

# Cofton Hackett Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016

### PRESENT:

#### Councillors:

Cllr Mr R Deeming (Chair)  
 Cllr Mr K Duncan  
 Cllr Mrs J Webb  
 Cllr Mr J McQuaid

#### Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau (AB)

### APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr R Westbury  
 Cllr Mrs J Fay

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Fay (illness) and Cllr Westbury (holiday), these were accepted.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declaration of Interests</b></p> <p>Register of Interests:</p> <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>	
3.	<p><b>Public Forum</b></p> <p>There were 5 members of the public in attendance including 2 members of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and 3 observers.</p> <p>Members of Neighbourhood Watch scheme asked if the Council had considered plans for Smartwater following the email sent by Cllr Westbury and asked if the cost could be funded by the Parish Council. The aim is for 80% coverage and the cost of £15 per household had previously been funded by parishioners. A member of the police force has been invited to the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting in May to discuss. The Council agreed to bring this to the next Parish Council meeting following Cllr Westbury's return from holiday. The Council discussed Neighbourhood Watch signage and the possibility of including an article in the next Cofton News.</p>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion and Decisions</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>The Council was asked about arrangements for the Queen's birthday, it was noted this item was included on the agenda.</p> <p>The Parish newsletter was discussed and strategies for involving partners, it was noted that there is additional funding in the budget for communications, Cllr Westbury is primarily responsible for communications.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that the Parish Plan was being developed in conjunction with Blackwell Parish Council, there has been a presentation from organisations who can assist and it is now agreed who will be appointed.</p> <p>The Environmental Mapping activity on Lickey Rd needs more volunteers and should be driven by the public, this has been in the newsletter but only 25 responses were received. The Neighbourhood Watch members offered their communications circle to promote the message.</p> <p>The Council advised that the building of the new Village Hall will not occur this year, an architect has been appointed and submissions have been made to St Modwen.</p> <p>Cllr McQuaid advised that the Cofton Market is a personal venture by him, not Parish Council related, to be held on Howden's Car Park and will include food and arts and crafts stall, he confirmed this is not a car boot event.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting Held Monday 15th February 2016</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Duncan and seconded by Cllr McQuaid with all in favour.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Community Services</b></p> <p>Cllr McQuaid reported that the plans for the Queen's birthday celebrations on the 12<sup>th</sup> June should be discussed at the next meeting, all Councillors should bring ideas to the meeting.</p>	All
6.	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Cllr Deeming remarked that he was disappointed with the content of Cofton News and something better should be produced, there is an additional £1,000 budget available. Cllr Deeming will speak to Cllr Westbury on his return and Neighbourhood Watch will be asked to provide an article.</p>	Cllr Deeming
7.	<p><b>Highways and Bridges</b></p> <p>Cllr Fay had provided a written report in her absence.</p> <p>The current lengthsman has been proving difficult to contact, Cllr Fay has contacted a potential replacement who is currently lengthsman to Dodford and Belbroughton and is prepared to work with the Council. The clerk to make contact with him and invite him to the next Council meeting.</p> <p>The new benches are to be delivered with 2 to be situated at Rose Hill and the planters, funded by New Homes Bonus are to be ordered.</p> <p>The flood on the Birmingham Road was reported to Bromsgrove DC by Cllr Fay but nothing has been done to date, it appears Worcester CC have to instruct Bromsgrove DC to perform jetting of drains. Cllr Fay to follow up.</p> <p>Several pot holes have been reported to Worcester CC in the last few months and the worst holes in Groveley Lane have been patched. Lack of finances has prevented repair of all of the holes.</p> <p>St Modwen's are funding a crossing into the park which should be started in the next 2-3 weeks and the new lamp posts in Oatfield Drive and by Stuart Fairfowls should be painted this week.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Fay</p>

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	<p>The Council discussed traffic calming measures having been advised that speed humps are the only effective measure.</p> <p>The Council discussed their responsibility for lights on side roads but noted they have not yet taken responsibility for the new development.</p> <p>The bus stop in Groveley lane is being moved back to its original position in April, there is a further meeting with National Express in April. Cllr Duncan has suggested that the Route 45 be extended.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>Cllr McQuaid reported that the moles had been clear from Myhill Field and the field reopened, the invoice is to be presented for payment. The area has been tidied up and shrubs planted, the cost of materials will be presented to Cllr Webb. Cllr Deeming had received a complaint regarding the dirty condition of the play equipment on Myhill Field which had not been responded to due to unavailability of the clerk, the new clerk will provide a response. There may be funding available to purchase new equipment and this will be included on the agenda for the next financial year.</p> <p>The Council agreed that a better map of the area was required Cllr Deeming to retrieve the map from the notice board.</p> <p>The Council requested quotes for the tidying up of overgrown vegetation on Rednal Island, a tree surgeon is required to reduce the height to 8-9 feet. A quote of £1,200 had been received from Yates Tree Surgeons to complete the work, Cllr Webb proposed this quote be accepted, seconded by Cllr Duncan with all in favour. Cllr Webb to contact Yates for a start date.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Deeming</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Webb</b></p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that there have been no new applications in the last month, the revised application for an extension at 5 Private Way had been approved by Bromsgrove DC.</p> <p>The Council discussed the proposals from Network Rail regarding the closure of the railway crossing on footpaths CH520 and BG500 and noted that it had now been 12 months since this was closed. Cllr Duncan to draft a letter to Network Rail expressing the Council's preferred option of a footbridge.</p> <p>The national Cross Country Championships had taken place in Cofton Park and the Council agreed that traffic had been better controlled by G4S on this occasion. There will be no Fusion Festival this year but there may be other events.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Duncan</b></p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Finance and General Purposes</b></p> <p>It was agreed by all to pay the following bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cofton Spark £180.46</li> <li>• Lickey Parish Council for Shindig £120.00</li> <li>• Bromsgrove District Council £166.11</li> <li>• Environmental Pest Control £110.00</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Deeming reminded Councillors to ensure the Village Hall is available for the election of Police Commissioner in May and for the referendum in June. The Council and members of the public discussed the use of the Village Hall and the adjacent old church building.</p> <p>The Council discussed arrangements for the Queen's Birthday celebrations, Cllr Deeming presented a commemorative medal as a suggested gift to households in the Parish. He asked Councillors to consider other suggestions to be brought back to the next meeting.</p> <p>The Council discussed the guide to Cofton Hackett local area booklet, to include history,</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>

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	<p>local walks, local organisations etc. The Council will seek advertising to help fund this but would be prepared to pay if necessary.</p> <p><b>The meeting ended at 9.15pm.</b></p>	
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Next meeting was agreed as <b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm.</b></p>	