

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th April 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 L McGarry
Cllr Mr N Banyard

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

None

Also in Attendance:

1 member of the public
County Councillor Peter McDonald

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
046/21	Apologies There were no apologies, all Councillors were in attendance.	
047/21	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	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
048/21	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
049/21	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There was 1 member of the public in attendance, recently moved to Cofton Hackett, who expressed an interest in agenda item 11.2.</p>	
<p>050/21</p> <p>050.1/21</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Councillor Peter McDonald was asked about a letter from Worcestershire County Council, recently received by a resident. The letter stated that rocks placed on the grass verge outside the resident's house, to discourage parking of vehicles on the verge, must be removed. Cllr Fay suggested this is unfair on residents who take pride in maintaining their properties and the grass verges, as parking of cars is causing the verges to be churned up.</p> <p>Cllr McDonald said that the County Council, in its capacity as maintainer of highways, will always insist that residents do not place large stones etc on grass verges to prevent parking of vehicles. The reasoning is that, should anyone be injured due to the presence of such items, the County Council would be liable for compensation for injury. Councillors pointed out that there are other properties in the Parish where rocks have been placed without WCC asking for them to be removed, he suggested that in this case, it was possible another resident had drawn this to their attention. Cllr Fay asked if WCC will repair verges damaged by vehicles, Cllr McDonald said that this occurs on a regular basis.</p> <p>Councillor McDonald then suggested that a possible solution which may be allowed, is to plant a tree or trees on the verge. This would need to be approved by WCC and the type of tree would need to be from an approved list. He asked that the resident contact him directly. Clerk to respond to resident.</p> <p>There being no further questions, Cllr McDonald then left the meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
051/21	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 15th March 2021 were agreed as a correct record and will be signed by the Chairman at the next opportunity.</p>	
<p>052/21</p> <p>052.1/21</p> <p>052.2/21</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that there will be no face-to-face meetings until at least May 17th. The next Parish Council meeting will therefore be on-line. We continue to monitor guidelines from NALC and CALC.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reminded Councillors that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 27th, as an on-line meeting. The meeting has been advertised in the Village Magazine. The Clerk reported only one request to attend from the public so far. Clerk to post a reminder on Facebook.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

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053/21	Finance and General Purposes																																																																					
053.1/21	Cllr Cook reported that work is continuing on establishing the extent of stable rock in the area around the Mission Hall. Surveys are suggesting that the rock is quite close to the hall which may mean no additional retaining wall is required. A report should be available within the next week. Clerk to write to tenants explaining the situation.	Cllr Cook / Clerk																																																																				
053.2/21	<p>The Clerk reported that, in his calculations for the precept demand for 2021/22, an incorrect figure for the previous year's precept had been used. A figure of £44,790 for 2020/21's precept was used, the correct figure should have been £47,290 (a difference of £2,500). He explained that the effect on the actual percentage increases for a Band D household was minimal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original reported overall increase was 9.53%, the corrected percentage is 3.74% The original reported increase for a Band D household was 2.97%, the corrected percentage is 2.17% <p>Resolved: to accept the revised calculations for the 2021/22 precept.</p>																																																																					
053.3/21	The Clerk reported that at the end of financial year 2020/21, the Parish Council held reserves of £76,550, this is as forecast. The Council also received Section 106 monies of £50,486 during the year.																																																																					
053.4/21	A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.																																																																					
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<p>054/21</p> <p>054.1/21</p> <p>054.2/21</p> <p>054.3/21</p> <p>054.4/21</p> <p>054.5/21</p> <p>054.6/21</p> <p>054.7/21</p> <p>054.8/21</p> <p>054.9/21</p> <p>054.10/21</p>	<p>Highways and Environment</p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported that here had been no further communication from St Modwen regarding access to the Old Sewage Works Site, hopefully there will be some positive news soon. Cllr Webb asked that the original survey which established boundaries at the site be located and checked. Cllr Slack suggested that a survey should be carried out to establish the suitability of the site for allotments, before substantial funds are committed. Cllr Cook said he is considering companies which may be able to conduct such a survey.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison advised that there has been no response from St Modwen regarding an independent survey on the balancing pond. A response is awaited.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the damaged lamp post on the embankment near the flagpole has now been replaced and insurance repayments received, except for the £250 excess which is to be recovered from the third party responsible for the damage.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that a resident on Reservoir Road had asked if a shield could be fitted to the street lamp outside his house to reduce the amount of light entering his front rooms, at his own expense. Councillors felt this could set an undesirable precedent. Cllr McGarry offered to investigate the required standard LUX levels for street lighting and report back.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on the status of street lighting faults. There are two failures outstanding. Cllr Deeming reported a fault light outside the fish and chip shop, clerk to report to WCC.</p> <p>The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month. He explained that WCC are using a new format for reporting work done by the lengthsman, which is combined with the invoice submitted to WCC. This should make the process more streamlined.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that the 5 'Pick Up After Your Dog' warning signs had been installed by the lengthsman, at the locations requested.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that 3 quotes had now been received for palisade fencing along the boundary of the Council owned land near Myhill Field and summarised each quote. Councillors agreed that the fencing should be intalled and the lowest quote was selected. Resolved: to commit a sum of £4,573.69 to install fencing, subject to agreement from the Canal and River Trust and receipt of satisfactory references from the selected supplier. Funding should be taken from earmarked reserves.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported that the annual inspection of the play area had been completed by ROSPA. No serious issues were reported with only two very low risk items. Clerk to ask lengthsman to check tightness of the top bar on the climbing frame. There is some wear and tear to the grass surface and should be monitored.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported he had received a call explaining that the mower used for keeping the Old Sewage Works area in a tidy condition needed repair. Resolved – to donate a sum of £80 to replace the battery on the mower, Clerk to arrange payment.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Cook</p> <p>Cllr Pattison</p> <p>Cllr McGarry</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>055/21</p> <p>055.1/21</p>	<p>Community Services</p> <p>Cllr Fay reported she had attempted to contact Birmingham City Council regarding the future of the Bilberry Centre on Rose Hill, without success. She added she has now contacted Sajid Javid MP, and has received a reply stating he has asked the Chief Executive at Birmingham City Council to investigate and respond. Cllrs expressed</p>	<p>Cllr Fay</p>

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055.2/21	concern at the amount of fly tipping occurring there, the Clerk and a number of residents have reported this to Bromsgrove District Council. Councillors discussed days for flying of the Union Flag on the embankment and agreed that it should be flown only special days, such as the Queen's birthday, a royal visit to the area, and at the discretion of the Parish Council, on days of special local significance. Clerk to inform flag flyer.	Clerk
055.3/21	The Clerk reported he had received a request for pruning of a tree on an allotment plot at the rear of the Grove. It was agreed that the Clerk should visit the site to see if conditions of the rental agreement are being complied with. Cllr Cook asked if he could attend too.	Clerk
056/21	Planning	
056.1/21	Councillors discussed the revised plans for phase 3 of the Longbridge regeneration, which now exclude the controversial 5-storey apartment block. It was agreed the new proposals are more acceptable. Councillors asked if BDC might consider making access to the Old Sewage Works site a condition of granting this application. Clerk to enquire.	Clerk
056.2/21	21/00314/FUL – Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension, 22 Cofton Lake Road Road – Cllrs Webb / Fay - Councillors agreed no objections (Comments submitted prior to this meeting).	
056.3/21	21/00293/FUL – Ground Floor Rear Kitchen Extension, 2 Cofton Lake Road – Cllrs Webb / Fay - Councillors agreed no objections (Comments submitted prior to this meeting).	
056.4/21	21/00202/FUL – Conservatory to Rear Extension, 167 Barnt Green Road – Cllrs Webb / Fay - Councillors agreed no objections (Comments submitted prior to this meeting).	
057/21	Communications	
057.1/21	Cllr Banyard has suggested that the Council should look at improving its communications strategy, its web site and use of social media. Cllr Westbury suggested a working group should be formed, led by Cllr Banyard with the Clerk assisting. Cllrs McGarry and Pattison offered to join the group. Cllr Banyard to arrange first meeting and report back to the next meeting.	Cllr Banyard
058/21	Correspondence Received	
058.1/21	The Clerk reported he had received a call from a resident to say that the footpath between the Stocken and the new development includes a gate through which a mobility scooter cannot pass. Cllr Pattison added that the surface of the footpath is also eroding. Clerk / Cllr Pattison to contact Mainstay.	Clerk / Cllr Pattison
058.2/21	Cllr Westbury asked if Councillors would be interested in purchasing a 'Tommy' statue to be displayed on special occasions, such as VE day, possibly near the flagpole. The cost would be c.£200. Councillors were asked to give this some consideration.	All
059/21	Items for Next Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewal of street lighting electricity supply contract – Clerk - Consideration of Christmas lighting – Cllr Pattison 	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
060/21	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.30pm, this will be the Council's Annual Meeting. Clerk will advise meeting details.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.55pm.</p>	