

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th January 2022

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 R Deeming

Cllr Mr N Banyard

Cllr Mr G Cook

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr L McGarry

Cllr Mrs J Webb

Also in Attendance:

5 Members of the public

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
001/22	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr McGarry (illness) and Cllr Webb (illness), these were accepted.	
002/22	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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003/22	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
<p>004/22</p> <p>004.1/22</p> <p>004.2/22</p>	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were 5 members of the public in attendance.</p> <p>Residents from Lickey Coppice spoke about the street light outside their properties, which has been recently converted to an LED lamp. They said that the new lamp is extremely bright and is causing light pollution onto their driveways and into front rooms. Cllr Westbury explained the reasoning for replacement of failed sodium lamps with LED, readings taken on new lamps suggest that the light output from the new lamps is actually slightly lower than from the old sodium ones. Possible alternative solutions were discussed. Councillors agreed, in this instance, to ask the contractor to 'black out' part of the lantern to direct light downwards. Clerk and contractor will also research costs for fitting of modern LED lantern heads.</p> <p>A member of a local Scout group attended to speak about his attendance at the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea in 2023. Councillors were asked if they would be prepared to offer a grant towards the cost of attending. Councillors agreed that they were unable to agree to a grant as the Council's Grant Awarding Policy prohibits awarding of funds to an individual and that an award would not be of direct benefit to the community. It was suggested that, as the scout group is based in Lickey Parish, an application should be made to Lickey and Blackwell Parish Council. Councillors regretted that were unable to offer assistance but wished the Scouts well in their fundraising activities. The Clerk was asked to highlight the Scout's efforts with the Editor at The Village Magazine, Cllr Banyard suggested an item could be included on the Council's new website, once this is up and running.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
005/22	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>There were no outside bodies in attendance.</p>	
006/22	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 13th December 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
007/22	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>There was nothing additional to report which was not covered on the agenda.</p>	
<p>008/22</p> <p>008.1/22</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>The Clerk presented a revised draft budget and precept calculation. He advised that the tax base number was now published and is 1159, a 3.76% increase on last year. The budget has now been adjusted with an extra £1,000 contribution to reserves. The increase for a Band D property is calculated at 1.82%, complying with Council instructions to keep this below 2%. Resolved: To issue a precept demand of £51,830 to Bromsgrove District Council for the financial year 2022/23.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

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008.2/22	The Clerk advised that the tree felling work at the Mission Hall had been completed, invoice to follow.	Clerk																																												
008.3/22	The Clerk reported he had spoken to structural engineers regarding the retaining wall at the Mission Hall. The advice is to commission a full survey to examine the condition of the bank at the rear of the hall and make recommendations for making it safe. The cost of the survey has been quoted at £700. Resolved: To commit funds of £700 for the survey of the soil bank. Clerk to advise surveyor.																																													
008.4/21	The Clerk advised that all the allotment rental demands for 2022 had been sent out, 13 (of 18) have so far been paid.																																													
008.5/21	The Clerk presented an update on the current budget vs expenditure. Spend on street lighting electricity is exceeding budget, as expected, grass cutting budget is slightly overspent as agreed. He also highlighted underspent budget lines. Cllr Slack asked if the electricity contract could be 'fixed' for a 3 year period, Clerk to investigate.																																													
008.6/21	<p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="312 864 1278 1503"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="312 864 608 909">Supplier</th> <th data-bbox="608 864 1142 909">Services</th> <th data-bbox="1142 864 1278 909">Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 909 608 954">Unity Trust Bank</td> <td data-bbox="608 909 1142 954">Service Charges</td> <td data-bbox="1142 909 1278 954">£24.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 954 608 999">Cofton Spark</td> <td data-bbox="608 954 1142 999">Street Light Maintenance</td> <td data-bbox="1142 954 1278 999">£160.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 999 608 1043">Cofton Spark</td> <td data-bbox="608 999 1142 1043">Street Light Maintenance</td> <td data-bbox="1142 999 1278 1043">£373.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1043 608 1088">SLCC</td> <td data-bbox="608 1043 1142 1088">Membership Subs Additional Amount</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1043 1278 1088">£36.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1088 608 1133">Drax (Haven Power)</td> <td data-bbox="608 1088 1142 1133">Street Lighting Electricity *</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1088 1278 1133">£282.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1133 608 1178">Drax (Haven Power)</td> <td data-bbox="608 1133 1142 1178">Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1133 1278 1178">£9.83</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1178 608 1223">The Village Magazine</td> <td data-bbox="608 1178 1142 1223">News Item One Page</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1178 1278 1223">£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1223 608 1267">Proper Agency</td> <td data-bbox="608 1223 1142 1267">Website Maintenance November</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1223 1278 1267">£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1267 608 1312">Kompan</td> <td data-bbox="608 1267 1142 1312">Play Equipment Installation</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1267 1278 1312">£3,130.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1312 608 1357">Proper Agency</td> <td data-bbox="608 1312 1142 1357">Website Maintenance December</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1312 1278 1357">£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1357 608 1402">Gary Haynes</td> <td data-bbox="608 1357 1142 1402">Lengthsman Services</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1357 1278 1402">£300.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1402 608 1447">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="608 1402 1142 1447">Office Costs December 2021 / January 2022</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1402 1278 1447">£39.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1447 608 1491">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="608 1447 1142 1491">Salary December 2021 / January 2022 (by S/O)</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1447 1278 1491">£682.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1491 608 1503">HMRC</td> <td data-bbox="608 1491 1142 1503">Tax & NI Payment Dec 21 / Jan 22 (by S/O)</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1491 1278 1503">£198.18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Supplier	Services	Payment	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charges	£24.00	Cofton Spark	Street Light Maintenance	£160.00	Cofton Spark	Street Light Maintenance	£373.95	SLCC	Membership Subs Additional Amount	£36.00	Drax (Haven Power)	Street Lighting Electricity *	£282.76	Drax (Haven Power)	Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *	£9.83	The Village Magazine	News Item One Page	£180.00	Proper Agency	Website Maintenance November	£30.00	Kompan	Play Equipment Installation	£3,130.00	Proper Agency	Website Maintenance December	£30.00	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£300.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs December 2021 / January 2022	£39.50	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary December 2021 / January 2022 (by S/O)	£682.88	HMRC	Tax & NI Payment Dec 21 / Jan 22 (by S/O)
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009/22	<p>Highways, Environment and Open Spaces</p> <p>009.1/22 The Clerk reported that the pruning of trees on Rose Hill Island had been completed, Councillors were pleased with the outcome. Invoice to follow.</p> <p>009.2/22 Clerk to pursue costs for mini-digger and driver for the Old Sewage Works site drainage works.</p> <p>009.3/22 Cllr Pattison reported that solicitors acting on behalf of the Parish Council in the matter of providing permanent access to the Old Sewage Works allotment site had now exchanged the access plan, which has been agreed by the Clerk. Clerk to ask for dimensions of the access path.</p> <p>009.4/22 The Clerk reported that the order had been placed for replacement of the damaged railings at Rose Hill Island. Delivery and installation is expected during January / February.</p>	Clerk Clerk																																												

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009.5/22	Cllr Cook reported he had sent a letter of objection (as a member of the public) to Transport for West Midlands and to Sajid Javid, regarding the location of the proposed new bus stop on Groveley Lane. Cllr Pattison reported he had also sent a similar letter. The letter has been circulated to Councillors and Cllr Cook asked if the Parish Council would support the objection, this was agreed. Cllrs Cook and Pattison to refine the objection, Clerk to send on behalf of the Parish Council.	Cllr Cook / Pattison/ Clerk
009.6/22	The Clerk advised that the new play equipment had now been installed and has been well received by local children.	
009.7/22	Request for 'blacking out' street lamp covered under item 004.1/22.	
009.8/22	The Clerk reported there are 5 outstanding street light faults, the contractor has been ill and is catching up on work built up over Christmas. Clerk to monitor.	Clerk
009.9/22	The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month. Councillors discussed the continuing water run-off from the new development into Cofton Church Lane and under the railway bridge. Cllr Deeming agreed to refer the problem to Bromsgrove Planning Department.	Cllr Deeming
009.10/22	Cllr Pattison reported that Cllr McGarry had carried out the monthly inspection of the play area, with no major issues reported, although a bolt on the roller log still need replacing. Clerk is liaising with Kompan on this. Cllr McGarry to send inspection report to Clerk.	Cllr McGarry
010/22	Community Services	
010.1/22	Cllr Deeming and Cllr Fay reported they had received responses from Sajid Javid regarding the future of the Bilberry Centre. Cllr Deeming reported that he understands Birmingham City Council have applied to the Charity Commission to have the restrictive covenants removed, so that the building can be sold. Cllr Fay to supply copy of Sajid Javid's letter to Clerk and Cllr Westbury.	Cllr Fay
010.2/22	The Clerk reported that he had received a report of a fallen tree at the Myhill field allotment site which was considered to be in a dangerous state. The Clerk instructed tree surgeons to make the tree safe, at a cost of approximately £280.	
010.3/22	Request for grant covered under item 004.2/22.	
011/22	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following planning applications were received during the month:</p>	
011.1/22	21/01726/FUL – New access from Lickey Road into Oak Tree Car park. Reports were received from Cllrs Fay, Webb and Deeming. Councillors expressed concerns about the proposal and the future of the land adjacent to Lickey Road. The additional entrance is likely to be a further hazard for traffic and pedestrians. Parking is already difficult and will become worse when the care home is completed. The Clerk advised Worcestershire Highways had recommended refusal. Clerk to post objection.	Clerk
011.2/22	21/01847/ADV – Freestanding advertising board, Groveley Lane – Councillors agreed they have no objection to this application. Clerk to post response.	Clerk

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<p>012/22</p> <p>012.1/22</p> <p>012.2/22</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>It was agreed not to take a page in The Village magazine this period.</p> <p>Cllr Banyard reported continued progress on the new website, a meeting to view the draft is arranged for 31st January. Councillors were asked to provide a short 'bio' for themselves to be published on the website. Cllr Banyard to circulate an example bio. A parish boundary map and new logo are needed.</p>	<p>All Clerk</p>
<p>013.22</p> <p>013.1/22</p>	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>Cllr Slack reminded the Clerk that an email had been received asking about a stile at a public footpath on Cofton Church Lane, which is preventing access to the footpath for less able walkers and dogs. Clerk to enquire with WCC and the footpaths warden ref replacing the stile.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>014/22</p> <p>014.1/22</p>	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <p>The Clerk suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider quote for pruning of trees at the Play Area - Cofton Hackett Village Hall annual report - Events for Queen's Platinum Jubilee 	
<p>015/22</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 21st February 2022 at 7.30pm, at Cofton Village Hall.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.45pm.</p>	