

COOKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Cookhill Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 16 January 2016 at 7.30pm Cookhill Village Hall.

Present: Councillors R. Pinfield (Chairman), Cllr A. Sumner (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Churchill, Cllr T. Bennett, Cllr V. Gupta, Cllr P. Davis

In attendance: County Councillor Holt, District Councillor Steel, Police Representative
Clerk Kerry Johnson
Two members of the public

The Chairman asked the members of the public if there were any items that they were concerned with on the agenda and if they wished to comment before the meeting officially opened.

16.001 Apologies received and accepted from District Councillor Wilkinson, Cllr P. Stephens

16.002 Declarations of interest

- a) Register of Interests. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests.
- b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests. Cllr Sumner declared an interest in Minute 16.007 regarding the swings at Cookhill Village Hall. Cllr Davis declared an interest in Minute 16.004(i)(b) as an acquaintance of the planning applicant.
- c) Other Disclosable Interests.

16.003 Minutes: The minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 07/12/15 were approved.

16.004 Planning Matters: - members of the public were invited to speak on the applications notified to the Parish Council.

i) The following applications were considered for comment:

- a) W/15/02719/PP **Location:** Little Cladswell Farm, Lower Cladswell Lane, Cookhill, B49 5JZ. **Proposal:** Remove attached side garage, construct two storey side extension, sitting room, bedroom and en-suite. **Comment:** Letter recommended approval has been sent to meet the consultation deadline.
- b) W/15/02812/PN **Location:** Land off Dogbut Lane, Inkberrow, B96 6LD. **Proposal:** (Part Retrospective) Erection of general purpose agricultural barn for feed, hay and straw storage, machinery workshop and lambing area. Construction of agricultural access track. **Comment:** Recommend Approval.

ii) Reports from Wychavon Planning:

- c) W/15/02845/PP **Location:** Newlands, 184 The Ridgeway, New End, Astwood Bank, B96 6NP. **Proposal:** Single storey rear extension to existing dwelling. **Decision:** Approved 14/12/15.
- d) W/15/02519/PN **Location:** Land adjacent to Brandheath Cottage, Saltway, New End, Astwood Bank. **Proposal:** Demolition of vacant agricultural buildings and proposed erection of 2no. 3 bedroomed dwelling houses, garages and associated works. **Decision:** Refused 21/12/15.

iii) Planning enforcement matters from Wychavon Planning – none.

16.005 Progress reports for information.

- a) County Councillor Clive Holt gave an update on Worcestershire County Council (WCC) news including details that the new Leader of, Simon Geraghty will be elected on Thursday 14 January 2016. Also, the £25m budget cuts needed for the next financial year will be discussed at WCC's budget meeting on 11 February 2016. It is also proposed that a further £12 million investment is made into surfacing of rural and urban roads.

b) District Councillor Audrey Steel gave an update on Wychavon District Council's (WDC) news including details that the New Homes Bonus fund will remain as it is and WDC is working to put into place safeguards to protect the money. Also, changes from S.106 funding (to be CIL – Community Infrastructure Levy) will impact parishes who do not have a Neighbourhood Plan in that parishes with the plan will receive 10% more funding than those without. WDC has had £4m cut from its budget.

c) District Councillor David Wilkinson – no update

d) Chairman – Cllr Pinfield reported that all 38 existing slots in the Superfast broadband box on Church Lane have been taken. There are 128 available and the next batch of 38 slots will be available in the next few weeks. A stretch of the ditch on Dogbut Lane has been dug out by the landowner to help with drainage and stop water from his land running into the road. Further to minute 15.178 (November 2015), a cheaper quote of £195 has been obtained to install the new defibrillator at the Nevill Arms.

e) Clerk – the Clerk gave an update on the progress of ongoing work and gave details about the forthcoming 5-week block of Computer Club training, which starts on Wednesday 10 February 2016 from 10am and training starts at 10.30am. Also, further pot-hole reports have been reported via the WCC website.

f) Parish Paths Warden - an advert to recruit a new PPW is on the Parish Council's website and noticeboards. It will also be put into the next edition of the What's On Magazine. Anyone interested in helping to keep the parish's public rights of way network open and useable should contact the Clerk, or call Cllr Pinfield on 07971177373.

g) Cookhill Village Hall – Cllr Sumner – After many years serving behind the bar, Cllr Sumner has relinquished the role but is still on the Management Committee. The New Years' Eve celebration was a success and the annual quiz will take place in February. Contact Eileen Payne on 07511 819658 or Anne Sumner on 07891 732888 for further details.

h) Lengthsman Scheme – the Lengthsman reports that he is often covered with dog waste when strimming. Councillors would like to remind residents that they must clean up after their dogs and use the bins provided.

i) Playing fields – no update

j) Affordable Housing – all houses have been sold subject to contract.

16.006 To consider installing a dog waste bin on Chamberlain Lane at the cost of £415.00 (excl. VAT) and £59.80 annual fee to be emptied once weekly and £4.84 for twice yearly clean (excl. VAT). **It was resolved** to approve the quote for the purchase of the dog-waste bin and the ongoing emptying and cleaning costs.

16.007 To consider installing a swing set at Cookhill Village Hall. It was agreed to purchase a timber-framed swing set for the village hall, subject to some amendments to the quote and satisfactory agreement regarding ownership and maintenance costs. The Village Hall Committee will decide on the type of swing seats and an update of cost will be reported at the next meeting.

FINANCE

16.008 To consider the 2016-17 budget and precept. It was resolved to approve the budget for 2016-17 and set the Precept at £22,990 which equates to a 1.15% increase on last years' budget. This impacts the levy for a Band D property in the Parish as a 1.86% increase.

16.009 To receive the statement of financial affairs and authorise payments.

a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation showing the available funds, the income and expenditure comparison to the budget was approved.

b) Cheques for payment were reported, authorised and approved by the Council.

16.010 To receive information and items for next agenda

Councillors are requested to use this as an opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the Agenda and to raise items for future agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not a time for debate or decision-making.

- Deferred items carried over from last meeting - re-siting of Gilbert-Scott telephone box, flooding map, VAS on Edgioake Lane. Items for the next Agenda include swings at Cookhill Village Hall, Neighbourhood Plan, Parish Grant applications, grass & hedge cutting at the allotments,

16.011 The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed:

- Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 7.30pm

16.012 To consider excluding the public and press from the meeting under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Administration of Meetings) Act 1960 because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, namely recruiting a new Parish Clerk. Details were discussed about the job advert and recruitment process in open council as no members of the public were present.

This meeting closed at 21.50hrs

Signed Chairman

Dated