

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 21st March 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 Mrs J Webb

Cllr Mr G Cook

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr N Banyard

Cllr Mr L McGarry

Also in Attendance:

County Cllr Adrian Kriss

7 Members of the public

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
031/22	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Banyard (holiday) and Cllr McGarry (family illness), these were accepted.	
032/22	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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033/22	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
034/22 034.1/22	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were 7 members of the public in attendance.</p> <p>Members of the public expressed an interest in the Council’s response to the Bilberry Centre consultation exercise. Cllr Westbury agreed to move this item to the top of the agenda. Cllr Westbury summarised the outcome of the public meeting held on 16th March 2023 and asked if there were any further comments. Following some discussion with input from the public, it was agreed that the Council’s response will be:</p> <p><i>Do you agree that an application for consent to amend the provisions of the Bilberry Centre trust governing document should be made to the Charity Commission?</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council agrees.</i></p> <p><i>Do you have any ideas or suggestions about what the Bilberry Centre might be used for?</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council hopes that any future use of the building will be for the direct benefit of the community, whether it be leased or sold. We also ask that the external appearance of the building is retained.</i></p> <p>Cllr Westbury thanked members of the public for attending and for their input.</p> <p>Clerk to prepare and post response.</p>	Clerk
035/22	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Cllr Adrian Kriss reported that funding of £146m has been made available for highways and pavement repairs and improvements in the County over the next 3 years. Gritting services will be retained at current levels.</p> <p>Bus services are still not back at 100% passenger levels following the pandemic but £11m has been allocated for additional rail and bus services.</p> <p>He reported that a new Highways Liaison officer is now in post which should improve response times.</p> <p>He is investigating planting of additional trees on Oakfield Drive to help with parking issues.</p> <p>A sum of £6m has been allocated to replace 20,000 street lights across the Bromsgrove area with LED lights.</p> <p>Issues with blockage of sewage pipes on East Works Drive due to tarmac and concrete debris have been highlighted to the liaison officer.</p> <p>If there are any road closures planned for the Jubilee event in June then these need to be highlighted to him as soon as possible, he also has some funds available for celebration events.</p>	

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	<p>The problem of speeding on Barnt Green Road was raised, he said that it is difficult to enforce the speed limit with mobile patrols and community speedwatch due to nature of the landscape along the road but that he would look further into possible enforcement.</p> <p>He suggested there may be soon be some positive news about a zebra crossing on Grovelely Lane.</p> <p>There being no further questions, County Cllr Kriss left the meeting.</p>	
036/22	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 21st February 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
037/22	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>There was nothing additional to report which was not covered on the agenda.</p>	
<p>038/22</p> <p>038.1/22</p> <p>038.2/22</p> <p>038.3/22</p> <p>038.4/22</p> <p>038.5/22</p> <p>038.6/22</p> <p>038.7/22</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>The Clerk advised that revised salary scales for his employment for 2021/22 had finally been agreed and that the increase would be backdated to April 2021. Revised calculations have been included in bills for payment.</p> <p>Councillors considered the annual report for Cofton Hackett Village Hall, and the accounts, which had been circulated during the month. The Clerk pointed out that balance at the end of 2021 was incorrect as it did not include balance from the previous year. Cllr Webb agreed to correct this. Resolved: to approve the annual report and accounts for Cofton Hackett Village Hall for the financial period 2020/21.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that it had been suggested that a third party be employed to remove built up debris on the bank behind the Mission Hall, before work commences to properly stabilise the bank. The Clerk asked if Councillors wished to continue with the current proposal with costs of c. £25,000 or to seek a cheaper, more temporary solution. Cllrs Pattison and Slack remarked that the Council has a duty of care and were prepared to commit the extra funds for a permanent solution, rather than a temporary repair which might last only 10 years. Councillors agreed with this view. Clerk to continue with proposal as it stands and seek alternative quotes for a permanent solution.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to seek a new valuation of the building for potential sale of the freehold.</p> <p>Resolved: to re-approve the Document Retention policy, which is unchanged from its previous approval,</p> <p>Resolved: to re-approve the Social Media policy, which is unchanged from its previous approval,</p> <p>The Clerk presented an update on the current budget vs expenditure. Spend on street lighting electricity is exceeding budget and spend on street light maintenance is now exceeding budget. He pointed out that there are several underspent budget lines.</p> <p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p>	<p>Cllr Webb</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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039.9/22 039.10/22 039.11/22 039.12/22	<p>The Clerk reported all outstanding street light faults have been attended to.</p> <p>The Clerk asked if Councillors wished the lengthsman to continue in post for 2022/23, all agreed to renew his contract. Clerk to arrange paperwork.</p> <p>Councillors asked if the lengthsmand could attend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cleaning of benches and street signs - Self closing mechanism on the play area gate <p>Cllr Pattison said he was unsure if the monthly play area inspection had been done, if not he agreed to follow up the following day.</p>	Clerk Cllr Pattison
040/22 040.1/22 040.2/22	<p>Community Services</p> <p>Bilberry Centre consultation covered under item 034.1/22.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reported that a request had been received from Cofton Village Hall for a grant to assist with community events for the Queen's Jubilee celebration in June. Resolved: to award a grant of £1,000 towards events for the Jubilee celebration. Clerk to advise Village Hall.</p>	Clerk
041/22 41.1/22 041.2/22 041.3/22 041.4/22	<p>Planning</p> <p>The following planning applications were received during the month:</p> <p>22/00225/FUL – Proposed 2-storey side extension with double garage and additional bedroom – 2 Lickey Coppice. Cllr Fay advised that this property had already been extended previously and felt the current proposal would be against BDC planning guidelines. Councillors agreed to raise an objection on that basis.</p> <p>22/00281/FUL – Garage conversion – 9 The Grove. Councillors agreed they have no objection to this application. Clerk to post response.</p> <p>22/002941/FUL – Single storey extension, 7 Ashmead Drive – Councillors agreed they have no objection to this application. Clerk to post response.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that the application 22/00100/FUL – Detached 3 bed dormer bungalow, 478 Groveley Lane, to which Councillors objected, had been refused.</p>	Clerk Clerk Clerk
042/22 042.1/22 042.2/22	<p>Communications</p> <p>Councillor bios and photos have been loaded to the new website, development is ongoing.</p> <p>The Clerk asked if Councillors had made any progress with resolving email issues since the change of servers. Cllr Slack has his email working correctly, Cllr Pattison is meeting with the technician this week.</p>	
043.22 043.1/22	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>The Clerk advised he had received a request for installation of a textile bank in the Parish, Councillors agreed they were not prepared to agree to this. Clerk to advise enquirer.</p>	Clerk

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043.2/22	The Clerk reported that the current Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch group is standing down after 20 years. Councillors asked that their thanks are sent to the Chair.	Clerk
044/22	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <p>No items requested.</p>	
045/22	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 11th April (18th April is Easter Monday).</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.25pm.</p>	