



**The Minutes of Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 12th March 2019 at 7.30pm
Cookhill Village Hall.**

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

In attendance: Clerk – Kate Brazier
County Councillor Anthony Hopkins
District Councillor Audrey Steel
District Councillor David Wilkinson
Mr Tony Mitchell, Parish Paths Warden

2 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. He asked if anyone wished to record the meeting and to make it known to the clerk if they were intending to do so.

19.022. Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr P. Draper

19.023. Declarations of interest

- a) Register of Interests. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests.
- b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Cllr Davis disclosed an interest in 19.026.i.a)
- c) Other Disclosable Interests
- d) Written requests for the Council to grant dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

19.024. Minutes: The Minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday 12th February 2019 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Churchill and seconded by Cllr Sumner, all in favour.

19.025. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** – No reports received.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – sign for the noticeboards is currently at the printers.
- **Community Speed Watch** – More sessions to be booked when the weather has improved. The speed van has been situated in the layby by the flats, on the Ridgeway.

19.026. 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/19/00490/FUL** Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank, B96 6BG
Proposal: Proposed workshop with access and associated works. Variation of condition 4 permission 17/01667/FUL to allowed amended drainage strategy.
Recommendation: The Parish Council recommended approval.

ii) Reports from Wychavon Planning:

- a) **W/18/02276/PIP** Field Adjacent 45, The Ridgeway, New End, Astwood Bank
Proposal: Application for permission for rural exemption development consisting of the erection of 3 affordable self-build bungalows.
Decision: Approved 13/02/19

iii) Planning enforcement matters from Wychavon Planning: None

19.027. Progress Reports

a) County Cllr Anthony Hopkins:

- **Dogbut Lane** – The reported road issues have not yet been rectified. Cllr Hopkins will raise the issue of people using unsuitable roads during diversions at the next Planning Meeting.
- **Saltway** – Discussions are still underway to get the signage and road markings assessed. The liaison engineer has taken early retirement and his replacement has not yet taken over. This leaves no one currently overseeing the project. Cllr Hopkins to monitor.
- **Budget** – The budget has now been approved with monies allocated for child and adult social care and also for highway issues.

b) District Councillor Steel:

- *Community Legacy Fund* – The new fund, set by Wychavon, is looking for projects. Comprehensive applications are advisable.

c) District Councillor David Wilkinson: Wychavon are working on resolving broadband blackholes in the district and are asking for residents to report connectivity issues. It was resolved to advertise this in the What's On.

d) Chairman Cllr Pinfield: No updates

e) The Clerk provided an update on the following:

- *Wheellie bin stickers* – These have now been delivered and will be distributed around the parish.
- *Sandholes* - It was reported that the solicitor put in charge of researching ownership of the access road known as 'Sandholes' had not answered any emails since October 2018 and have not been able to find out any further information. The clerk has written to them to confirm that all invoices have been settled and that the Parish Council will be moving the job to a new solicitors.

f) Parish Paths Warden:

- *Work undertaken* – Mr Mitchell has carried out some waymarking and fixed the bridge on the Oak Tree Lane path.
- *Damaged Fences* – Some damaged fences have been reported on the footpaths by the allotments. It was resolved to get some quotes to get them repaired.
- *Aggressive Dogs* – The Council received a report from a parishioner that two dogs were being aggressive to walkers on the public footpath that runs below the Allotments. Although there is a fence between the field and the path the dogs were very intimidating. It was resolved to monitor the situation and report it to the County Footpath's Officer to assess if necessary.

g) Cookhill Village Hall:

- *Aber Valley Male Voice Choir* – The concert has been postponed until November 2nd. The event will now include a firework display.
- *Children's Easter Egg Hunt* – To take place on Easter Sunday (21st April) from 10 – 12noon. £2 per child. Prior booking only please. Cllr Pinfield proposed a donation of £50. This was seconded by Cllr Bennett and agreed unanimously. It is noted that Cllrs Sumner and Churchill did not vote.
- *National Lottery Community Fund* – The Village Hall have been awarded a portion of the National Lottery Community Fund for Redditch and will now be able to carry out all the refurbishment works scheduled for the hall during May. The Hall will be closed for the month but groups will still be able to use the meeting rooms during this time. The Parish Council thanked the committee for all their efforts to raise the money.

h) Lengthsman Scheme:

- *Work undertaken* - Edging out footpaths around the parish and clearing drains. The goals have been moved in the playing fields

i) Playing Fields:

- *Swing* – A photograph of the correct swing is required from Wicksteed before the order can be progressed.

j) Affordable Housing – Ridgeway Meadows: No update

19.028 Smart Water – Cllr Bennett has researched purchasing Smart Water for Cookhill. The updated scheme provides a unique bottle for each residence. Cllr Hopkins advised that there may be funding available for this and agreed to research it. The Council felt that it would be beneficial to educate residents on how to use the system properly. *To be added to the April Agenda.*

19.029 Lengthsman Contract – All external contracts will be reviewed in advance of the new financial year. It was resolved to research hourly prices, and fuel repayments, and get clarification from Worcester County Council regarding what can be claimed back under the Lengthsman scheme. The allocation of £192 a month remains in place for 2019/20. *To be added to the April Agenda.*

19.030. Finance

- a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for February 2019 showing the available funds, the income and expenditure comparison to the budget was approved.
Cheques for payment were presented, approved and authorised for payment.
- b) *Clerk's Salary* – It was agreed that the clerk's salary and spinal column point (SCP) be increased in line with the recommendation of the SLCC from 1st April 2019. It was also advised that the pension contributions will increase to 3% employer and 5% employee.
- c) *Annual Return 2017/18* – The Annual Return for 2017/18 was completed and signed off by PKF Littlejohn in September 2018. It is available to view on the Parish Council Website. This was approved by the Council.

19.031. 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.

19.032. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting

- a. **Annual Parish Meeting** – Tuesday 9th April at 7pm
- b. **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 9th April at 7.30pm

This meeting closed at 20:50

Signed Chairman

Dated