

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th April 2016

PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau (AB)

Invited:

Mr N Williamson (Lengthsman)

Apologies:

Cllr Mr J McQuaid

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr McQuaid and were accepted.</p>	
2.	<p>Declaration of Interests</p> <p>Register of Interests:</p> <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 recorded in the Register 	
3.	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were no members of the public in attendance.</p>	
4a.	<p>Introduction to New Lengthsman</p> <p>Cllr Fay introduced the new lengthsman for the Parish, Mr Nigel Williamson. Mr Williamson is the current lengthsman at Romsley, Belbroughton and Fairfield and</p>	

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	<p>Bournheath Parish Councils. The Clerk will contact Worcestershire County Council regarding the appointment. Councillors discussed and agreed the hourly rate and mileage reimbursement. It was agreed that Mr Williamson, Cllr Fay and the Clerk will meet for an induction and area visit on Monday 25th April at 12.00 noon. Start date and initial tasks to be agreed following that meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming welcomed the new lengthsman and Mr Williamson left the meeting at 8pm.</p>	Clerk
5.	<p>Reports Received from Outside Bodies and/or the County Council</p> <p>None received.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan requested that the County Council be sent a strongly worded letter regarding the proposed traffic calming measures in Groveley Lane which have still not moved forward and also to request an update on the suggested extension of the 30mph speed limit from Cofton Church Lane into Barnt Green. Cllr Duncan to prepare wording for the Clerk to send.</p>	Cllr Duncan
6.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting Held Monday 21st March 2016</p> <p>Cllr Westbury pointed out that Smarwater kits can be obtained from the Police Service at a reduced cost of £8.90. Councillors discussed the feasibility and costs of supplying kits to all households and agreed to await the outcome of the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting in May which Cllr Duncan will attend.</p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 21st March 2016 were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Duncan and seconded by Cllr Webb with all in favour.</p>	Cllr Duncan
7.	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Deeming thanked all Councillors for their dedication and hard work in recent months during the time the Parish Council was without a Clerk and Lengthsman.</p> <p>Councillors discussed possible ideas for marking the Queen's Birthday, Cllr Deeming asked all Councillors to bring suggestions to the next meeting. Cllr Webb to circulate some suggestions for consideration.</p>	Cllr Webb
8.	<p>Community Services</p> <p>Councillors discussed the 3 vacancies on the Parish Council and strategies for attracting new Councillors.</p>	
9.	<p>Communications</p> <p>Cllr Westbury proposed that the Cofton News be revised into an A5 format document, Councillors agreed that the newsletter needs a new start. Cllr Westbury and the Clerk to discuss and confer with the clerk at Barnt Green.</p>	Cllr Westbury Clerk
10.	<p>Highways and Bridges</p> <p>Cllr Fay reported that the new lampposts in Oakfield Drive and Shadow Drive still required the tops to be installed and another needs to be painted but that the work was in hand is expected to occur soon.</p> <p>Cllr Fay reported a hole in the fencing on Rose Hill.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the possible acquisition of a speed gun, to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The 5 benches funded by the New Homes Scheme have arrived, Councillors discussed costs for installation of the benches, Cllr Fay to obtain a fixed price quote for installation</p>	Cllr Fay

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	<p>and discuss with Cllr Webb.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the flooding of the layby on Barnt Green Road which has been reported to County although no work appears to have been done.</p>	
11.	<p>Environment</p> <p>Councillors discussed the Tesco Bags of Help Grant initiative, raised through the plastic bag charge, which offers grants of £8k, £10k and £12 to spend on improvement of green spaces. Councillors discussed possible areas in the Parish which could benefit, all to consider and bring to next meeting.</p> <p>Councillors discussed grass cutting at Myhill Field play area and agreed to accept the quote provided by Hoskings, the area to be inspected after the first cut.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the poor condition of the Stocken footpath, it was suggested that the responsibility for upkeep is with the Canal and River Trust, Clerk to contact them for feedback.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>Clerk</p>
12.	<p>Planning</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
13.	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>It was agreed by all to pay the following bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsquest Media (Advertising) £590.88 • Proper Agency (Website) £90.00 • Worcestershire CALC (Training) £43.65 • Live and Local (Shindig Performance) £270.00 • Worcestershire CALC (Registration) £859.11 • Playsafety (Play Area Inspection) £79.80 • Cllr Webb (Parish Council Phone) £34.20 • Clerk's Salary £430.50 • Clerk's Expenses £69.70 	
14.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Cllr Deeming left the meeting at 9.30pm due to a potential planning predetermination conflict, to allow Councillors to discuss a further item.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.50pm.</p>	
Date of Next Meeting	<p>The Parish Assembly meeting will take place on Monday 9th May at 8pm. Clerk to draft a flyer for the meeting.</p> <p>Next Parish Council meeting was agreed as Monday 16th May at 7.30pm.</p>	Clerk