>Cllr Webb reported that the precept for 2017/18 had been set at £32,374, an increase of 2%. There had been insufficient time to discuss this fully with all Councillors before submission, Cllr Westbury requested that discussions for the 2018/19 budget and precept commence in September this year.</p> <p>Cllr Webb requested that any work carried out by the lengthsman which is outside his official remit is billed separately.</p> <p>A list of bills for payment was circulated and agreed:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="300 645 1273 1122"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Proper Agency</td> <td>Website December 2016</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GJH Electrical Services</td> <td>Dismantle Xmas Tree Lights</td> <td>£123.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bromsgrove District Council</td> <td>Grass Cutting Embankment</td> <td>£33.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting</td> <td>£383.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting</td> <td>£83.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proper Agency</td> <td>Website January 2017</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nigel Williamson</td> <td>Lengthsman Duties and Materials</td> <td>£565.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Salary January / February 2017</td> <td>£481.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax Payment January / February 2017</td> <td>£120.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Expenses January / February 2017</td> <td>£90.99</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Amount	Proper Agency	Website December 2016	£30.00	GJH Electrical Services	Dismantle Xmas Tree Lights	£123.60	Bromsgrove District Council	Grass Cutting Embankment	£33.60	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£383.66	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£83.60	Proper Agency	Website January 2017	£30.00	Nigel Williamson	Lengthsman Duties and Materials	£565.82	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary January / February 2017	£481.64	HMRC	Tax Payment January / February 2017	£120.41	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Expenses January / February 2017	£90.99	
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<p><b>030/17</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported he had received a number of proposals for events a Cofton Park, it was agreed to circulate these via email for comment.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>																																	
<p><b>031/17</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Cllr Fay reported a fallen tree which had caused damage to railings, Cllr Fay to speak with insurance company and report to clerk.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Fay</b></p>																																	
<p><b>016/17</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Next Parish Council meeting was agreed as <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.</b></p> <p>Due to the Easter Bank Holiday it was agreed the <b>April meeting will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April.</b></p> <p>It was further agreed that <b>the Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, with the Parish Council meeting moved to Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.</b></p> <p><b>The meeting ended at 10.20pm</b></p>																																		