

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 18th July 2022

Held at Cofton Village Hall, Cofton Hackett

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mr M Pattison (Chair)

Cllr Mr R Deeming

Cllr Mr J Slack

Cllr Mr N Banyard

Cllr Mrs J Webb

County Cllr Adrian Kriss

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mr R Westbury

Cllr Mr L McGarry

Cllr Mrs J Fay

Cllr Mr G Cook

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
092/22	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Westbury (Holiday), Cllr Cook (Holiday), Cllr Fay (Holiday) and Cllr McGarry (work commitment), these were accepted.	
093/22	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	
094/22	Dispensations There were no applications for dispensations received.	

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
095/22	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There were no members of the public in attendance.</p>	
<p>096/22</p> <p>096.1/22</p> <p>096.2/22</p> <p>096.3/22</p> <p>096.4/22</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>County Cllr Adrian Kriss was in attendance.</p> <p>He reported that there are to be some new trees planted on Oakfield Drive but that the cost of planting was prohibitive. He asked if the Council's lengthsman could assist with planting, reimbursed by the County Council, Councillors agreed to this request. Cllr Slack asked who would be responsible for maintenance of the trees, this would fall to the residents.</p> <p>He advised that Bromsgrove District Council are considering taking on maintenance of the new estate, but this may depend on the Section 106 agreement.</p> <p>He spoke about ambulance handover delays with vehicles not being available to attend to 999 calls. He assured Councillors that the situation is being taken very seriously.</p> <p>Councillors asked if the new highways and traffic officer could attend a Parish Council meeting, Clerk to make formal request. Cllr Banyard offered to accompany the officer on a tour of Cofton Hackett.</p> <p>There being no further questions, Cllr Kriss left the meeting.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
097/22	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 20th June 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>098/22</p> <p>098.1/22</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>In his absence, Cllr Westbury wished everyone a great summer break and thanked all for their hard work.</p>	
<p>099/22</p> <p>099.1/22</p> <p>099.2/22</p> <p>099.3/22</p>	<p>Highways, Environment and Open Spaces</p> <p>Cllr Deeming reported that on Monday 4th July a vehicle had run into a bus shelter on Groveley Lane and demolished it. Thankfully no one was hurt. The Clerk has obtained details of the driver involved and is seeking reimbursement via the driver's insurance company. Cllr Webb suggested replacing the brick-built shelter with a modern shelter. Cllr Kriss suggested he could get details of shelters used in Worcestershire. Clerk to pursue.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the mini-digger driver will carry out the drainage work at the Old Sewage works site on Thursday 21st July, at the agreed cost of £300.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that he had contacted the Council's solicitors to check on progress of Old Sewage Works allotment site access. He was advised that the matter is still with St Modwen's solicitors and although an update had been promised for week commencing 4th July, this had not been forthcoming. Clerk to follow up with St Modwen again.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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099.4/22	The Clerk reported one new street light fault raised during the month, which is under investigation.																																		
099.5/22	The Clerk reported on work undertaken by the lengthsman during the month. Cllr Banyard and the Clerk advised Councillors on an issue raised by a resident regarding overgrown vegetation on the Stocken. It was pointed out that responsibility for this lies with the landowners and the Council have asked the lengthsman to attend to it as a good will gesture. The Canal and River Trust have indicated that it is their responsibility to keep the Stocken clear but they have been unable to do this since April due to unavailability of contractors. Clerk to follow up with CART.	Clerk																																	
099.6/22	The Clerk was asked to investigate a Parish Council refuse disposal pass for the lengthsman.	Clerk																																	
099.7/22	Cllr Pattison reported that he had carried out the monthly play area inspection, with no issues noted.																																		
100/22	Finance and General Purposes																																		
100.1/22	Cllr Slack asked if Councillors could approve the annual report for Cofton Village Hall, which had been circulated. There were no questions raised and the report was approved.																																		
100.2/22	Cllr Slack reported there were some minor issues with the boundary between the Village Hall and the new housing development. He asked for permission for the Trustees to negotiate with St Modwen to put the boundary in its proper place, this was agreed.	Cllr Slack																																	
100.3/22	Cllr Westbury had asked if Councillors would prefer their email addresses to be omitted from the website and noticeboards, there had been some instance of 'spoofed' emails. Cllr Banyard pointed out that it is easy to determine Councillors email addresses and there is little to be gained from removing them. A technical solution to this issue may be available. Carried over to next meeting.	Clerk																																	
100.4/22	The Clerk advised that he had not yet received the quote for the rebuilding of the retaining wall behind the Mission Hall, despite several promises. Clerk to investigate alternative contractors.																																		
100.5/22	The Clerk presented the current budget vs expenditure status and pointed out potential areas of overspend / underspend.																																		
100.6/22	A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.																																		
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	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary June - July 2022 (by S/O)	£697.15	
	HMRC	Tax & NI June - July 2022 (by S/O)	£202.42	
	* Approved and Paid During Month			
<p>101/22</p> <p>101.1/22</p> <p>101.2/22</p>	<p>Community Services</p> <p>Cllr Banyard raised the issue of lack of public attendance at the recent Parish Council Annual Assembly and ways of improving public awareness. Councillors discussed public disinterest, means of communicating with residents and the lack of a 'village centre'. It was suggested the new website may help to improve awareness, particularly if it can be successfully linked into social media.</p> <p>Cllr Banyard asked if the Parish Council would be involved in Christmas events for 2022. Councillors suggested making a financial contribution to any event being organised by the Village Hall. A Christmas tree is planned for the Village Hall and it was suggested a 'lighting' event could be organised. Cllr Pattison said that the Carol Service events, in previous years, had been well attended.</p>			
<p>102/22</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>There were no planning applications put forward for consideration this month.</p>			
<p>103/22</p> <p>103.1/22</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had been making content changes to the new draft website and would circulate for comment soon. The request for a gov.uk domain name has been submitted and is being processed. Launch date depends on the gov.uk domain and email addresses being in place. Clerk to follow up on hosting via 'Siteground'.</p>			<p>Clerk</p>
<p>104.22</p> <p>104.1/22</p>	<p>Correspondence Received</p> <p>The Clerk advised he had received an email from PC Marc Ginder suggesting that he, or a member of his team, could attend the next PC meeting. Councillors thought this was a good idea, Clerk to send invite.</p>			<p>Clerk</p>
<p>105/22</p> <p>105.1/22</p>	<p>Items for Next Meeting</p> <p>Cllr Slack requested that an item be included to discuss plans and approach for creation of the new allotment site at the Old Sewage Works. Cllr Webb to email the original survey of the site to Clerk.</p>			<p>Clerk Cllr Webb</p>
<p>106/22</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 19th September at 7.30pm.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 9.00pm.</p>			