

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15th March 2021

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 Mrs J Fay
Cllr Mr M Pattison
Cllr Mrs J Webb
Cllr Mr R Deeming
Cllr Mr G Cook
Cllr Mr N Banyard

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr L McGarry

Also in Attendance:

1 member of the public
Richard Peach, Editor, The Village Magazine

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
031/21	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr McGarry (illness), these were accepted.	
032/21	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	
033/21	Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received.	

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034/21	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There was 1 member of the public in attendance, no questions were asked.</p>																															
035/21	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>There were no outside bodies in attendance.</p>																															
036/21	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 15th February 2021 were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.</p>																															
037/21	<p>Chairman's Report</p>																															
037.1/21	<p>Cllr Westbury thanked all Councillors for persevering with the on-line meeting format during the pandemic. He said that current legislation allows meetings to be held on-line until May 7th, so the Council's meeting in May will be face-to-face, with the rule of 6 applied, unless the deadline is extended, Clerk will monitor CALC and NALC guidance.</p>	Clerk																														
037.2/21	<p>Cllr Westbury confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 27th, as an on-line meeting. The meeting will be advertised in the Village Magazine which will be distributed in good time to inform residents. Residents will be asked to contact the Clerk for the meeting ID if they wish to join. Clerk to prepare wording.</p>	Clerk																														
037.3/21	<p>The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on 17th May, we await guidelines from CALC and NALC.</p>																															
038/21	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p>																															
038.1/21	<p>Cllr Cook reported that a LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) scan is to be carried out on the area around the Mission Hall to measure the extent of the old quarry workings behind the hall. This should help to ascertain how much retaining works may need to be implemented. He said he will report back via the Clerk when the survey is completed.</p>	Cllr Cook																														
038.2/21	<p>The Clerk reported on current budget vs expenditure status, pointing out items of overspend against budget and items which are underspent.</p>																															
038.3/21	<p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p>																															
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038.4/21	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs Feb / Mar	£51.20	Clerk
	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary Feb / Mar 2021 (by S/O)	£619.22	
	HMRC	Tax Payment Feb / Mar 2021 (by S/O)	£154.80	
	Cllr Westbury suggested the new flag should be flown only in special occasions, Clerk to enquire.			
039/21	Highways and Environment			Clerk
039.1/21	Cllr Pattison reported that he had received a response from St Modwen regarding access to the Old Sewage Works Site, hopefully there will be some positive news soon.			
039.2/21	Cllr Pattison advised that at a recent meeting with residents, Mainstay were asked if an independent survey could be carried out on the balancing pond. A response is awaited.			
039.3/21	The Clerk reported that all the pro-forma invoices for replacement of the damaged lamp post on the embankment near the flagpole have been paid and an insurance claim submitted. The new post and fittings have arrived. The work to replace the post is now scheduled for 30 th March.			
039.4/21	The Clerk reported on the status of street lighting faults. There have been LED conversions on failed lights at Chestnut Drive and Middle Drive and on 2 failed lights at Cofton Church Lane. There is one intermittent fault on Ashmead Drive, which is being investigated.			
039.5/21	The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month. It was agreed that 2 large bags of scalpings should be purchased, at a cost of £60, to help with muddy areas on the Stocken. Clerk to inform lengthsman.			
039.6/21	The Clerk advised on potential costs for 'Pick Up After Your Dog' warning signs, it was agreed to purchase 5 x A4 aluminium signs and fittings. Clerk to advise costs before purchase.			
039.7/21	The Clerk advised that 2 quotes had been received for fencing along the boundary of the Council owned land near Myhill Field. Councillor Slack asked that a quote be obtained for more secure palisade fencing.			
039.8/21	The Clerk reported that a quote of £925 had been received for replacement of the gates at the entrance to the allotments. Resolved to instruct contractor to install new gates at a cost of £925.			
039.9/21	The Clerk advised that bags of salt/grit for icy roads and pavements would cost around £5-£8 per 25kg. It was agreed that, now the icy weather appears to have passed, the Clerk will bring this item back for consideration in September / October.			
039.10/21	Cllr Westbury reported that the graffiti on the play area wall had now been cleaned by Bromsgrove District Council, and anti-graffiti paint is to be applied. The cost of this is £228, which the Neighbourhood Watch team have offered to pay. Councillors expressed their thanks to Neighbourhood Watch, Clerk to write to NW.			
039.11/21	Cllr Pattison reported that he had carried out the monthly inspection of the play area at Myhill Field, there are no major issues. He reported that one of the posts on the climbing net has a split, but this does not appear to be a safety issue. The ROSPA inspection is due in March and will confirm if any remedial work is needed.			
039.12/21	The Clerk reported that 1 of the 3 outstanding rental payments had been received, and a			

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	second was expected this week. The holder of the third unpaid plot has decided not to renew his rental. Clerk to offer the plot to the person next on the waiting list.	Clerk
040/21 040.1/21	Community Services Councillors discussed a letter from a resident asking that the Council apply for listed status for the Bilberry Centre on Rose Hill, now unused and owned by Birmingham City Council. Cllr Cook and Fay felt that an application should be made for listing of the building. Cllr Slack advised caution in that the Parish Council would not be best placed to become responsible for it. After some discussion, Councillors agreed that they first need to ascertain what plans Birmingham City Council have for the building. Cllr Fay agreed to make contact with Birmingham to try to find out and will report back to the April meeting.	Cllr Fay
041/21 041.1/21 041.2/21 041.3/21 041.4/21 041.5/21	Planning 21/00157/FUL – Rear and side extension, 77 Barnt Green Road. Councillors had no objection to this application. 21/00199/FUL - Erection of single storey rear extension to existing hot food takeaway, 1 Parsonage Drive. Cllr Fay will visit and report back to Clerk. 21/00167/FUL – Rear extension, 20 Hurricane Avenue. Councillors had no objection to this application. 21/00296/FUL – Ground floor rear and side extension, 31 Oakfield Drive. Councillors had no objection to this application. 21/00240/FUL - Second storey side /rear extension forming new bedroom and bathroom, 422 Groveley Lane. It was noted that this application has been withdrawn. Clerk to post Council’s remarks on BDC portal.	Cllr Fay Clerk
042/21 042.1/21	Communications Cllr Westbury asked that items for The Village Magazine be sent to the Clerk before 22 nd March.	All
043/21 043.1/21 043.2/21	Correspondence Received The Clerk reported on additional correspondence received. Haven Power have notified that the electricity supply contract is due for renewal and have quoted much higher prices. Clerk will speak with Haven Power and look for possible alternative suppliers. Also to speak with WPD regarding estimated power consumption. A resident has emailed complaining about parking of cars and volume of traffic on Russel Street. Cllrs Pattison and Cook advised that Russel Street is as yet unadopted and the situation is likely to improve when construction in the area is completed. Clerk to write to resident.	Clerk Clerk

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
044/21	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <p>None requested.</p>	
045/21	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 19th April 2021 at 7.30pm, Clerk will advise meeting details.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.45pm.</p>	