

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th September 2016

PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau (AB)

Invited:

Cllr P McDonald (County Councillor)

Apologies:

Cllr Mrs J Fay (Vice Chair)

Not in Attendance:

Cllr J McQuaid

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
072/16 072.1/16	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Fay and were accepted. Cllr McQuaid did not attend. Cllr Deeming read out a letter received from Cllr McQuaid tendering his resignation from the Parish Council due to changes in employment circumstances and evening availability. Councillors asked that a note of thanks be sent to Cllr McQuaid.	Clerk
073/16	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 recorded in the Register 	
074/16	Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received.	

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<p>075/16</p> <p>075.1/16</p>	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There was one member of the public in attendance.</p> <p>Ms Wendy Birch raised the subject of parking on Groveley Lane near the Rose Hill Island. Cllr McDonald indicated that the double yellow lines are to be extended and this will occur soon. Councillors discussed implications of this action.</p> <p>Ms Wendy Birch has expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor and could be co-opted onto the Council, Chairman to pursue.</p>	<p>Cllr Deeming</p>
<p>076/16</p> <p>076.1/16</p> <p>076.2/16</p> <p>076.3/16</p> <p>076.4/16</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Councillor McDonald spoke about cut backs on funding for children's service with £3m cut back and services being removed from children's centres including removal of speech therapists from many centres. He also spoke about the demise of Youth Centres and cuts in carer home visits to an average of 15 minutes per visit.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan raised the issue of the proposed Groveley Lane traffic calming scheme and the letter which had been sent to affected residents, Councillors heard that there had been a very limited response from residents. Cllr McDonald explained that funding for the scheme provided by St Modwen's and passed to the County Council was unlikely to cover the whole cost of the improvements due to the nature of the road surface on Groveley Lane – the underlying material is concrete and requires a different and more expensive treatment to normal surfaces. He said that the Parish Council's preferred solution would require sensors in the road some way from the proposed crossing involving considerable extra expense.</p> <p>Cllr Mc Donald suggested that the current proposal for a visual and psychological 'narrowing' of the road would be going ahead towards the end of December and urged Councillors to seek further improvements after this has been completed. The County Council believes that the proposed visual scheme will be effective. Plans for the scheme will be distributed in the next 4 weeks.</p> <p>Councillors discussed various types of traffic calming measures and the impact they would have on nearby residents.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming read a letter from a resident on Barnt Green Road which asked why the 40mph sign had not been placed further down the road, Cllr McDonald requested that residents should contact him directly so that he has evidence he can present the County Council.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Cllr McDonald for attending, Cllr Mc Donald left the meeting.</p>	
<p>077/16</p> <p>077.1/16</p> <p>077.2/16</p>	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>Cllr Fay had asked that the minutes be amended to show that Cllr Westbury, and not her, had seconded the proposal to hold the Xmas Party. This was amended on the minutes.</p> <p>This change aside, the minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 18th July 2016 were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Duncan and seconded by Cllr Westbury with all in favour.</p>	
<p>078/16</p> <p>078.1/16</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Deeming reported that the old tree just past the bus stop on Groveley Lane had finally been cut down, by Birmingham City Council and that it is likely there will be more cut down in the near future.</p>	
<p>079/16</p> <p>079.1/16</p>	<p>Community Services</p> <p>The date for the Xmas Party has been proposed as Sunday 11th December, Cllr Webb to</p>	<p>Cllr Webb</p>

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082.1/16 082.2/16 082.3/16 082.4/16	<p>11th March 2017. Councillors agreed that traffic and parking arrangements were well handled at the previous event and asked for reassurances that it would be handled the same way. Cllr Duncan to check contact details.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the Tesco Bags of Help grant and agreed that an application be made to request funding for improvements to the Myhill field play area. Clerk to progress.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming and the clerk reported that they have received a number of requests for improvement to the play equipment at the Myhill field. Councillors agreed that a working party should be established to consider improvements and put together a costed plan. Local residents to be invited to join the working party, clerk to send invitations and to obtain brochures from play equipment suppliers.</p> <p>The clerk reported that the request for a litter bin near Cofton Fields play area had been submitted but had no further update.</p>	<p>Cllr Duncan</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
083/16 083.1/16 083.2/16 083.3/16 083.4/16	<p>Planning</p> <p>Cllr Deeming reported that he had discussed the new Village Hall with the vicar. Cllr Duncan reported he had not received a response from St Modwen and had sent a further email.</p> <p>Councillors agreed that the future of the existing Village Hall could not be considered until plans for the new one are fully in place.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that the Parish Council had supported the application for 51 Fairy Street.</p> <p>Councillors discussed application 16/0886, rear extension at 12, Lickey Coppice and agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to the application.</p>	
084/16 084.1/16 084.2/16 084.3/16 084.4/16 084.5/16 084.6/16 084.7/16	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>Request for financial assistance for garden machinery deferred to next meeting. Cllr Duncan agreed to meet with the resident involved to discuss.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the request for a loan / grant of £1,000 to the Village Hall Steering group and agreed that this sum be set aside for future expenditure. Cllr Deeming proposed and Cllr Webb seconded with all in favour.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the request for a loan / grant of £500 to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group and agreed that this sum be set aside for future expenditure. Cllr Deeming proposed and Cllr Webb seconded with all in favour.</p> <p>The clerk reported that the internal audit report had been published and there were no significant issues to report, Cllr Webb and Cllr Westbury received copies of the report. The clerk reported that he also expected no issue with the external audit report.</p> <p>The clerk reported he had received 4 quotes for renewal of the Parish Council's insurance policy and that the lowest quote was from Zurich Insurance at £1,201.08 for a one year term. Sums insured are considered to be adequate. Councillors agreed that the Zurich Insurance policy should be taken up, proposed by Cllr Webb and seconded by Cllr Westbury. Clerk to progress.</p> <p>Cllr Webb asked that the clerk arrange a re-valuation of the Old Mission Hall for insurance purposes.</p> <p>A list of bills for payment was circulated and agreed:</p>	<p>Cllr Duncan</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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085/16	<p>Public Drop-in Sessions</p> <p>Councillors discussed a regular monthly session where the clerk could be available for public queries at the Village Hall. The clerk indicated Monday or Tuesday mornings would be suitable. Residents should be asked to indicate prior to the session if they wish to attend so that the clerk can ask relevant Councillors to attend if needed. It was agreed that a video door entry system should be installed, Cllr Webb to pursue.</p> <p>Sessions will be publicised in the November newsletter, to commence after that date.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 10.00pm.</p>	Cllr Webb																																										
086/16	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Next Parish Council meeting was agreed as Monday 17th October 2016 at 7.30pm.</p>																																											