

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th June 2020

This Meeting was held On-Line and via Dial-In due to Covid-19 Restrictions

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mr R Westbury (Chair)

Cllr Mr M Pattison

Cllr Mr J Slack

Cllr Mr R Deeming

Cllr Mrs J Webb

Cllr Mr G Cook

Cllr Mrs J Fay

Cllr Ms C Fryer

County Cllr Mr P McDonald

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

None

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
075/20	Apologies There were no apologies, all Councillors were in attendance.	
075/20	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	
076/20	Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received.	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
<p>077/20</p> <p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were 3 members of the public in attendance.</p> <p>077.1/20</p> <p>A question was asked about planning application 19/01153, for 150 dwellings together with access, parking, landscaping and associated works at the Longbridge East And River Arrow Development Site. Cllr Deeming commented that there had been significant delays in the determination of this and other applications due to the Covid-19 situation. The next planning meeting is on June 29th. Cllr Deeming agreed to inform Councillors when the application is being discussed.</p> <p>077.2/20</p> <p>Residents from Ashmead Rise provided an update on the situation regarding the installation of several new telegraph poles. Residents have sent an email to the Parish Council asking that it provides further support to residents in their campaign to have the poles removed. Cllr Westbury advised that the email had been received too late to be considered at this meeting, but that the Clerk would circulate the email to Councillors for their attention and a response will be provided as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Clerk added that he had received a brief communication from Openreach stating that they were not prepared to remove the poles but this communication had not been sent to residents or to the County Councillor.</p> <p>Councillors thanked the two residents for their hard work on this issue, they then left the meeting.</p>		<p>Cllr Deeming</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>078/20</p> <p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>078.1/20</p> <p>Cllr Deeming reported that fencing has been knocked down at Cofton Lake and people have been observed swimming there. Due to the dry weather the water level is very low. Cllr Slack noted that the area is private land and the Parish Council has no jurisdiction.</p> <p>078.2/20</p> <p>County Councillor McDonald joined the meeting and advised that he had received no communication from Openreach or BT regarding Ashmead Rise and that he would be following this up at the end of the week.</p> <p>078.3/20</p> <p>County Councillor McDonald reported that there will be an announcement regarding bus service number 202 (Halesowen to Bromsgrove) on Wednesday and is hoping an agreement will be reached.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Cllr McDonald for attending, he then left the meeting.</p>		
<p>079/20</p> <p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 18th May 2020 were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.</p>		
<p>080/20</p> <p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>080.1/20</p> <p>Cllr Westbury advised that there were currently no changes to arrangements for Parish Council meetings due to the Covid-19 situation, however it is hoped that Village Halls may be able to open in some capacity from July 6th.</p>		

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<p>081/20</p> <p>081.1/2</p> <p>081.2/20</p> <p>081.3/20</p> <p>081.4/20</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>The Clerk summarised changes which have been made to the layout of the Council's budget document, which had been circulate to Councillors during the week. He advised that a number of cost centres had been expanded to show greater clarity in categories of spend. He briefly explained the current expenditure vs budget situation and said that there will need to be some adjustments between cost centres later in the year. Councillors were in agreement with the changes.</p> <p>Cllr Deeming reported that St Modwen's have still not released the £47,200 section 106 monies which are due to be paid to the PC for open spaces. He suggested that there may be no movement on this until Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.</p> <p>The Clerk again asked that Cllrs Cook and Deeming return any paperwork they have been sent by Unity Trust bank and to get themselves set up on on-line banking.</p> <p>A list of bills for payment was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="300 831 1174 1193"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Zoom Subscription 1 Month</td> <td>£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting</td> <td>£107.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shelagh O'Loughlin</td> <td>Plants for Planters</td> <td>£111.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Lengthsman Services</td> <td>£240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Grass Cutting x 3</td> <td>£375.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Salary May / June 2020 (by S/O)</td> <td>£580.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax Payment May / June (by SO)</td> <td>£145.23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Office Costs May / June</td> <td>£45.80</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Payment	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Zoom Subscription 1 Month	£14.39	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting	£107.90	Shelagh O'Loughlin	Plants for Planters	£111.77	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£240.00	Gary Haynes	Grass Cutting x 3	£375.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary May / June 2020 (by S/O)	£580.91	HMRC	Tax Payment May / June (by SO)	£145.23	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs May / June	£45.80	<p>Cllrs Deeming / Cook</p>
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<p>082/20</p> <p>082.1/20</p> <p>082.2/20</p> <p>082.3/20</p> <p>082.4/20</p> <p>082.5/20</p>	<p>Highways and Environment</p> <p>The Clerk advised that he had held further discussions with Openreach regarding damage to sewers at Cofton Hackett Village Hall. He advised that Openreach have now suggested the offending telegraph pole will need to be moved. The Clerk awaits further information from Openreach.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that a third quote for repair of the soft play area had been requested but that the area needs to be measured. Clerk to ask lengthsman to measure the area.</p> <p>Cllr Fay reported that she had been contacted by a resident on Groveley Lane advising that there was an issue with rats which appear to be coming from the holding tank near the Oak Tree pub. Worcestershire County Council and Severn Trent have both been informed. Cllr Fay to report at next meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had received a call from tree surgeons, working for Birmingham City Council, to say that they had damaged a lamp post on the embankment near the flagpole. They have agreed they will pay for any repairs. The post has been made safe and a report received from the Council's contractor. The post is very badly damaged and will require a full replacement. The Clerk has advised the tree surgeons of the likely cost of replacement and awaits a reply. Clerk to monitor.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the faulty street light in Middle Drive has been repaired. The LED replacement at Reservoir Road is awaiting parts.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Fay</p> <p>Clerk</p>																											

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
082.6/20	The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month. Grass cutting will return to fortnightly frequency.	
083/20 083.1/20 083.2/20 083.3/20 083.4/20	Community Services Cllr Pattison reported that there had been no further communication from St Modwen regarding the proposal for access to the Old Sewage Works allotment site. He advised that due to the Covid-19 situation, all non-essential work has been paused by St Modwen and Mainstay and this will mean some further delays to progress on the issue. He also advised that a natural spring has sprung on the border of the allotment area and there may be some subsidence as a result. The Clerk reported that he had now received a full quote for supply and installation of a replacement flagpole. Supply of the flagpole is £800 plus VAT and delivery, installation and disposal of the old pole a further £580. Councillors felt that this is a reasonable sum for a new flagpole and that being able to see flags flying enriches the area and is residents are complimentary, especially for important annual events. Cllr Deeming proposed that the quote be accepted and a new flagpole be supplied and installed, this was seconded by Cllr Slack with all in favour. Clerk to proceed with purchase. Cllr Pattison advised that he had received quotes from Mainstay for the installation of a dog waste bag dispenser at Arrow Park, the costs being £350 for installation plus £350 per annum for refilling with bags. Councillors agreed this is not a good use of Council money and that responsible dog owners usually carry their own supply of bags. Cllr Pattison to inform residents The Clerk advised that the new noticeboard for Cofton Village Hall has been delivered. However it has been found that the ground at the installation site is very hard and will require a heavy duty breaker. The installer has asked that the Council indemnify him against any damage caused to cables or pipes. Cllr Slack suggested asking Bennimans for plans of the site and services laid in the ground. Cllr Slack to approach Bennimans.	 Clerk Cllr Pattison Cllr Slack
084/20 084.1/20	Planning Application 20/00521, extension to existing data hall at The Cofton Centre was considered by Cllrs Fay and Webb. The Parish Council have no comments, Clerk to post.	 Clerk
085/20 085.1/20	Communications Cllr Westbury thanks Councillors for their contributions to the Summer newsletter. This will again be an on-line version made available on the PC's website. Clerk to collate and publish.	 Clerk
086/20 086.1/20	Correspondence Received The Clerk reported he had received an email from Trusloves to say that the new tenant at the Mission Hall wishes to proceed with their tenancy from the 1 st August 2020.	
087/20	Items for Next Meeting	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
087.1/20	The Council's annual return will need to be approved at the next meeting.	
088/20	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 20th July at 7.30pm, Clerk will advise meeting details.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.30pm.</p>	Clerk