

# Cofton Hackett Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 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 Mr M Pattison  
 Cllr Mr J Slack  
 Cllr Ms W Birch

#### Apologies:

Cllr Ms C Fryer

#### Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau (AB)

#### Members of the Public

7 members of the public were in attendance.

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
116/18	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Fryer (family commitment), these were accepted.	
117/18	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> Register of Interests: <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>	
118/18	<b>Dispensations</b> There were no applications for dispensations received.	
119/18 119.1/18	<b>Public Forum</b> Residents from Middle Drive attended to express their concerns regarding the gas pipe renewal works in Middle Drive. The Clerk asked if residents had been informed by letter	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
119.2/18	<p>before the work commenced, all attendees said they had not been informed, but a letter had been received on the 17<sup>th</sup> February even though work had commenced on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. Attendees said they felt aggrieved with what was happening especially after similar works carried out for Virgin Media, and rumours that Severn Trent Water will also need to dig up pavements again.</p> <p>Attendees said they felt that the contractors carrying out the work (Cadent Gas) are inconsiderate and disrespectful and that residents have been left with no gas supply at very inconvenient times. Residents felt that the contractors have been employing bullying tactics. They added that grass verges are being ploughed up and driveways blocked. Cllr Fay reported that she and Cllr Pattison had visited sites following the Virgin Media work and had several meetings with the contractors (Kelly Communications), resulting in an agreement that Kelly Communications will fund remedial work to grass verges.</p> <p>Attendees reported that residents of Oakfield Drive had been informed of the work to take place, one attendee suggested that Cadent Gas had maybe made an error and started work in Middle Drive before residents there had been informed. Cllr Fay agreed to visit the site the following day and speak to the contractors, she said she will also contact County Councillor Peter McDonald. Attendees supplied their contact details so that Councillors can contact them to feed back.</p> <p>Residents of Ten Ashes Lane attended to raise the issue of motorists contravening the 'No Access' restriction on Ten Ashes Lane. Mr Frank Lancaster supplied data relating to the number of vehicles passing through illegally and quoted a figure of 514 vehicles per day. He added that the problem existed during the times Rover Group car plant was in operation, ceased to be an issue when the plant closed and has now become an issue again since the new development at Cofton Field has been built, Councillors expressed their view that they did not feel this was the only reason.</p> <p>Several potential solutions have been suggested to the Highways Authority, but none have been accepted as viable. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council is prepared to support residents on this issue but that it is a local police responsibility regarding enforcement. Letters received by Mr Lancaster from Rt Hon Sajid Javid also reflect this position. Councillors agreed they will ask the County highways department and the local police force to attend the next Parish Council meeting where attendees can present their case.</p>	<p>Cllr Fay</p> <p>Clerk</p>
120/18	<p><b>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</b></p> <p>County Councillor Peter McDonald was unable to attend but sent the following report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>There will be a 5% increase on the council tax and further cuts (at the moment some £27m). In an attempt to balance the books the Council is now spending its reserves which will mean there will be severe cuts next year when the reserves have all been used up. The Council's budget over eight years has been slashed by £300m reducing it from just over £600m to just over £300m.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Although some services have gone altogether and those that are left have been severely cutback and the workforce over five years being cut by over 1,500, the Council now employs more people on over £100,000 (7) than they did five years ago.</i></li> <li>3. <i>The County is now reviewing Short Term Respite Centres catering for those over 18 with learning difficulties. Their aim is to shut those they feel are being under used. This in addition to the review (threatening closures) going on regarding day centres (Wendren Centre Bromsgrove) for those over 18 with learning difficulties and the proposed closure of the Ludlow Road Unit Kidderminster.</i></li> <li>4. <i>The Council are continually putting their employees under pressure due to the cutbacks which</i></li> </ol>	

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion and Decisions</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p><i>has resulted in the Council paying out £100,000 a year on suspensions.</i></p> <p>Councillors queried point 4 and asked that the Clerk clarify with Cllr McDonald.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>121/18</b>	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Meeting of the Council dated 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were agreed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Westbury seconded by Cllr Duncan with all in favour.</p>	
<b>122/18</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>There was nothing additional to report.</p>	
<p><b>122/18</b></p> <p>122.1/18</p> <p>122.2/18</p> <p>122.3/18</p> <p>122.4/18</p>	<p><b>Community Services</b></p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that a reply had been received from Cllr McDonald who is unable to provide any financial support for Smartwater kits, stating that the Parish Council should use its own funds. The Clerk reported he had received a reply from West Mercia Police, which he will forward to Cllr Duncan.</p> <p>Cllr Webb reported no progress on the specification for Village Hall refurb – deferred to next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that the meeting with St Modwen regarding the new Community Centre had taken place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. St Modwen have indicated that tenders for the building of the Community Centre will be issued in April this year with a view to completing the building by November. He added that the steering group now needs to start work and a meeting is being held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February to discuss.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that solicitors now need to be engaged on the project, there was an initial estimate of £2k to £3k. However it is thought that setting up of the Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) could be achieved at a cost of £900, and legal services for transfer of the lease from St Modwen for around £750.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury asked if the Parish Council would agree in principal to fund these services, all Councillors were in agreement.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Webb</b></p>
<p><b>123/18</b></p> <p>123.1/18</p> <p>123.2/18</p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that the Winter newsletter had been prepared and was ready to go to print, the only outstanding item being an agreed item on the precept demand. Councillors discussed the wording of the item and agreed a minor amendment. Clerk to make the amendment and send to print.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury asked Councillors to consider a proposal for additional funding payable to Lickey and Blackwell executive officer for additional work required to take the Neighbourhood Plan to its conclusion. This would be for a maximum payment of £180 per month until October. Cllr Webb asked for clarification on a number of points relating to the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Westbury said he expected the plan to be passed in May but work would continue with the planning inspector leading to a referendum toward the end of the year. Cllr Slack proposed the payment be agreed, seconded by Cllr Pattison with all in favour (Cllr Deeming abstained due to a potential conflict of interests).</p>	<b>Clerk</b>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion and Decisions</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>124/18</b></p> <p>124.1/18</p> <p>124.2/18</p> <p>124.3/18</p> <p>124.4/18</p> <p>124.5/18</p> <p>124.6/18</p>	<p><b>Highways and Bridges</b></p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported that St Modwen have now delivered 2 new grit bins on the Cofton Fields area, these are yellow in colour and will be filled by St Modwen until such time as they are handed over to the highways authority.</p> <p>Clerk to pursue an order for 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.</p> <p>The Clerk reported there had been no progress with a search for a lengthsman. Clerk to contact the executive officer at Barnt Green to see if she can help.</p> <p>Cllr Fay reported that the lantern for the new lamp post 40 on Groveley Lane had now been fitted.</p> <p>The clerk reported he had received a quote for £160 to cut back vegetation around the lamp post near the play area, which is constantly lit. Councillor agreed to proceed with this work but asked that John Sadler be consulted before work commences.</p> <p>The clerk reported that Kelly Communications had agreed to pay for remedial work on the grass verges. Councillors asked that this work be delayed until the current gas pipe works are completed. Clerk to inform Kelly Communications.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>125/18</b></p> <p>125.1/18</p> <p>125.2/18</p> <p>125.3/18</p>	<p><b>Environment</b></p> <p>It was agreed the clerk will seek quotes to install a steel shed, including preparation of a new base, on the allotment area near Myhill field.</p> <p>Cllr Webb reported that she had concerns regarding the wall on the play area at Myhill Field and asked that a surveyor be engaged to provide a report on its condition. Councillors agreed, clerk to contact surveyor.</p> <p>Cllr Birch reported she had prepared a check-list for regular inspection of the play area by Councillors. Cllr Birch to make the first inspection, Cllr Pattison volunteered to inspect next month.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Birch</b> <b>Cllr Pattison</b></p>
<p><b>126/18</b></p> <p>126.1/18</p> <p>126.2/18</p> <p>126.3/18</p> <p>126.4/18</p> <p>126.5/18</p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that retrospective application 18/00136 for some minor works at 518 Groveley Lane had been received, Councillors had no objections to the application.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that application 18/00005 for a side extension at 412 Groveley Lane had been refused, although Councillors had raised no objections to the application.</p> <p>Application 17/01452 for a timber building at 6 Cofton Church Lane has been withdrawn.</p> <p>The application 17/01273 for a large extension at 36 Reservoir Road, which Councillors felt should be called in by the Planning Committee, has been granted.</p> <p>Cllr Duncan reported that the District Council are holding planning training sessions and asked Councillors if they wished to attend. Cllrs Duncan and Pattison will attend the March 7<sup>th</sup> session, Cllr Fay will also attend if possible, clerk to invite Cllr Fryer and book the session.</p>	<p></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>

