

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th January 2018

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
Cllr Mr M Pattison
Cllr Mr J Slack
Cllr Ms W Birch

Apologies:

None

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau (AB)

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
001/18	Apologies There were no apologies, all Councillors were in attendance.	
002/18	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	
003/18	Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received.	
004/18	Public Forum There were no members of the public in attendance,	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
005/18	Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor There were no outside bodies in attendance.	
006/18	Previous Minutes The minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 18 th December 2017 were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Westbury seconded by Cllr Duncan with all in favour.	
007/18 007.1/18	Chairman's Report Cllr Deeming reported that there are a number of proposals for changes to bus routes in the South Birmingham area and offered apologies to Cllr Fay for not supporting her proposals at last month's meeting. Cllr Webb added that she felt that the issuing of timetables to residents is a good idea and would be useful. Cllr Fay to follow up.	Cllr Fay
008/18 008.1/18 008.2/18 008.3/18 008.4/18	Community Services Cllr Duncan reported that there had been no progress on the Smartwater initiative. Councillors recognised that Smartwater kits had been issued to residents in Rubery at a cost of £3. Cllr Pattison reported that at the recent PACT meeting, Councillor McDonald promised to assist with funding for the kits. Cllr Slack pointed out that there are small and large packs and the £3 cost may be for the smaller packs. Cllr Pattison reported that following an attempted break-in on Cofton Fields, he had written to John Campion (Police and Crime Commissioner). Mr Campion has assured Cllr Pattison that the retiring Police Officer will be replaced, any PCSOs who leave will also be replaced and that resources will be maintained at current levels. There will, however, be changes in staffing at more senior levels with inspectors having wider responsibilities. Cllr Webb reported no progress on the specification for Village Hall refurb – deferred to next meeting. Cllr Duncan reported that the meeting with St Modwen regarding the new Community Centre has been put back to 23 rd January, Cllr Duncan to feed back at the next PC meeting.	Cllr Webb Cllr Duncan
009/18 009.1/18 009.2/18	Communications Cllr Westbury reminded Councillors that he will be producing the Winter Newsletter in the new year and asked Councillors to submit their items to him before the end of January. Cllr Pattison and the footpaths warden have already submitted items. Cllr Westbury reported that a letter from a resident which appeared in the Village Magazine made several unfair comments and it was felt a response needed to be made from the Parish Council. A letter from Cllr Deeming has been submitted for the next magazine.	All
010/18 010.1/18	Highways and Bridges Cllr Pattison reported that St Modwen have informed him that grit bins have been ordered for the Cofton Fields area, Cllr Pattison to feed back at next meeting.	Cllr Pattison

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010.2/18	Councillors requested that the Clerk order additional grit bins from WCC, for Kendal Drive (replacement) and the corner of Oakfield Drive and Parsonage Drive. Clerk also to pursue cost of filling of Parish Council grit bins with local suppliers.	Clerk
010.3/18	Cllr Fryer reported that the potential new lengthsman did not appear to be interested in the post, Clerk to write to County Clerks to see if existing lengthsman may be interested.	Clerk
010.4/18	Cllr Fay reported that the lantern for the new lamp post 40 on Groveley Lane had still not been fitted and she was in contact with the supplier, fitting is imminent.	
010.5/18	The Clerk reported he had requested a quote to cut back the vegetation around the lamp post near the play area, this is constantly lit and needs investigation.	
010.6/18	Cllrs Fay and Pattison reported they have requested a quote from a contractor to make good the grass verges damaged by Kelly Communications. Clerk to follow up with Kelly Comms, Cllr Deeming to ask the DC when grass cutting will occur.	Clerk Cllr Deeming
011/18	Environment	
011.1/18	Cllr Slack reported that it was not possible to site a steel container at the Myhill Field allotments as access was impossible. Councillors requested the Clerk pursue quotes for a suitable steel shed which can be erected on site and concrete base.	Clerk
011.2/18	The Clerk reported that the vacant allotment plot had now been taken on by residents from Hurricane Avenue and he would be sending the agreement and keys shortly.	Clerk
011.3/18	Councillors agreed to continue with a small annual increase in allotment rents, rents will increase by £1 per plot for 2018. Clerk to issue rental demands.	Clerk
011.4/18	Cllr Slack noted that the Council's internal audit recommended regular inspection of the play equipment on Myhill field by a 'competent person' – this can be a Councillor. It was agreed that Councillors would take turns to inspect the play area on a monthly basis, Clerk to provide a suitable tick-list sheet, Cllr Birch to carry out the first inspection. The Clerk advised that this in no way made the inspecting Councillor liable for any accidents which may occur.	Clerk
012/18	Planning	
112.1/18	Cllr Duncan reported that the application for a new dwelling at 16 Cofton Church Lane had been refused by the planning department.	
112.2/18	Cllr Duncan reported that he and Cllr Fryer had visited the site for application 17/01133 at 17 Cofton Lake Road and have no objections to the application.	
112.3/18	Application 17/01246 for the installation of a lift at the Archer's, has been granted.	
112.4/18	The application for a large extension at 36 Reservoir Road was requested to be called in by the Planning Committee, no news on this currently.	
112.5/18	Cllr Duncan reported that the Parish Council, Lickey and Blackwell PC and the Lickey Hills Society had raised strong objections to application to remove condition C2 at the Nursing Home. Despite this the application has been granted. The Parish Council has however received assurances that the property will continue to be used for health and care purposes.	

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112.6/18	Cllr Duncan reported that application 18/0005 had been received for a side extension at 412, Groveley Lane, similar applications have been received in the past. Cllr Duncan and Fryer to visit the site.	Cllr Duncan / Fryer																											
112.7/18	Cllr Duncan reported that concerns had been raised regarding the development at 6 Ashmead Drive. Neighbours have asked if the height of the new roof is in accordance with plans. Clerk to request an enforcement officer visit.	Clerk																											
112.8/18	Councillors raised concerns about that state of buildings at Kathy's Corner and the Old Post Office and asked if anything could be done. Clerk to contact BDC.	Clerk																											
113/18	Finance and General Purposes																												
113.1/18	A list of bills for payment was circulated and agreed:																												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="296 777 655 815">Supplier</th> <th data-bbox="660 777 1066 815">Services</th> <th data-bbox="1070 777 1233 815">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 822 655 860">Cofton Spark</td> <td data-bbox="660 822 1066 860">Street Lighting</td> <td data-bbox="1070 822 1233 860">£159.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 866 655 904">Kompan</td> <td data-bbox="660 866 1066 904">Play Area Balance</td> <td data-bbox="1070 866 1233 904">£20,654.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 911 655 949">Worcestershire CALC</td> <td data-bbox="660 911 1066 949">Training, Cllr Slack</td> <td data-bbox="1070 911 1233 949">£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 956 655 994">Cofton Spark</td> <td data-bbox="660 956 1066 994">Street Lighting</td> <td data-bbox="1070 956 1233 994">£100.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1001 655 1039">GJH Electrical Services</td> <td data-bbox="660 1001 1066 1039">Xmas Tree Lights</td> <td data-bbox="1070 1001 1233 1039">£123.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1046 655 1084">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="660 1046 1066 1084">Salary December / January (by SO)</td> <td data-bbox="1070 1046 1233 1084">£421.58</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1090 655 1128">HMRC</td> <td data-bbox="660 1090 1066 1128">Tax Payment December / January</td> <td data-bbox="1070 1090 1233 1128">£105.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="296 1135 655 1160">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="660 1135 1066 1160">Expenses December / January</td> <td data-bbox="1070 1135 1233 1160">£60.34</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Amount	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£159.00	Kompan	Play Area Balance	£20,654.25	Worcestershire CALC	Training, Cllr Slack	£30.00	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£100.70	GJH Electrical Services	Xmas Tree Lights	£123.60	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary December / January (by SO)	£421.58	HMRC	Tax Payment December / January	£105.40	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Expenses December / January	£60.34	
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113.2/18	<p>Councillors discussed the 2018/19 budget and precept demand. Cllr Webb presented the current budget position and the expected position at financial year end, she suggested a 4% increase in the precept demand against last year. Cllr Slack suggested that a higher increase was necessary to allow funds to be earmarked for grants for community facilities. Cllr Slack proposed a 14% increase in the precept demand. Councillors voted on the proposal, which was rejected by 5 votes to 3.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury proposed a slightly lower increase of 9%, after discussion, Councillors voted and approved this proposal with 6 in favour and 2 abstentions. The precept demand for 2018/19 will therefore be £35,534.</p> <p>Clerk to investigate maximum allowance for section 137 payments.</p>	Clerk																											
113.3/18	Cllr Slack reported that the Risk Assessment needs review, Cllr Slack to send original to Cllr Webb for review.	Cllr Slack / Cllr Webb																											
114/18	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>																												
115/18	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting was agreed as Monday 19th February 2018 at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.35pm</p>																												