

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th April 2022

Held at Cofton Village Hall, Cofton Hackett

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mr R Westbury (Chair)
Cllr Mr M Pattison
Cllr Mr R Deeming
Cllr Mr N Banyard

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr L McGarry
Cllr Mr J Slack
Cllr Mrs J Fay
Cllr Mrs J Webb
Cllr Mr G Cook

Also in Attendance:

County Cllr Adrian Kriss

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
046/22	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Slack (prior commitment), Cllr Fay (holiday), Cllr McGarry (work commitment), Cllr Cook (work commitment) and Cllr Webb (no reason provided), these were accepted.	
047/22	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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048/22	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
049/22	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were no members of the public in attendance.</p>	
<p>050/22</p> <p>050.1/22</p> <p>050.2/22</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Cllr Adrian Kriss (arrived at 8.20pm) thanked Cllr Pattison for updates regarding maintenance fees on the new development and said he is continuing to try to get some resolution, but was not optimistic. He said the situation is one of 'buyer beware'. Cllr Pattison gave examples of purchasers only being told about fees very late in the process.</p> <p>Cllr Kriss was asked about continued speeding on Barnt Green Road and issues with traffic using Ten Ashes Lane as a cut-through, including speeding here too. He said these two issues are top of his agenda and has discussed with the new highways officer. He added that the speed limit of Barnt Green Road had, in the past, been reduced to 30mph although highways officers had advised against it, as motorists would not observe that limit and enforcement is difficult. He said he will continue to press for additional speed warning signs and measures to seal off one end of Ten Ashes Lane, although this will need full permission of residents. He said that he will ask highways department for their suggestions and then put these to residents for their views.</p> <p>Cllr Westbury suggested that the new highways officer should visit Cofton to meet with Councillors.</p>	
051/22	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 21st March 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
052/22	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reminded Councillors that the next meeting, in May, will be the Council's Annual meeting, to include election of Chair and agreement of Councillor responsibilities. The Annual Parish Meeting must be held before 1st June. Clerk to suggest dates and circulate.</p>	Clerk
<p>053/22</p> <p>053.1/22</p> <p>053.2/22</p> <p>053.3/22</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>The Clerk advised that he was seeking alternative quotes for stabilisation of the bank behind the Mission Hall.</p> <p>The Clerk advised he has started work on the Annual Return of Accounts for 2021-22 and he is meeting the internal auditor on Wednesday 18th May. Councillors welcome to attend that meeting if they wish.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Council's electricity supplier is not prepared to supply electricity after contract end date (29th May). The Clerk is seeking an alternative supplier but this is proving difficult for unmetered supplies. Clerk to ask Lickey and Blackwell PC who supplies their electricity and continue to seek new quotes.</p>	Clerk

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053.4/22	Resolved: to re-approve the Scheme of Delegation policy, which is unchanged from its previous approval,	Clerk																																																
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053.6/22	The Clerk will present budget vs expenditure for the end of 2021-22 at the next meeting.	Clerk																																																
053.7/22	<p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 584 1286 1249"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="316 584 703 629">Supplier</th> <th data-bbox="703 584 1137 629">Services</th> <th data-bbox="1137 584 1286 629">Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 629 703 667">Unity Trust Bank</td> <td data-bbox="703 629 1137 667">Handling Charge *</td> <td data-bbox="1137 629 1286 667">£0.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 667 703 705">Unity Trust Bank</td> <td data-bbox="703 667 1137 705">Service Charge *</td> <td data-bbox="1137 667 1286 705">£25.95</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 705 703 743"></td> <td data-bbox="703 705 1137 743"></td> <td data-bbox="1137 705 1286 743"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 743 703 781">Drax (Haven Power)</td> <td data-bbox="703 743 1137 781">Street Lighting Electricity</td> <td data-bbox="1137 743 1286 781">£848.30</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 781 703 819">Drax (Haven Power)</td> <td data-bbox="703 781 1137 819">Street Lighting Sensor Electricity</td> <td data-bbox="1137 781 1286 819">£19.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 819 703 857">Cofton Spark</td> <td data-bbox="703 819 1137 857">Street Light Maintenance</td> <td data-bbox="1137 819 1286 857">£376.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 857 703 896">Proper Agency</td> <td data-bbox="703 857 1137 896">Website Maintenance</td> <td data-bbox="1137 857 1286 896">£30.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 896 703 934">Boundary Services Ltd</td> <td data-bbox="703 896 1137 934">Fence Repair, Rose Hill Island</td> <td data-bbox="1137 896 1286 934">£2,167.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 934 703 972">Cllr Webb</td> <td data-bbox="703 934 1137 972">PC Mobile Phone, Dec - April</td> <td data-bbox="1137 934 1286 972">£110.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 972 703 1010">Gary Haynes</td> <td data-bbox="703 972 1137 1010">Lengthsman Services</td> <td data-bbox="1137 972 1286 1010">£240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 1010 703 1048">Gary Haynes</td> <td data-bbox="703 1010 1137 1048">Grass Cutting</td> <td data-bbox="1137 1010 1286 1048">£260.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 1048 703 1086">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="703 1048 1137 1086">Office Costs March - April 2022</td> <td data-bbox="1137 1048 1286 1086">£39.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 1086 703 1124">Andrew Billau (Clerk)</td> <td data-bbox="703 1086 1137 1124">Salary March / April 2022 (by S/O)</td> <td data-bbox="1137 1086 1286 1124">£697.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 1124 703 1162">HMRC</td> <td data-bbox="703 1124 1137 1162">Tax & NI March / April 2022 (by S/O)</td> <td data-bbox="1137 1124 1286 1162">£202.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="316 1162 703 1249">* Approved and Paid During Month</td> <td data-bbox="703 1162 1137 1249"></td> <td data-bbox="1137 1162 1286 1249"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Payment	Unity Trust Bank	Handling Charge *	£0.90	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge *	£25.95				Drax (Haven Power)	Street Lighting Electricity	£848.30	Drax (Haven Power)	Street Lighting Sensor Electricity	£19.51	Cofton Spark	Street Light Maintenance	£376.50	Proper Agency	Website Maintenance	£30.00	Boundary Services Ltd	Fence Repair, Rose Hill Island	£2,167.99	Cllr Webb	PC Mobile Phone, Dec - April	£110.00	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£240.00	Gary Haynes	Grass Cutting	£260.00	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs March - April 2022	£39.50	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary March / April 2022 (by S/O)	£697.15	HMRC	Tax & NI March / April 2022 (by S/O)	£202.42	* Approved and Paid During Month			
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054/22	Highways, Environment and Open Spaces																																																	
054.1/22	Road safety issues were covered under item 050.2/22.																																																	
054.2/22	The Clerk advised that a quote had been received to remove (rather than prune) the large tree on the allotment plot at the rear of The Grove. This amounted to £1,250. Alternative quotes to prune and remove the tree had been received amounting to £1,950 and £2,950 respectively. Further quotes to be sought, decision to proceed delegated to the Clerk. Cllr Pattison asked that two trees be planted to mitigate the loss of this tree.	Clerk																																																
054.3/22	The Clerk advised that the pruning of trees surrounding the Myhill Field play area was completed on 24 th March, Councillors were pleased with the results.																																																	
054.4/22	The Clerk advised that he had not yet received the report of the annual inspection of the play area by ROSPA, which was due to take place in March.																																																	
054.5/22	The Clerk reported he was investigating hire of mini-digger and driver for the drainage work at the Old Sewage Works site. The letter from Cofton Gardens Trustees has not yet been received.	Clerk																																																
054.6/22	The Clerk advised he had agreed the revised plan for the proposed permanent access to the Old Sewage Works allotment site and was waiting on solicitors.	Clerk																																																

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054.7/22	Cllr Pattison reported that Severn Trent had responded regarding the balancing pond and have agreed there would appear to be no problems with sluice gates and outflows. A report from North Worcs Water is awaited.	Clerk
054.8/22	The Clerk reported all outstanding street light faults have been attended to. Cllr Deeming asked that overgrown vegetation affecting street lights on Lickey Road be reported and an unstable post on Lickey Road also be reported.	
054.9/22	The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month.	
054.10/22	Cllr Pattison reported he had carried out the monthly play area inspection, no issues noted.	
055/22	Community Services	
055.1/22	Cllr Deeming and the Clerk reported on the meeting held with Bournville Trust regarding the Bilberry Centre. The Trust were sympathetic and suggested a number of organisations which might be approached for small grants towards assisting with the campaign. However, they said they are unable to assist directly.	
055/22	Planning	
055.1/22	There were no planning applications received during the month.	
055.2/22	The Clerk advised that the application 22/00225/FUL – Proposed 2 storey extension at 2 Lickey Coppice, to which Councillors objected, had been withdrawn.	
056/22	Communications	
056.1/22	Cllr Banyard reported that the new website is ready for review, with content to be suggested. A meeting between the developer, Cllr Banyard and Clerk is proving difficult to arrange, Cllr Banyard to suggest Zoom meeting.	Cllr Banyard
056.2/22	The Clerk asked if Councillors had made any progress with resolving email issues since the change of servers. Cllr Pattison and Cllr Westbury to arrange meetings with the technician when appropriate.	Cllrs Pattison / Westbury
057.22	Correspondence Received	
057.1/22	The Clerk advised he had received notification that the communications mast on Groveley Lane is to be replaced with a 20m mast for 5G purposes. 3 existing cabinets will be replaced with 2.	
058/22	Items for Next Meeting	
	Cllr Slack has requested that the date for the December meeting be agreed.	
059/22	Date of Next Meeting	
	The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 16th May at 7.30pm.	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	The meeting ended at 8.40pm.	