

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 14th December 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 J Slack
Cllr Mr R Deeming
Cllr Mrs J Webb
Cllr Ms C Fryer
Cllr Mr G Cook

County Cllr Mr P McDonald

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mrs J Fay
Cllr Mr M Pattison

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
160/20	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Fay (bereavement) and Cllr Pattison (work commitments), these were accepted.	
161/20	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	
162/20	Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received.	

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<p>163/20</p> <p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were 4 members of the public in attendance.</p> <p>163.1/20</p> <p>Two members of the public, representing Cofton Gardens Association, raised an issue regarding flooding on the bottom third of the Cofton Gardens area, which has been a problem for most of the year. The flooding appears to have occurred since the building of the new houses by St Modwen, the representatives asked if Councillors were aware of what might have caused this and what could be done to assist. Cllr Webb agreed that the flooding had occurred relatively recently. It appears to have occurred since the lake was drained and it was suggested that silt in the lower pool may be contributing to the problem.</p> <p>Councillors pointed out that Mainstay, the company responsible for maintenance on the new development, would not yet have taken responsibility for the ‘pond’ area and that responsibility still lies with St Modwen. Cllr Cook said that the dam has some minor leaks but is properly constructed and would not be a contributor to the problem. He added that the River Arrow diversion may have caused a blockage or impeded drainage to the lower pool. Cllr Slack said that he and Cllr Pattison had discussed the issue previously. Cllr Deeming said that he had discussed this with Bromsgrove District Council but that as this is private land, it is the responsibility of St Modwen.</p> <p>It was agreed that Cllr Pattison would be asked to discuss the problem with Cofton Gardens reps and then speak with St Modwen. The Cofton Gardens representatives then left the meeting.</p> <p>163.2/20</p> <p>Two members of the public, who had expressed an interest in the Parish Council vacancy, gave a brief introduction to themselves and were invited to stay for the rest of the meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr Pattison</p>	
<p>164/20</p> <p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>164.1/20</p> <p>Alison Brinkworth, Census Engagement Officer, gave a presentation to introduce arrangements for the Census in March 2021. She thanked the Parish Council, Cofton Village Hall and Cofton Hackett Village Hall, for assisting with publicity for the census. She then left the meeting.</p> <p>164.2/20</p> <p>County Cllr McDonald reported that the Austin / Rover mural due to be erected near Cofton Village Hall should be in place shortly. There being no further questions, Cllr McDonald left the meeting.</p>		
<p>165/20</p> <p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 16th November 2020 were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.</p>		
<p>166/20</p> <p>Chairman’s Report</p> <p>166.1/20</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. He said the Zoom meetings are proving effective. Clerk will monitor the situation.</p>		<p>Clerk</p>

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167/20	Finance and General Purposes																																											
167.1/20	The Clerk reported that he had received the report from the External Auditor for the Annual Governance and Accountability return. There was one minor issue raised, regarding a refund from WPD, which should have been shown as net against the original payment, rather than income. Otherwise the return was signed off.																																											
167.2/20	The Clerk reported he had received a quote for repair of the retaining wall at the Mission Hall and was awaiting further quotes. The quote received was for a sum of £5,000, which is a considerable, unexpected cost. At Cllr Slack's suggestion, it was agreed that a proper survey of the soil bank behind the building should be commissioned, so that recommendations of what needs to be done to secure the bank can be obtained. Cllr Cook agreed to seek advice on what type of surveyor needs to be engaged.	Cllr Cook																																										
167.3/20	The Clerk reported that he had submitted the request for payment of Section 106 monies amounting to £50,4486, from Bromsgrove District Council. This has not, as yet, been received. Clerk and Cllr Deeming to follow up with BDC.	Clerk, Cllr Deeming																																										
167.4/20	The Annual Report for Cofton Village Hall had been circulated to Councillors since the last meeting. Cllr Slack, on behalf of CVH Trustees, said that the hall is doing well but had been negatively impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. He asked if Councillors had any questions regarding the report. Cllr Deeming asked if people from Tier-3 areas were being refused access to the Hall, Cllr Slack responded that this is not a legal requirement.																																											
167.5/20	The Clerk reported on current budget vs expenditure status, pointing out items of overspend against budget and items which are underspent.																																											
167.6/20	The Clerk presented the final draft budget for 2021/22, with an anticipated precept demand figure of £46,683, which represents a 4.23% increase against 2020/21. However, he said that this was based on the 2020/21 Council Tax Base number of 1050 dwellings, as the 2021/22 figure is not yet available. The number is likely to be higher and will allow the precept to be increased slightly, with the difference added to earmarked reserves. There will be no corresponding percentage increase for householders. He added that the final percentage increase to householders will be held between 3% and 4.23% and he will bring the final precept proposal to the January meeting.	Clerk																																										
167.7/20	A list of bills for payment was presented and agreed.																																											
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	Cofton Spark	Xmas Tree Lights, Pruning etc	£980.35	
	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs	£64.89	
	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary November / December 2020 (by S/O)	£619.22	
	HMRC	Tax Payment Nov / December 2020 (by S/O)	£154.80	
<p>168/20</p> <p>168.1/20</p> <p>168.2/20</p> <p>168.3/20</p> <p>168.4/20</p> <p>168.5/20</p>	<p>Highways and Environment</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he is still 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 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>Cllr Pattison had sent his report for the monthly check on the play area at Myhill Field, there are no major issues.</p> <p>Councillor discussed the rates for rental of allotments for 2021. Resolved that rentals be increased by £1 per plot as per recent years. Clerk to send out demands.</p>			<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>169/20</p> <p>169.1/20</p> <p>169.2/20</p>	<p>Community Services</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the work on the Christmas Tree at Lickey Road had been completed, with the tree pruned and new, multi-coloured lights installed, as agreed by email chain during the month. Councillors were pleased with the result. Clerk to ask contractors not to carry out any further work on the tree without a written order.</p> <p>Cllr Fryer reported that the Santa's Sleigh event was successful and was well received by residents and their children. Due to the lack of 'elves', the collection for disadvantaged children was lower than anticipated. She asked if the Parish Council was prepared to contribute to the collection. The Clerk advised that any contribution must be seen to directly benefit residents of Cofton Hackett. Councillors were asked to submit suggestions via email to the Clerk</p>			<p>Clerk</p> <p>All</p>
<p>170/20</p> <p>170.1/20</p> <p>170.2/20</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>Application 19/01153 - residential development consisting of 146 dwellings together with access parking, landscaping and associated works. An amended application has been submitted with very little change. Councillors agreed that the Council's previous objection still stands.</p> <p>Application 20/01517. Single storey side and rear extension, 29 Oakfield Drive – Cllr Webb advised she had considered this application and recommended that the Council submit no objections.</p>			<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>171/20</p> <p>171.1/20</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that the Parish Council's page in the Village Magazine had been effective and will be considered for future communications.</p>			

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<p>172/20</p> <p>172.1/20</p> <p>172.2/20</p>	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>The Clerk reported he had received a request from a resident to apply shielding to a street light in Reservoir Road. Clerk to check if this is an LED conversion.</p> <p>The Clerk reported he had received an offer to assist with training for the new defibrillator at Cofton Village Hall. Clerk to pass offer to Village Hall management.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>173/20</p>	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <p>None requested.</p>	
<p>174/20</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Westbury thanked all Councillors for their hard work during the year and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 18th January at 7.30pm, Clerk will advise meeting details.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.10pm.</p>	