

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th October 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 Ms C Fryer

Cllr Mr G Cook

Cllr Mrs J Fay

County Cllr Mr P McDonald

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

None

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
127/20	Apologies There were no apologies, all Councillors were in attendance.	
128/20	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	
129/20	Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received.	
130/20	Public Forum	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
130.1/20	<p>A resident from Barnt Green Road raised an issue regarding lighting at the front of the Mission Hall building, which she and another resident considered to be a nuisance, causing light pollution into their homes. She said that the light stays on until 9pm and is often switched on from 6.30am in the morning. She added that she felt disappointed that the Parish Council had agreed to rent the building for use a gym / fitness centre without first consulting residents living nearby. She also reported that some of the exercise classes were using loud music which could be heard in homes.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury responded that Councillors had considered an email complaint from a resident and also a response from the new tenants. He added that it was understood that Worcestershire Environmental Health Department had been contacted, had spoken with the new tenants and were satisfied with arrangements made by them. Councillors felt that it was not unreasonable for the light to be left on until 9pm and was unlikely to be any more intrusive than street lighting. Cllr Westbury said that the Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation. Clerk to advise Mission Hall tenants and resident.</p>	Clerk
130.2/20	<p>The resident asked Councillors to be aware that there has recently been one confirmed and one unconfirmed incident of hate crime in the Parish and that the anti-immigration group 'Hundred Handers' had placed an inflammatory sticker on a road sign in the village. She added that one family had been subjected to hate crime over a long period. This has been taken forward to the District Council. Cllr Westbury advised that the Parish Council was aware of the sticker and that police had been informed.</p>	
130.3/20	<p>The resident suggested that Parish Council meetings could be held at different times of the day to possibly attract parents of young children to join the Parish Council. This was discussed briefly but it was recognised that it is difficult to find a time which suits everyone, as some Councillors have day-time jobs.</p>	
130.4/20	<p>A second member of the public, a resident of Birmingham, joined the meeting to report on incidences of hate crime and domestic abuse on the new Cofton Fields estate, she spoke about the 'Give Racism the Evils' campaign. County Cllr McDonald suggested that the two residents should contact him directly with any information they have so that he can take up the case immediately with the relevant police departments. He assured residents that he would act quickly on these issues.</p>	
131/20	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Cllr McDonald reported that there are very few County meetings being held currently, the next meeting is in two weeks' time. He advised that adult day centres are to reopen although facilities may be limited. He also reported that the new mural near Cofton Village Hall should be erected shortly. There being no further questions, Cllr McDonald left the meeting.</p>	
132/20	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 21st September 2020 were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.</p>	
133/20	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>133.1/20 Cllr Westbury reported that NALC advice is to continue to hold Council meetings on-line, particularly considering the age profile of the Council's members. He added that there is still no date set for the Council's Annual Meeting.</p>	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
<p>134/20</p> <p>134.1/20</p> <p>134.1.1/20</p> <p>134.1.2/20</p> <p>134.1.3/20</p> <p>134.2/30</p> <p>134.2/20</p>	<p>Conflicts of Interest and Dispensation Requests</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that written dispensation requests had been received from Cllrs Westbury, Pattison and Slack requesting that they be granted dispensations to exempt them from the consequences of Section 31(4) of the Localism Act in relation to participating in discussions and/or voting on any items regarding Cofton Village Hall, as they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (trustees of the Village Hall). The request is made on the basis of the Localism Act 2011 S33(2)(a) that having regard to all the relevant circumstances, the Parish Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considers that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business, and the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area <p>Resolved: to grant a dispensation to Councillor Westbury to allow him to participate in and vote on such matters.</p> <p>Resolved: to grant a dispensation to Councillor Pattison to allow him to participate in and vote on such matters.</p> <p>Resolved: to grant a dispensation to Councillor Slack to allow him to participate in and vote on such matters.</p> <p>Resolved: That the dispensations will apply until the date of next elections (May 2023). Clerk to process and retain on file.</p> <p>Similar dispensation requests for Cllrs Webb and Deeming deferred to next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>135/20</p> <p>135.1/20</p> <p>135.2/20</p> <p>135.3/20</p> <p>135.4/20</p> <p>135.5/20</p> <p>135.6/20</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had received two quotes for the replacement of the boiler at the Mission Hall, both quotes were c.£2,000 and within a few pounds of each other. Councillors discussed and agreed their preferred contractor for this work. Resolved: to commit funds of £2,100 to replace the boiler at the Mission Hall. Clerk to advise contractor and advise new tenants that they will be responsible for maintenance and servicing of the new boiler.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had followed up with St Modwen regarding any progress with access to the Old Sewage Works but had as yet received no response. Clerk to enquire again in two months' time.</p> <p>Section 106 monies status carried forward to next meeting, Cllr Deeming to report.</p> <p>Cllr Fay said she was pleased that the Parish Council had agreed to grant £500 to Bromsgrove Citizen's Advice Bureau at its previous meeting, as in previous years this had been declined against her wishes.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on current budget vs expenditure status, pointing out items of overspend against budget and items which are underspent.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that he is working on the draft budget for 2021/22 and had input line items suggested by Cllrs Pattison and Slack. Cllr Fryer suggested that additional funding for Community Engagement should be included this year, Clerk to increase Section 137 budget line. Clerk to present full draft at next meeting with a copy to all 2 weeks before.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Deeming</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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135.7/20	<p>A list of bills for payment was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="300 338 1257 1059"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Citizen's Advice Bureau</td> <td>Grant</td> <td>£500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting Maintenance</td> <td>£107.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting Make-safe Lickey Road</td> <td>£110.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust Bank</td> <td>Bank Charges</td> <td>£24.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haven Power</td> <td>Street Lighting Electricity September 2020</td> <td>£230.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haven Power</td> <td>Street Lighting Sensor Electricity Sept 2020</td> <td>£6.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worcestershire CALC</td> <td>Clerk Training</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worcestershire CALC</td> <td>Clerk Training</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worcestershire CALC</td> <td>Clerk Training</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting Maintenance</td> <td>£515.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Opus Energy</td> <td>Mission Hall Electricity Final Bill</td> <td>£139.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting Maintenance</td> <td>£107.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Lengthsman Services</td> <td>£244.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Grass Cutting</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Salary September / October 2020 (by S/O)</td> <td>£595.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax Payment Sept / October 2020 (by S/O)</td> <td>£148.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Office Costs August / September</td> <td>£62.06</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Payment	Citizen's Advice Bureau	Grant	£500.00	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting Maintenance	£107.90	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting Make-safe Lickey Road	£110.00	Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges	£24.15	Haven Power	Street Lighting Electricity September 2020	£230.78	Haven Power	Street Lighting Sensor Electricity Sept 2020	£6.97	Worcestershire CALC	Clerk Training	£40.00	Worcestershire CALC	Clerk Training	£40.00	Worcestershire CALC	Clerk Training	£40.00	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting Maintenance	£515.80	Opus Energy	Mission Hall Electricity Final Bill	£139.14	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting Maintenance	£107.90	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£244.50	Gary Haynes	Grass Cutting	£250.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary September / October 2020 (by S/O)	£595.33	HMRC	Tax Payment Sept / October 2020 (by S/O)	£148.83	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs August / September	£62.06	
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136/20	<p>Highways and Environment</p>																																																							
136.1/20	<p>The Clerk reported that he is waiting for the Council's insurance company to give clearance for replacement of the lamp post on the embankment near the flagpole. Clerk to follow up.</p>	Clerk																																																						
136.2/20	<p>The Clerk reported he had begun discussions regarding preparation of a plan for replacement of all sodium street lights with LED. Councillors asked if in the meantime, failed sodium lamps could be replaced with LED as a matter of course. Clerk to look at the position regarding stocks of sodium lamps and discuss with contractor.</p>	Clerk																																																						
136.3/20	<p>Cllr Pattison reported that Mainstay have now instigated management fees on the new estate of £173.44 per household per annum. This is a 28% increase on the proposed fees and is in contradiction to their promise of minimal increases. Residents will be challenging the fees until there are parliamentary changes.</p>																																																							
136.4/20	<p>The Clerk reported that the Parish's approved street lighting contractor has proposed an increase in call out charge from £47.50 to £55 per call out. This would be the first increase since 2017. The Clerk advised that the contractor continues to be reliable, responsive at all times of the day, quick to make repairs and popular with residents. Cllr Pattison added that the contractor knows the Parish well and that he is also pleased with the service. Cllr Pattison proposed that the increase in callout charge be accepted. Resolved: to agree to the proposed increase in call-out charge. Clerk to inform contractor.</p>	Clerk																																																						
136.5/20	<p>The Clerk reported on the status of street lighting faults, there are none outstanding at this point.</p>																																																							

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136.6/20 136.7/20	The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month. Cllr Pattison reported that he had carried out the monthly check on the play area at Myhill Field, there are no new major issues. He asked that Kompan check timbers on the play equipment when they visit to repair the climbing frame. Clerk to ask lengthsman to put more cable ties on the junior swings.	Clerk
137/20 137.1/20	Community Services Cllr Slack reported that Cofton Village Hall Trustees are planning to install a defibrillator at or near Cofton Village Hall, County Councillor McDonald has provided a grant of £1,000 towards its purchase and installation. However, this sum will only fund installation of the defibrillator within the grounds of the Village Hall. In order to install the defibrillator in a position where it can be utilised at any time, a powered cabinet with mounting posts needs to be installed. This will cost an additional £1,500. Cllr Slack proposed that the Parish Council provide a grant for the extra funding. Resolved: to grant a sum of £1,500 to Cofton Village Hall CIO towards the installation of the defibrillator.	
138/20	Planning No planning applications received this period.	
139/20 139.1/20	Communications Cllr Westbury advised that he would like to issue the Winter newsletter in time for Xmas and asked all Councillors to send their contributions by the 3 rd week in November.	All
140/20 140.1/20	Correspondence Received The Clerk reported he had received an enquiry regarding the vacant Councillor position and would send on information.	Clerk
141/20	Items for Next Meeting None requested.	
142/20	Confidential Item The Clerk left the meeting so that Councillors could discuss the outcome of his recent appraisal.	
143/20	Date of Next Meeting The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 16th November at 7.30pm, Clerk will advise meeting details. The meeting ended at 8.50pm.	