

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th October 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 Mrs J Webb

Cllr Mr R Deeming

Cllr Mr L McGarry

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr G Cook

Cllr Mr N Banyard

Also in Attendance:

1 member of the public

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
127/21	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Cook (work commitments) and Cllr Banyard (illness), these were accepted.	
128/21	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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129/21	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
130/21	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There was 1 member of the public in attendance, no questions were asked.</p>	
131/21	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>There were no outside bodies in attendance.</p>	
132/21	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 20th September 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
133/21	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Westbury had nothing to report that was not covered on the agenda.</p>	
134/21	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>134.1/21 Resolved: to reapprove the revised Code of Conduct as circulated. Clerk to publish.</p> <p>134.2/21 Resolved: to cancel subscription to Zoom Premium services. It was agreed this could be restarted in future if necessary.</p> <p>134.3/21 The Clerk referred to the approval of the planning application for 109 dwellings at Longbridge East and advised that a Section 106 contribution of £27,468 will be due to the Council on completion.</p> <p>134.4/21 Councillors discussed the first draft budget for 2022/23 which had been circulated by the Clerk. Cllr Slack suggested an increase of 1.5% per household would be reasonable. The Clerk was asked to input draft budget numbers into the tax base and reserves calculations and bring back to the November meeting.</p> <p>134.5/21 Councillors expressed concern at the lack of progress on stabilisation of the retaining wall at the Mission Hall. The Clerk was asked to take on the project personally to progress it. Cllr McGarry suggested structural surveyors who may be able to help.</p> <p>134.6/21 The Clerk presented an update on the current budget vs expenditure. Spend on street lighting electricity is exceeding budget, as expected. Excepting the insurance premium, everything else is within budget and there are no issues.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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134.7/21	<p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 338 1257 1070"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="316 338 667 383">Supplier</th> <th data-bbox="667 338 1121 383">Services</th> <th data-bbox="1121 338 1257 383">Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 383 667 421">PKF Littlejohn</td> <td data-bbox="667 383 1121 421">External Audit 2020/21</td> <td data-bbox="1121 383 1257 421">£480.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 421 667 459">Drax (Haven Power)</td> <td data-bbox="667 421 1121 459">Street Lighting Electricity *</td> <td data-bbox="1121 421 1257 459">£282.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 459 667 497">Drax (Haven Power)</td> <td data-bbox="667 459 1121 497">Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *</td> <td data-bbox="1121 459 1257 497">£9.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 497 667 535">Proper Agency</td> <td data-bbox="667 497 1121 535">Website Maintenance</td> <td data-bbox="1121 497 1257 535">£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 535 667 573">Shelagh O'Loughlin</td> <td data-bbox="667 535 1121 573">Bulbs and Plants for Planters</td> <td data-bbox="1121 535 1257 573">£68.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 573 667 611">Andrew Billau</td> <td data-bbox="667 573 1121 611">Stationery (from Viking)</td> <td data-bbox="1121 573 1257 611">£67.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 611 667 649">Gary Haynes</td> <td data-bbox="667 611 1121 649">Lengthsman Services</td> <td data-bbox="1121 611 1257 649">£240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 649 667 687">Gary Haynes</td> <td data-bbox="667 649 1121 687">Grass Cutting</td> <td data-bbox="1121 649 1257 687">£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 687 667 725">Gary Haynes</td> <td data-bbox="667 687 1121 725">Play House Roof Painting</td> <td data-bbox="1121 687 1257 725">£61.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 725 667 763">Cofton Spark</td> <td data-bbox="667 725 1121 763">Street Light Maintenance</td> <td data-bbox="1121 725 1257 763">£300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 763 667 801">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="667 763 1121 801">Zoom Subscription</td> <td data-bbox="1121 763 1257 801">£14.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 801 667 840">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="667 801 1121 840">Office Costs September / October 2021</td> <td data-bbox="1121 801 1257 840">£43.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 840 667 878">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="667 840 1121 878">Salary September / October 2021 (by S/O)</td> <td data-bbox="1121 840 1257 878">£682.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 878 667 916">HMRC</td> <td data-bbox="667 878 1121 916">Tax & NI Payment Sept / Oct 2021 (by S/O)</td> <td data-bbox="1121 878 1257 916">£198.18</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 916 667 954"></td> <td data-bbox="667 916 1121 954"></td> <td data-bbox="1121 916 1257 954"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 954 667 1070">* Approved and Paid During Month</td> <td data-bbox="667 954 1121 1070"></td> <td data-bbox="1121 954 1257 1070"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Payment	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit 2020/21	£480.00	Drax (Haven Power)	Street Lighting Electricity *	£282.76	Drax (Haven Power)	Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *	£9.83	Proper Agency	Website Maintenance	£30.00	Shelagh O'Loughlin	Bulbs and Plants for Planters	£68.50	Andrew Billau	Stationery (from Viking)	£67.30	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£240.00	Gary Haynes	Grass Cutting	£250.00	Gary Haynes	Play House Roof Painting	£61.00	Cofton Spark	Street Light Maintenance	£300.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Zoom Subscription	£14.39	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs September / October 2021	£43.10	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary September / October 2021 (by S/O)	£682.88	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment Sept / Oct 2021 (by S/O)	£198.18				* Approved and Paid During Month			
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135/21	<p>Highways, Environment and Open Spaces</p> <p>135.1/21 The Clerk reported that allotment holders at the Myhill Field site had voted to replace the gates at the main entrance rather than at the secondary entrance, The Clerk advised Council had previously approved spend of £925 for replacement gates. Clerk to obtain revised quote and allocate to Section 106 spending.</p> <p>135.2/21 The Clerk reported that he had received a quote of £480 to prune trees and bushes at Rose Hill Island, which is comparable to last year's quote of £475. Cllr Webb asked that vegetation be cut back harder than in previous years. It was agreed to delegate approval for any reasonable additional spending to the Clerk.</p> <p>135.3/21 The Clerk suggested purchase of rock salt to be held by the lengthsman for refilling of grit bins if WCC are unable to refill quickly enough. Resolved: to purchase 10 x 25kg bags of rock salt at a cost of approx. £50. Cllr Webb asked that the damaged grit bin on the corner of Grovely Lane and Chestnut Drive be replaced,</p> <p>135.4/21 The Clerk reported that the Chair of Cofton Gardens has agreed that the Parish Council can access the Old Sewage Works site via Cofton Gardens on condition the boundary fencing is made good. He advised however that permission should be sought from the owners of 35 Oakfield Drive. Clerk to attempt to contact them again.</p> <p>135.5/21 The Clerk reported no progress 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 again contact Hortons and St Modwen's solicitors.</p> <p>135.6/21 Cllr Pattison reported that he had again spoken to St Modwen regarding the balancing pond, it has been suggested that residents may be asked to pay for dredging of the pond. Cllr Adrian Kriss has been asked to help as this is becoming an urgent issue,</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk / Lengthsman Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>																																																			

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135.7/21	The damaged railings on Rose Hill island have been made safe with a temporary barrier. Cllr Kriss is attempting to identify the vehicle owner for insurance purposes. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for their replacement.	Clerk
135.8/21	The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from National Express regarding buses stopping for breaks outside properties on Groveley Lane. It is unclear whether this problem has been resolved. Clerk to monitor.	Clerk
135.9/21	The Clerk reported that Transport for West Midlands had requested removal of the old bus shelter on Groveley Lane, near the Village Hall. The Council has requested a new, replacement shelter, this request has been received 'favourably'. Clerk to monitor.	Clerk
135.10/21	One street light had been reported as faulty on Ten Ashes Lane, this has now been repaired.	
135.11/21	The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month.	
135.12/21	The Clerk advised that the Council's bid for a Tesco Bags of Help grant, for the play area, is now in local branches for vote by customers.	
136/21	Community Services	
136.2/21	The Clerk reported no progress on information regarding the future of the Bilberry Centre although there appeared to have been some maintenance activity there. Clerk to monitor.	Clerk
136.3/21	Councillors discussed potential events for Christmas 2021. Cllr Pattison suggested people may not wish to attend such an event with the pandemic still not over. The Clerk was asked to contact Cofton Village Hall to see if there are any events proposed.	Clerk
137/21	Planning	
137.1/21	The following planning applications were received during the month: 21/01394/FUL – Increase in roof height to accommodate first floor accommodation, demolition of detached garage and construction of side extension – 149 Barnt Green Road. Cllr Slack had circulated plans during the month. It was agreed the Parish Council has no objections to this application.	Clerk
137.21	Communications	
137.1/21	The design of the new website is continuing and a meeting is to be held between Cllr Banyard and the developer / designer.	Cllr Banyard
138/21	Correspondence Received	
138.1/21	The Clerk reported on correspondence regarding pruning of trees on the Village Green at Lickey Coppice.	

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<p>138/21</p> <p>138.1/21</p>	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Westbury asked that parking restrictions at the Lai Ling restaurant be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>139/21</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 15th November 2021 at 7.30pm, at Cofton Village Hall.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.40pm.</p>	