

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th September 2021

Held at Cofton Village Hall, Cofton Hackett

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mr R Westbury (Chair)
Cllr Mr J Slack
Cllr Mrs J Fay
Cllr Mr M Pattison
Cllr Mr N Banyard
Cllr Mrs J Webb
Cllr Mr G Cook
Cllr Mr R Deeming (from 20:15)

APOLOGIES:

Andrew Billau, Clerk to the Parish Council
Cllr Mr L McGarry

Also in Attendance:

5 members of the public
County Councillor Adrian Kriss

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
112/21	Apologies Apologies were received from Andrew Billau – Clerk (Holiday) Cllr McGarry (Work commitments), these were accepted.	
113/21	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 noted to be recorded in the Register	

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114/21	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
<p>115/21</p> <p>115.1/21</p> <p>115.2/21</p>	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were 5 members of the public in attendance.</p> <p>Three members of the public enquired whether the Parish Council could support them in their complaint to National Express West Midlands that buses now idle for 10 minutes outside properties on Groveley Lane. This has resulted from a change in the route and presents a noise nuisance as well as regularly preventing residents from driving on and off their driveways. A formal complaint had been made, but no response received. It was explained that the Parish Council Clerk had written to the bus company and copied Cllr Adrian Kriss into the correspondence. It was noted that the bus stop outside the Village Hall would be a more appropriate start to the route and it was agreed to raise the matter with Cllr Kriss when he joined the meeting.</p> <p>Two members of the public attended to ask about the future of the Bilberry Centre. It was reported that the Clerk had received a phone call from a former representative of the Birmingham Boys Club, who planned to contact Ian Ward at BCC and to try to raise funds for its restoration. It was agreed to raise the matter further with Cllr Kriss when he joined the meeting.</p>	
<p>116/21</p> <p>116.1/21</p> <p>116.2/21</p> <p>116.3/21</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Councillor Adrian Kriss was in attendance from 8.15pm and contributed to several items on the agenda. He promised to contact National Express West Midlands over the issue raised in item 115.1/21 and to continue to seek a resolution to item 115.2/21.</p> <p>Cllr Kriss reported on the recent traffic survey on Barnt Green Road. During the period of the survey the mean average speed was 31/32 mph and, in the 85th percentile, 37/38 mph. In response, he plans to propose new traffic calming measures to WCC.</p> <p>The County Council has also recently cleaned the gutters on Groveley Lane. Cllr Kriss asked that he be informed if this was not done adequately.</p>	All
117/21	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 19th July 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 23rd August 2021 were agreed as a correct record and will signed by the Chairman at the next meeting.</p>	
118/21	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Westbury had nothing to report that was not covered on the agenda.</p>	
<p>119/21</p> <p>119.1/21</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>Resolved: to reapprove the revised Standing Orders as circulated. Clerk to publish.</p>	Clerk

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<p>119.2/21</p> <p>119.3/21</p> <p>119.4/21</p> <p>119.5/21</p>	<p>The Council discussed quotes received for provision of insurance for the next 12 months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecclesiastical have declined to quote (this will be the case for all Parish Councils) - Pen Underwriting quoted £6,048 plus £75 admin (excludes cover for impact damage) - Hiscox quoted £5,176 plus £75 admin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Quote is subject to excess for impact damage of £1,000 o Quote is subject to excess for glass damage at the Village Hall of £750 <p>The Clerk's recommendation was to select Hiscox. If the PC committed to a 3-year term with them the annual premium would reduce to £4,917 plus £75 admin. It was noted that this would exceed the budget set aside for insurance, but that the Council had sufficient reserves to cover this. Resolved: to accept the quote from Hiscox as the insurance provider for a 3-year term. Clerk to arrange.</p> <p>Cllr Cook gave an update on the condition of the retaining wall and bank at the rear of the Mission Hall. Some trees would need to be removed and stainless steel mesh laid to make the bank secure. A specification is being prepared and the trees identified.</p> <p>Cllr Slack presented an update on the current budget vs expenditure. Spend on street lighting electricity is nearing the budget, as expected. Excepting the insurance premium (119.2/21 above), everything else is within budget and there are no issues.</p> <p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 1032 1257 1552"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Haven Power</td> <td>Street Lighting Electricity *</td> <td>£291.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Haven Power</td> <td>Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *</td> <td>£10.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proper Agency</td> <td>Website Maintenance</td> <td>£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cofton Spark</td> <td>Street Lighting Maintenance</td> <td>£370.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Lengthsman Services (Expected)</td> <td>£300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Haynes</td> <td>Grass Cutting (Expected)</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Zoom Subscription</td> <td>£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Office Costs August / September</td> <td>£48.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td>Salary August / September 2021 (by S/O)</td> <td>£682.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC</td> <td>Tax & NI Payment Aug / Sept 2021 (by S/O)</td> <td>£198.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">* Approved and Paid During Month</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Payment	Haven Power	Street Lighting Electricity *	£291.99	Haven Power	Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *	£10.21	Proper Agency	Website Maintenance	£30.00	Cofton Spark	Street Lighting Maintenance	£370.00	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services (Expected)	£300.00	Gary Haynes	Grass Cutting (Expected)	£250.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Zoom Subscription	£14.39	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs August / September	£48.05	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary August / September 2021 (by S/O)	£682.88	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment Aug / Sept 2021 (by S/O)	£198.18	* Approved and Paid During Month			<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Cook</p>
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<p>120/21</p> <p>120.1/21</p> <p>120.2/21</p> <p>120.3/21</p>	<p>Highways, Environment and Open Spaces</p> <p>Cllr Webb reported that the Chair of Cofton Gardens would contact the Clerk to discuss allowing access for a mini-digger to the Old Sewerage Works Allotment Site. She understood that the conditions for access were that all communication goes via the Chair of Cofton Gardens; that any fences removed are replaced, that any damage is made good and that the digger is also used to clear the culvert on Cofton Gardens.</p> <p>The Clerk has now heard from Horton's (solicitors) who are acting on behalf of the Parish Council in the matter of providing permanent access to the Old Sewage Works allotment site. Clerk to provide an update on progress with St Modwen's solicitors,</p> <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 again continues to press for this.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>																																				

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124/21	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>None.</p>	
125/21 125.1/21	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Webb reported that the shrubs on Rose Hill island are in need of trimming, Clerk to obtain quote.</p>	Clerk
126/21	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 18th October 2021 at 7.30pm, at Cofton Village Hall.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.30pm.</p>	