



**The Minutes of Cookhill Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
Cookhill Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors R. Pinfield (Chairman), A. Sumner (Vice Chairman), M. Churchill, V. Gupta and P. Davis.

**In attendance:** County Councillor Clive Holt  
District Councillor Audrey Steel  
Parish Paths Warden – Tony Mitchell  
Clerk – Kate Brazier

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.

**17.001. Apologies received and accepted from:** Cllr P. Draper & Cllr T. Bennett and Police representative Tony Carter

**17.002. Declarations of interest**

- a) Register of Interests. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests.
- b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Cllrs Sumner & Churchill disclosed an interest in Item 17.010 f.) ii) CVH Grant
- c) Other Disclosable Interests.

**17.003. Minutes:** The minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 13/12/16 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Davis & seconded by Cllr Churchill.

**17.004. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports**

A further incident on the Ridgeway was reported where a bus struck a car parked outside the cottages. The incident happened at dusk so it is not clear if it was correctly displaying parking lights at the time. The vehicle was pushed along, into a gas main and through a wall belonging to a house further down. Via email Cllr Bennett advised that, when contacted, the Police had been unable to provide him with any further details citing the data protection act. The Parish Council expressed concern at the lack of information reaching them. It was agreed that the clerk will write to the Police & Crime Commissioner, John Campion and MP Karen Lumley about the ongoing issues and requesting a meeting with the Highways department on site.

**17.005. 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:** None
- ii) **Reports from Wychavon Planning:**
  - a) W/16/02042/CU – Botany Bay Nurseries, Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank, B96 6BG.  
**Proposal:** Change of use of agricultural land to additional parking for garden centre.  
**Decision:** Approved 23/12/16
- iii) **Planning enforcement matters from Wychavon Planning:** None

**17.006 Progress Reports**

- a) **County Cllr Holt:** Unemployment has decreased again across the county. Proposals to spend more money on roads to minimise congestion. Cllr Holt introduced the Council to his predecessor from May, Cllr Anthony Hopkins from Inkberrow.
- b) **District Councillor Steel:** Finance is high on the Agenda at Wychavon, more details to follow soon.
- c) **District Councillor David Wilkinson:** None
- d) **Chairman Cllr Pinfield:** No extra updates
- e) **The Clerk provided an update on the following:** No updates
- f) **Parish Paths Warden:** Mr Mitchell said that he had now taken part in the relevant training and is looking forward to getting started and to identifying any problems in the Parish and dealing with outstanding way marking. Information on a new 'Beware of the Bull' sign at Cladswell Hall Farm was reported and Mr Mitchell advised that the sign must only be visible if the bull is in the field.
- g) **Cookhill Village Hall Report:**
  - **Subsidence in the Kitchen** – Cllr Sumner reported that there was a serious problem with a dip in the kitchen area and after investigation it was discovered that the foundations are collapsing in this area. The cost of works is in progress.
  - **New Year's Eve** – The New Year's Eve celebrations were a huge success despite the committee discovering a problem with the heating hours before the event was due to take place!
  - **New Fascias** – The Hall has undergone some renovation to the wooden fascias as these were disintegrating.
- h) **Lengthsman Scheme:** The Lengthsman has been taking on work as requested and keeping the footpaths clear of fallen leaves.
- i) **Playing Fields:** The new equipment is being well used despite inclement weather!

- j) **Affordable Housing – Ridgeway Meadows:** The house for sale has now been sold to a family from Cookhill Parish and they are preparing to move in.

**17.007. Parish Council Bank Account** – The current sweep facility set up on the Parish Council accounts is not functioning correctly and is compromising payments. It was suggested that the sweep amount be raised. Proposed by Cllr Sumner and seconded by Cllr Gupta.

**17.008. Road Traffic Accidents & Speeding on the Ridgeway** – Following on from Item 17.004 Councillors discussed the problems on this stretch of road and are keen to put some traffic calming measures in place here as soon as possible.

**17.009. Dog Waste Bag Dispensers** – Cllr Pinfield reported that the dispensers purchased and installed in the Parish are proving popular. The dispenser placed at the bottom of Church Lane is being very well used. Councillors discussed purchasing a third dispenser, in red, to place next to the dog bin on Edgioake Lane. This was proposed by Cllr Sumner and seconded by Cllr Churchill. Agreed unanimously, Cllr Davis registered an interest.  
A note advising parishioners about the dispensers will be put in the next What's On.

**17.010. Finance**

- a) **To consider the 2017-18 budget and precept.** It was resolved to approve the budget for 2017-18 and set the Precept at £22,990 which equates to a 0% increase on last years' budget. This impacts the levy for a Band D property in the Parish as a 2.11% decrease.
- b) **Pension Contributions** – The Council agreed the monthly direct debit from the Treasurer's Account to NEST of pension contributions. The amount will be presented along with the cheques at each meeting.
- c) **Financial Regulations** – An updated copy of the Financial Regulations were approved by the Council to show the new Direct Debit agreement set up to pay Pension contributions. A copy will be available on the website.
- d) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for December 2016 showing the available funds, the income and expenditure comparison to the budget was approved.
- e) Cheques for payment were presented, approved and authorised for payment.
- f) **Grant Requests**
  - i. **Cookhill Cricket Club** requested a grant to enable them to support the development and growth initiatives planned for 2017. It was suggested that members of the Cricket Club attend the next meeting and make a presentation to the Council. A grant of £425 was proposed by Cllr Davis, seconded by Cllr Gupta and agreed by the Councillors present.
  - ii. **Cookhill Village Hall** requested a grant towards urgent maintenance works to the hall and planned works to the car park. It was suggested that the Village Hall Committee attend the next meeting with their proposals for the grant money. Presenting an amount of grant money was proposed and agreed by the Councillors present. **Amount to be agreed.**  
*It is noted that Cllrs Sumner and Churchill left the meeting during these discussions.*
  - iii. **Cookhill Baptist Church** requested £250 for a memorial bench. This was proposed by Cllr Davis & seconded by Cllr Gupta and was agreed unanimously.

**17.011. 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.

- a) Employee Pension Contributions
- b) Presentations from Cookhill Cricket Club & Cookhill Village Hall

**17.012. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meetings**

- a) **Parish Council Meeting** is **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017** at 7:30pm

This meeting closed at 21:55

Signed Chairman

Dated