

Cofton Hackett Parish Council

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

Held at Cofton Village Hall, Cofton Hackett

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Cllr Mr R Westbury (Chair)
Cllr Mr M Pattison
Cllr Mr J Slack
Cllr Mr N Banyard
Cllr Mrs J Fay

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Andrew Billau

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Mrs J Webb
Cllr Mr R Deeming

Also in Attendance

PC Matthew Dunton
1 member of the public

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
122/22	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr Deeming (meeting clash) and Cllr Webb (attending funeral), these were accepted.</p> <p>Cllrs Cook and McGarry did not attend.</p>	
123/22	<p>Declaration of Interests</p> <p>Register of Interests:</p> <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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124/22	<p>Dispensations</p> <p>There were no applications for dispensations received.</p>	
124/22	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>There was 1 member of the public, from Groveley Lane, in attendance.</p>	
<p>125/22</p> <p>125.1/22</p> <p>125.2/22</p> <p>125.3/22</p>	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies / County Councillor</p> <p>PC Matthew Dunton was in attendance. He summarised crimes reported in Cofton Hackett in the last 30 days, there were 2 vehicle crimes, 3 burglaries, 1 attempted burglary and 4 incidents of anti-social behaviour. He spoke about an initiative to try to detract a particularly troublesome individual from criminal behaviour by setting up social activities, operated by ex-gang members, which he may want to participate in. Funding would come from Worcestershire County Council but would need to be requested by the Parish Council. Councillors felt this was a good idea but were uncertain about the legalities of providing funding for an individual. The Clerk agreed to investigate and report back.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison raised the ongoing problem of speeding and anti-social driving on Groveley Lane and Barnt Green Road. PC Dunton advised that a speed survey had been carried out on Barnt Green Road with average speeds measured at 31.2mph and a maximum recorded speed of 43mph. Councillors expressed surprise at these low figures and suggested alternative locations and times for positioning of speed surveys. PC Dunton agreed to carry out speed surveys at the suggested locations.</p> <p>The Clerk raised the problem of graffiti at the play area and elsewhere, and youths consistently using the under 8s play area. PC Dunton stressed that issues such as these should be reported on 101.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>PC Dunton</p>
126/22	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council dated 26th September 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>127/22</p> <p>127.1/22</p>	<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Westbury reiterated his intention to stand down from the Council at the next election in 2023.</p>	
<p>128/22</p> <p>128.1/22</p> <p>128.2/22</p>	<p>Highways, Environment and Open Spaces</p> <p>The Clerk reported there had been another incident of an out-of-control vehicle causing damage to the railings at Rose Hill Island, the second incident inside a month. He advised that he has details of the vehicle involved and has reported this to the Council's insurance company. The insurance company have agreed to cover the cost of both repairs (£1,901 and £621), less the excess of £250 for each claim and will attempt to recover costs from the third party, including the Council's excess. Clerk to instruct contractor to repair and replace railings</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Council's insurance company have agreed to reimburse the cost of removing the debris at the site of the demolished bus stop at Groveley Lane</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

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<p>128.3/22</p> <p>128.4/22</p> <p>128.5/22</p> <p>128.6/22</p> <p>128.7/22</p> <p>128.8/22</p>	<p>(£1,530, less £250 excess). The insurance company have asked for a second quote to rebuild the brick bus shelter, the Clerk is attempting to find a contractor to supply a quote. At Cllr Westbury's suggestion, Councillors agreed that a modern, prefabricated bus shelter would be preferable and probably less expensive. Clerk to pursue quote.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that Council's solicitors have now received the draft transfer document for Old Sewage Works access and are checking this before presenting to the Council. The Clerk is following up on this.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that the first meeting of a working party to formulate the Council's approach to creating the new allotments at the Old Sewage Works site, had been delayed to the first week in November. Cllr Webb to email allotment plans to Clerk.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that he had received a second quote to cut back vegetation on the island at Rose Hill, promising a 'hard' cut back, at a cost of £600. Councillors agreed to proceed with this quote, Clerk to advise tree surgeon. '</p> <p>The Clerk reported one outstanding street light fault, in Ashmead Rise. Cllr Fay reported a faulty light in Reservoir Road, Cllr Westbury to check post number and report to Clerk.</p> <p>The Clerk advised he had not yet received the lengthsman's report for the month. Cllr Fay asked that the lengthsman provide a detailed report of work undertaken. She also asked that a several items be attended to, suggesting that parts of Cofton Hackett are looking tired and untidy. The Clerk reported that Cllr Webb had also asked (via email) for some items to be attended to. He asked that a definitive list be sent to him so he can look at responsibilities and costs and present back to Council for approval of any spending.</p> <p>Cllr Pattison reported that he had carried out the monthly play area inspection, with no issues noted.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Webb</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Westbury</p> <p>Cllr Fay</p>												
<p>129/22</p> <p>129.1/22</p> <p>129.2/22</p> <p>129.3/22</p> <p>129.4/22</p> <p>129.5/22</p> <p>129.6/22</p>	<p>Finance and General Purposes</p> <p>Cllr Banyard reported he had investigated potential grants for which the Council may be eligible, it was agreed he should explore further and report back.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Council's solicitors had advised that it would be relatively straightforward to sell the Mission Hall building, should Council wish to do so. The Clerk was asked to obtain a current valuation for sale purposes. The Clerk stressed that this was only one of several options the Council may wish to consider.</p> <p>The Clerk presented the current budget vs expenditure status and pointed out potential areas of overspend / underspend.</p> <p>The Clerk spoke about a draft contingency plan he had been working on, he was asked to circulate.</p> <p>Clerk to prepare first draft of budget for 2023/24 and circulate prior to next meeting.</p> <p>A list of bills for payment, circulated before the meeting, was presented and agreed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="319 1883 1273 2038"> <thead> <tr> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Services</th> <th>Payment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Unity Trust Bank</td> <td>Service Charge *</td> <td>£23.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yu Energy</td> <td>Street Lighting Electricity *</td> <td>£345.93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yu Energy</td> <td>Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *</td> <td>£29.90</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Supplier	Services	Payment	Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge *	£23.55	Yu Energy	Street Lighting Electricity *	£345.93	Yu Energy	Street Lighting Sensor Electricity *	£29.90	<p>Cllr Banyard</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Siteground Hosting 1 Year	£57.46	
	Gallagher Insurance	Insurance 2022/23 *	£5,238.14	
	Proper Agency	Website Maintenance	£30.00	
	Gary Haynes	Lengthsman Services	£180.00	
	Gary Haynes	Grass Cutting	£130.00	
	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Office Costs September - October 2022	£47.60	
	Andrew Billau (Clerk)	Salary September - October 2022 (by S/O)	£704.84	
	HMRC	Tax & NI September - October 2022 (by S/O)	£194.73	
	* Approved and Paid During Month			
I30/22 I30.1/22	Community Services It was agreed that Cllr Banyard will be the Council's representative at meetings of Cofton Village Hall trustees,			
I31/22 I31.1/22	Planning 22/01238 – Single storey rear extension – 436 Groveley Lane – Cllr Fay to report back to Clerk prior to closing date.			Cllr Fay
I32/22 I32.1/22 I32.2/22	Communications The Clerk reported that the new website has been transferred to the hosting site in preparation for 'go-live'. Clerk to follow up with developer. Cllr Westbury advised that he, Cllr Banyard and the Clerk had submitted copy for the next edition of The Village magazine.			Clerk
I33.22	Correspondence Received Nothing additional to report.			
I34/22	Items for Next Meeting Nothing requested.			
I34/22	Date of Next Meeting The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Monday 21st November at 7.30pm. The meeting ended at 9.00pm.			