

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 16th November 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

County Cllr Mr P McDonald

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr G Cook
Cllr Mrs J Fay

Also in Attendance:

Mr Richard Peace (The Village Magazine)

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
144/20	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Fay (bereavement) and Cllr Cook (technical issues), these were accepted.	
145/20	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	

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146/20	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>See item 151/20.</p>	
147/20	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were no members of the public in attendance.</p>	
<p>148/20</p> <p>148.1/20</p> <p>148.2/20</p> <p>148.2/20</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Cllr McDonald reported that the Austin / Rover mural due to be erected near Cofton Village Hall should be in place shortly. He said that there are some issues regarding payments for kinship carers which he is trying to get resolved.</p> <p>The Clerk asked if there is any funding available from Worcestershire County Council to assist the Parish Council with a programme to upgrade street lighting to LED. Cllr McDonald suggested that the Parish Council writes to the Chief Executive at WCC.</p> <p>The Clerk asked if there had been any progress on repairing the footway at Kendal End Road, which he had reported to WCC during the month. Cllr McDonald said that a request for repair had been submitted more than a year ago, he will continue to monitor the situation. There being no further questions, Cllr McDonald left the meeting.</p>	Clerk
149/20	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 19th October 2020 were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.</p>	
<p>150/20</p> <p>150.1/20</p> <p>150.2/20</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>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. This situation may change after December 2nd, Clerk will monitor.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury asked that The Clerk arrange for flowers and a condolence card be sent to Cllr Fay, to the value of c.£30.</p>	Clerk
151/20	<p>Conflicts of Interest and Dispensation Requests</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that written dispensation requests had been received from Cllrs Deeming and Webb 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 Hackett Village Hall, as they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (trustees of Cofton Hackett 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 	

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151.1.1/20	Resolved: to grant a dispensation to Councillor Deeming to allow him to participate in and vote on such matters.																																		
151.1.2/20	Resolved: to grant a dispensation to Councillor Webb to allow her to participate in and vote on such matters.																																		
151.1.3/20	Resolved: That the dispensations will apply until the date of next elections (May 2023). Clerk to process and retain on file.	Clerk																																	
I 52/20	Finance and General Purposes																																		
152.1/20	The Clerk reported that the new boiler has been installed at the Mission Hall and he has received the installation certificate. Whilst carrying out the installation, the contractor discovered a plastic pipe which needed to be converted to copper as per current regulations, the cost of this additional work was £188. Due to the urgent nature of the work the Clerk agreed this could be done. The work to improve drainage at the rear of the building has also been completed. The Clerk advised that he is seeking quotes to repair part of the retaining wall at the rear of the building.	Clerk																																	
152.2/20	The Clerk reported that he had now received a form from Bromsgrove District Council to initiate the payment of Section 106 monies amounting to £50,4486. He advised that due to the age of the initial request, allocation of funds to different projects needs to be reconsidered. It was agreed to allocate funds as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access works and new allotments at the Old Sewage Works site - £35,000 - Improvements to existing allotments - £4,000 - Improvements to Myhill Field play area - £4,000 - Street furniture and planters - £3,000 - Improvements to Lickey Road car park - £4,000 Clerk to submit request for payment.	Clerk																																	
152.3/20	The Clerk advised that a further £37,800 (minimum) is due on the completion of Phase 3 developments. Cllr Pattison advised this may not be for 2 or 3 years.																																		
152.4/20	The Clerk reported on current budget vs expenditure status, pointing out items of overspend against budget and items which are underspent.																																		
152.5/20	The Clerk presented a draft budget for 2021/22, which included a proposed 3% increase to the precept. The final precept figure is subject to change when Council Tax Base figures are received. Councillors were generally in agreement with the draft budget. Clerk to present full draft at next meeting with a copy to all 2 weeks before.	Clerk																																	
152.6/20	A list of bills for payment was presented and agreed.																																		
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	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Stationery (Filing)	£10.98	
	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Printer Cartridges (from Viking)	£105.58	
	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary October / November 2020 (by S/O)	£619.22	
	HMRC	Tax Payment October / Nov 2020 (by S/O)	£154.80	
	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Backpay June - October 2020	£93.70	
	HMRC	Tax on above	£23.43	
<p>I 53/20</p> <p>I 53.1/20</p> <p>I 53.2/20</p> <p>I 53.3/20</p> <p>I 53.4/20</p> <p>I 53.5/20</p> <p>I 53.6/20</p> <p>I 53.7/20</p>	<p>Highways and Environment</p> <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> <p>The Clerk and Cllr Pattison reported that they had received no responses from St Modwen regarding any progress with access to the Old Sewage Works. It was agreed to follow up again in the New Year.</p> <p>The Clerk reported he had received budgetary costs for a programme of work to replace all old street lamps with LED. This amounted to c.£35,000. It was agreed that this could not be considered in the current budget but that conversions should continue as and when old lights fail. Clerk to investigate any possible grant funding for LED replacement.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on the status of street lighting faults, there are none outstanding at this point.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the chains on the swings at the play area had been replaced, and the joints in the soft surface had been repaired. The climbing net is due to be repaired this week. He advised that a replacement for the spring rocker toy could cost between £1,300 and £4,000. It was agreed to use S106 monies for any further play area improvements.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported that he had carried out the monthly check on the play area at Myhill Field, there are no new major issues.</p>			<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>I 54/20</p> <p>I 54.1/20</p>	<p>Community Services</p> <p>Cllr Fryer advised that Santa's Sleigh will visit Cofton Hackett on 12th December with elves delivering presents to local children. Social distancing guidelines will be strictly adhered to.</p>			
<p>I 55/20</p> <p>I 55.1/20</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>Application 19/01153 - residential development consisting of 146 dwellings together with access parking, landscaping and associated works. - The Clerk advised that the Council's objection, drafted by Cllr Pattison, had been submitted to Bromsgrove District Council. The planning committee for this application is deferred until January 2021. Councillors felt that St Modwen will take this application to appeal and asked that the Clerk contact Sajid Javid MP to raise concerns with him. Clerk to draft wording of letter for approval.</p>			<p>Clerk</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
155.2/20	Application 20/01291. Single storey rear extension, 38 Oakfield Drive – Cllr Webb advised she had considered this application and recommended that the Council submit no objections.	Clerk
156/20 156.1/20	Communications Councillors discussed on-line vs printed versions of the newsletter and agreed that the in-line version is most likely not reaching many of the residents in Cofton Hackett, It was agreed, for the winter 2020 period, to publish a single page update in The Village magazine, at a cost of £150. Cllr Westbury and the Clerk to agree content.	Clerk / Cllr Westbury
157/20	Correspondence Received Nothing to report.	
158/20	Items for Next Meeting None requested.	
159/20	Date of Next Meeting The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 14th December at 7.30pm, Clerk will advise meeting details. The meeting ended at 8.45pm.	