

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st June 2021

Held at Cofton Village Hall, Village Hall Way, B45 8PD

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mr R Westbury (Chair)
Cllr Mr J Slack
Cllr Mrs J Fay
Cllr Mr M Pattison
Cllr Mr R Deeming
Cllr Mr N Banyard
Cllr Mr G Cook

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mrs J Webb
Cllr Mr L McGarry

Also in Attendance:

1 member of the public
County Councillor Adrian Kriss

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
076/21	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr McGarry (work commitments) and Cllr Webb (personal reasons).	
077/21	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	

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078/21	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
079/21	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There was 1 member of the public in attendance, no questions were asked.</p>	
<p>080/21</p> <p>080.1/21</p> <p>080.2/21</p> <p>080.3/21</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Councillor Adrian Kriss was in attendance.</p> <p>Cllr Kriss reported that in response to residents' requests he is asking Highways department about installing a properly lit, pedestrian crossing on Groveley Lane, although Highways have not yet agreed to anything.</p> <p>He explained that he is looking at the provision of social and hospital care including the accessibility of A&E, there is an issue with people attending who do not need emergency treatment. He also spoke about the increase in mental health and autism issues and the need for prevention and education.</p> <p>He spoke about the introduction of Business and Intellectual Property Centres which provide support and funding to business owners, entrepreneurs and inventors.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Cllr Kriss for attending, he then left the meeting.</p>	
081/21	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 17th May 2021 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>082/21</p> <p>082.1/21</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Westbury proposed, having met the eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two thirds of Councillors elected - The Clerk having achieved CiLCA qualification <p>That the Parish Council adopt the General Power of Competence, this was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Resolved: That Cofton Hackett Parish Council adopt the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2001 s.1-8).</p> <p>The Council must confirm that it meets the criteria at every annual meeting of the Council after ordinary elections (if it still does).</p>	
<p>083/21</p> <p>083.1/21</p> <p>083.2/21</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the internal audit for financial year 2020-21 had been held on June 2nd. Councillors have been supplied with a copy of the report, there are no major issues arising.</p> <p>A copy of the Annual Governance Statement had been circulated by the Clerk.</p> <p>Resolved: to approve the Annual Governance Statement for financial year 2020-21.</p>	

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083.3/21	<p>A copy of the Accounting Statement had been circulated by the Clerk. Resolved: to approve the Accounting Statement for financial year 2020-21.</p> <p>Clerk to complete annual return and send to external auditors.</p>	Clerk																																																			
083.4/21	<p>Cllr Cook reported that he awaits reports on the extent and condition of the bedrock behind the Mission Hall. He advised that the retaining wall bordering the Social Club is in a poor state and should be removed and rebuilt. Cllr Cook to advise on structural engineer. It was suggested residents living opposite the hall should be advised about potential works.</p>		Cllr Cook Clerk																																																		
083.4/21	<p>A copy of current expenditure vs budget had been circulated to Councillors, the Clerk advised that, due to some LED conversions, the electricity supply account was currently in credit, although this will still be overspent at the end of the year,</p>																																																				
083.5/21	<p>The Clerk advised that the annual subscription to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England was due. Councillors agreed this is a worthwhile cause and Cllr Cook agreed to continue to attend meetings on the Council's behalf. Resolved: to maintain the Council's subscription for the year at £36. Clerk to make payment.</p>		Clerk																																																		
083.6/21	<p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="300 958 1225 1653"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Zoom Subscription *</td> <td>£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting Maintenance</td> <td>£126.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Village Magazine</td> <td>News Item One Page May</td> <td>£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting Maintenance</td> <td>£98.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proper Agency</td> <td>Website Maintenance May 2021</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shelagh O'Loughlin</td> <td>Plants for Planters</td> <td>£49.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bill Robinson</td> <td>Internal Audit 2020-21</td> <td>£204.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Zoom Subscription</td> <td>£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Lengthsman Services</td> <td>£240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Grass Cutting</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Office Costs May / June</td> <td>£52.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CPRE</td> <td>Subscription</td> <td>£36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Salary May / June 2021 (by S/O)</td> <td>£619.22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax Payment May / June 2021 (by S/O)</td> <td>£154.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>* Approved and Paid During Month</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Supplier	Services	Payment	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Zoom Subscription *	£14.39	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting Maintenance	£126.95	The Village Magazine	News Item One Page May	£180.00	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting Maintenance	£98.00	Proper Agency	Website Maintenance May 2021	£30.00	Shelagh O'Loughlin	Plants for Planters	£49.50	Bill Robinson	Internal Audit 2020-21	£204.60	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Zoom Subscription	£14.39	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£240.00	Gary Haynes	Grass Cutting	£250.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs May / June	£52.30	CPRE	Subscription	£36.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary May / June 2021 (by S/O)	£619.22	HMRC	Tax Payment May / June 2021 (by S/O)	£154.80					* Approved and Paid During Month	
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084/21	<p>Highways, Environment and Open Spaces</p>	Clerk																																																			
084.1/21	<p>Cllr Pattison reported that St Modwen had asked for details of the Council's solicitors to hopefully progress access to Old Sewage Works site. Clerk to provide details.</p>																																																				
084.2/21	<p>Cllr Pattison advised that again there has been no response from St Modwen regarding an independent survey on the balancing pond, although the New Estate working group continues to press for this.</p>																																																				

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084.3/21	The Clerk reported that 3 letters had been received from residents regarding the Village Green access issue, these letters and the agreed response from the Council have been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk advised that a resident from Ten Ashes Lane had phoned to inform that he intended to prune trees on the green which are overhanging his property. Councillors reiterated that the Council will not become further involved in this dispute.	
084.4/21	The Clerk reported that street lighting faults are all currently resolved. He advised that one of the LED lamps, which had been the subject of a complaint, had been partly 'blacked out' to try to deflect light away from a resident's house. The cost to the Council was £98. The resident has suggested that the light is still too bright, although readings taken by the street lighting contractor suggest that the old SOX lamps are actually brighter than the new LEDs, even before the black paint is applied. Councillors agreed they are not prepared to fund any further work on this issue. Clerk to advise resident.	Clerk
084.5/21	Cllr Slack asked if a dead tree close to the new lamp post on Cofton Church Lane could be removed, Cllr Slack to provide contact detail of farmer, Clerk to follow up.	Cllr Slack / Clerk
084.6/21	There was no lengthsman report as the month's worksheet had not yet been submitted.	
084.7/21	The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with the Canal and River Trust to determine any possible additional costs (over and above the £380 initial fee) for the survey regarding fencing along the boundary of the Council owned land near Myhill Field. A response is awaited.	Clerk
084.8/21	The Clerk reported he had met with representatives from play equipment suppliers to discuss possible options for new items at the Myhill field play area and is awaiting quotes. He asked Councillors to agree a budget limit for any potential work, which would be funded from the Section 106 funds. Resolved: To allocate a budget of £5,000 for new play equipment at the Myhill Field play area. Clerk to pursue possible options.	Clerk
084.9/21	Cllr Pattison reported that he had carried out the monthly inspection of the play area at Myhill Field, there are no major issues.	
085/21	Community Services	
085.1/21	County Cllr Adrian Kriss reported that he is still awaiting responses from Birmingham City Council regarding the Bilberry Centre, he advised that communication with BCC is proving difficult. The Clerk reported that the Lickey Hills Society has made an application for the building to be added to the National Heritage List.	
085.2/21	The Clerk advised that he is meeting with electrical contractors to discuss potential options for Christmas lights for 2021, Clerk to report at next meeting.	Clerk
085.3/21	Cllr Slack advised that the Annual Public Meeting for Cofton Village Hall, to cover 2019 and 2020, is to be held on July 7 th at 7pm, this is in accordance with the terms of the lease.	
086/21	Planning	
086.1/21	The Clerk gave a brief summary on implications of Certificate of Lawfulness Applications, and will circulate the email from Bromsgrove District Council Planning. Planning applications which expired prior to meeting which were considered during the month:	Clerk

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086.2/21	21/00699/FUL - Proposed Employment Unit at the Cofton Centre, Groveley Lane – No objections.	
086.3/21	21/00603/FUL - Extension to front entrance porch and single storey rear extension – No objections	
086.4/21	21/00778/FUL - Residential development comprising 109 dwellings together with access, parking, landscaping and associated works, Longbridge East And River Arrow Development Site – The Council consider this to be a much more acceptable plan in terms of scale and layout and have no objections.	
086.5/21	21/00697/FUL - Single storey rear extension with alterations to existing single storey side extension, 49 Ashmead Drive – No objections	
086.6/21	Planning Applications for consideration at this meeting:	Cllr Webb
	21/00694/FUL - Single storey rear and two storey side extension, 20 Ashmead Drive – Cllr Webb not in attendance, to advise Clerk prior to expiry date.	
087/21	Communications	
087.1/21	It was agreed to publish a page in the next Village Magazine, items to Clerk before the end of June please.	All
087.2/21	Cllr Banyard reported that progress on the Communications Working group had been restricted by time constraints. However, a resident has offered to look at a redesign of the website at no cost, a very generous offer. Cllr Banyard suggested the Oakham Town Council website is an excellent example of a well-designed, informative and effective Council website and asked Councillors to visit the site and take a look.	All
088/21	Correspondence Received	
088.1/21	A facebook post has suggested that the Stocken footpath is overgrown with vegetation, Councillors who walk the route agreed that the overgrowth is not excessive.	
088.2/21	The Police and Crime Commissioner has sent an email asking Parish Councils to complete a survey which he hopes will help to ensure communities have the opportunity to shape policing priorities. Only one response per Council is allowed, the Clerk asked for a volunteer to complete the survey. Cllr Cook agreed. Clerk to forward email to Cllr Cook.	Clerk Cllr Cook
089/21	Items for Next Meeting	
	Cllr Deeming will bring details of St Modwen’s next phases of housing development at West Longbridge to the next meeting.	Cllr Deeming
090/21	Confidential Item	
	Councillors discussed the Clerk’s salary / hourly rate on completion of CiLCA qualification.	
091/21	Date of Next Meeting	
	The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 19th July 2021 at 7.30pm,	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	at Cofton Village Hall. The meeting ended at 9.00pm.	