

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st November 2016

PRESENT:

Councillors:

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

Invited:

Cllr P McDonald (County Councillor)

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau (AB)

Apologies:

Cllr Mrs J Webb
 Cllr Ms W Birch

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
101/16	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Webb and Cllr Birch and were accepted.</p>	
102/16	<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 	
103/16	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
104/16	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were 2 members of the public in attendance, Mr Jobson and Ms Fryer, there were no questions from the public.</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
<p>105/16</p> <p>105.1/16</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Councillor Peter McDonald was in attendance, item 10.1 on the agenda was brought forward.</p> <p>Groveley Lane Traffic Calming Scheme</p> <p>The Parish Council has received a detailed proposal from Worcestershire County Council for a traffic calming scheme on Groveley Lane. The proposal is to implement the scheme via a phased approach which will culminate in the resurfacing and remarking of Groveley Lane between the Lickey Road roundabout and Parsonage Drive. This ties in with improvement works already undertaken in the length of Groveley Lane looked after by Birmingham City.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming explained that an original scheme in November 2011 was rejected following comments from local residents and that in April 2015, St Modwen's had deposited a sum of £115,00 with WCC to fund a crossing.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the current proposal from WCC and felt that it fell short of what was expected. Cllr McDonald remarked that the scheme had been designed by experts with experience of similar schemes in other areas of the country. New lamp posts are to be installed, trees trimmed back to improve visibility and gating at both ends of Groveley Lane to preserve the impression of a rural area. Following this the road will be resurfaced to ensure quiet running of vehicles over the concrete base laid in 1937. The road crossing to Cofton Park will have sensors either side to warn drivers of crossing pedestrians. Councillors discussed activation of the warning signs, the proposals indicates that these would be triggered automatically by pedestrians waiting to cross.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming referred to his promise of a Public Meeting for residents to view and comment on the proposal, Cllr McDonald said that this was not seen as a major alteration to the road, no speed cushions are proposed and it did not, therefore, warrant a public meeting. He said that residents on Groveley Lane had been consulted on the proposal and he had not received any opposition so far.</p> <p>Cllr McDonald suggested that the scheme needs to be allowed to go ahead and that any delay could lead to the loss of funding altogether, he said that without St Modwen's contribution the scheme would not have been considered at all.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan suggested that the scheme would not work properly without the addition of speed cameras and that tree trimming was not necessary as visibility was good. Cllr McDonald replied that an independent body decides on the installation of speed cameras and that the data for Groveley Lane did not meet the criteria for speed cameras. Cllr Westbury said that he felt that gateways as proposed proved an effective traffic calming measure. Councillors further discussed a possible public meeting to be held in February, Cllr McDonald said that the work is planned to start in December and urged Councillors to ensure there is no delay.</p> <p>Councillors discussed further and agreed that, although they were not 100% happy with the proposals, they would raise no objections and looked forward to seeing the scheme being completed. They agreed that it was pleasing that something was being done at last and hoped this would result in the reduction of traffic speed on Groveley Lane. Councillors asked if the scheme proved to be ineffective, if they could count on support from Cllr McDonald for further improvements, Cllr McDonald agreed if that was the case he would assist in attempting to obtain further funding.</p> <p>Clerk to inform WCC of Council's decision.</p>	
<p>105.2/16</p>	<p>Amendments to Waiting Restrictions, Groveley Lane</p> <p>Councillors discussed the amendments to waiting restrictions, Cllr McDonald reported that the current restrictions have not been properly legal since the 1980s, warning signs are out of date and parking bays are needed. Residents' views on parking restrictions have changed since the closure of the Rover car factory. Councillors discussed the proposal to</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
105.3/16	<p>extend the double yellow lines, Cllr Duncan to prepare a letter to request that the double yellow lines are not extended as proposed.</p> <p>County Councillor's Report</p> <p>Cllr McDonald reported on cuts to children's services, subsequent closures of centres and further cuts to budgets. He also spoke about cuts to care services with 15 minutes or less being spent per visit whilst the recommendation is 30 minutes</p> <p>Cllr McDonald left the meeting at 8.25pm.</p>	Cllr Duncan
106/16	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 17th October 2016 were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Westbury seconded by Cllr Duncan with all in favour.</p>	
107/16	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Nothing further to report.</p>	
108/16 108.1/16	<p>Community Services</p> <p>Cllr Fay reported that the caterers and entertainer had been booked and confirmed for the Xmas Party on Sunday 4th December. Invitation letters had been printed and delivered to residents, there are 47 confirmed bookings so far. Cllr Fay to be reimbursed for printing costs (£30) on presentation of the invoice. Cllr Duncan requested that the cleaner come in to clean the hall the evening before the party.</p>	
109/16 109.1/16 109.2/16	<p>Communications</p> <p>The new noticeboard has been installed near the Post Office on Groveley Lane, Clerk needs to be given a key.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that the Autumn newsletter has been printed and is ready for delivery, to occur this week, Clerk agreed to assist with deliveries. The newsletters are to be added to the website.</p>	
110/16 110.1/16 110.2/16 110.3/16 110.4/16 110.5/16	<p>Highways and Bridges</p> <p>Cllr Fay reported that the Bilberry Centre was under new management and that renovation work, including new bathrooms, had started. She added that the centre had received a grant for the work and external decoration is to start soon.</p> <p>The speed activated warning sign on Barnt Green Road has been replaced and is now working correctly.</p> <p>Cllr Fay and the Clerk have spoken with Community Speedwatch and received written communications. Groveley Lane cannot be progressed due to impending traffic calming. Barnt Green Road, Rose Hill and Kendal End Road will be considered and a risk assessment carried out once the Traffic Regulation Order for the area is confirmed. Data collection to be done in the New Year. Volunteer training cannot be carried out until these other actions are agreed. Clerk to progress.</p> <p>The lengthsman has commenced repainting of the cast iron street signs, Councillors were pleased with the results. The Clerk informed Councillors that the work for the repainting is billed separately from normal lengthsman activities.</p> <p>The Clerk has requested costs for replacement of the damaged street light outside 54 Ashmead Drive but warned that a duplicate light is not available. Cllr Fay requested that the Clerk request a new lamp post and light similar to the one supplied in 2015 by Simon</p>	Clerk

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<p>Skeys.</p> <p>Other reported failed street lights at 74 Ashmead Rise, 32 Ten Ashes Lane and the all-day burners on Barnt Green Road have been rectified.</p>	Clerk
<p>111/16</p> <p>111.1/16</p> <p>111.2/16</p> <p>111.3/16</p> <p>111.4/16</p> <p>111.5/16</p> <p>111.6/16</p>	<p>Environment</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that there was limited response to the emails inviting people to join the working party, this is included in the new Newsletter and he will await responses from that.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the 5 planters had been ordered, due for delivery on the 14th December. Councillors suggested that Singleton's be asked to position the planters at the agreed locations and fill them with soil, Clerk to action. Cllr Deeming to check if any planning permissions are required.</p> <p>The Clerk reported he had progressed the Tesco Bags of Help Gran application for Myhill field, a photograph and some more information is required before submission.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that a submission for a grant from the New Homes fund has been submitted for new benches on the Stocken, this was due for discussion at BDC on the 14th November and a decision is awaited.</p> <p>There has been no response regarding a new litter bin on the Cofton Fields play area, Clerk to progress.</p> <p>Councillors agreed to take no action on the communication regarding superfast broadband.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Deeming</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>112/16</p> <p>112.1/16</p> <p>112.2/16</p> <p>112.3/16</p> <p>112.4/16</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that application 16/0932 for internal alterations at Cofton Hall had now passed its deadline and would be going ahead.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that application 16/1016 had been received for extensions and alterations to 183 Barnt Green Road. It was agreed that Councillors would visit the site before submitting their response.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that the application for development of the whole site was being submitted this week, to include 180 homes at the bottom end and 150 homes at the top end to bring the total of new homes up to 600. This application will include the new Village Hall, Cllr Westbury will obtain detailed plans for the hall and hold an open meeting for residents.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires had now all been received back and there will be a further meeting at the end of January before preparation of the final draft.</p>	Cllr Duncan / Deeming

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action																																										
<p>113/16</p> <p>113.1/16</p> <p>113.2/16</p>	<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>A list of bills for payment was circulated and agreed:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="288 465 1209 1043"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Alvechurch Parish Council</td> <td>Councillor Training</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grant Thornton</td> <td>External Audit</td> <td>£240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting</td> <td>£80.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Npower</td> <td>Street Lighting Sensor</td> <td>£203.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Npower</td> <td>Street Lighting Sensor</td> <td>£3,674.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Webb Developments</td> <td>Noticeboard Groveley Lane</td> <td>£1,193.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shelagh O'Loughlin</td> <td>Bulbs for Planting</td> <td>£145.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proper Agency</td> <td>Website October</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting</td> <td>£80.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nigel Williamson</td> <td>Lenghtsman Duties</td> <td>£265.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Salary October / November</td> <td>£481.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax Payment October / November</td> <td>£120.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Expenses October / November</td> <td>£58.60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Total	Alvechurch Parish Council	Councillor Training	£40.00	Grant Thornton	External Audit	£240.00	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£80.98	Npower	Street Lighting Sensor	£203.81	Npower	Street Lighting Sensor	£3,674.71	M Webb Developments	Noticeboard Groveley Lane	£1,193.40	Shelagh O'Loughlin	Bulbs for Planting	£145.50	Proper Agency	Website October	£30.00	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£80.98	Nigel Williamson	Lenghtsman Duties	£265.20	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary October / November	£481.64	HMRC	Tax Payment October / November	£120.41	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Expenses October / November	£58.60	<p>Cllr Duncan</p>
Supplier	Services	Total																																										
Alvechurch Parish Council	Councillor Training	£40.00																																										
Grant Thornton	External Audit	£240.00																																										
Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£80.98																																										
Npower	Street Lighting Sensor	£203.81																																										
Npower	Street Lighting Sensor	£3,674.71																																										
M Webb Developments	Noticeboard Groveley Lane	£1,193.40																																										
Shelagh O'Loughlin	Bulbs for Planting	£145.50																																										
Proper Agency	Website October	£30.00																																										
Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£80.98																																										
Nigel Williamson	Lenghtsman Duties	£265.20																																										
Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary October / November	£481.64																																										
HMRC	Tax Payment October / November	£120.41																																										
Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Expenses October / November	£58.60																																										
<p>114/16</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Cllr Deeming reported that there had been complaints about the bonfire held at Cofton Church Lane, Clerk to write to Barnt Green Scouts asking that they do not hold it there in future.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>																																										
<p>115/16</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.45pm</p> <p>Next Parish Council meeting was agreed as Monday 12th December 2016 at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Clerk to check Hall is booked.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>																																										