



**The Minutes of Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 7.30pm
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Present: Cllr R. Pinfield (Chairman), Cllr A. Sumner (Vice Chairman), Cllr M. Churchill, Cllr T. Bennett, Cllr Gupta (*left at 20:36*) & Cllr P. Davis.

In attendance: Clerk – Kate Brazier
County Cllr Anthony Hopkins
District Cllr Audrey Steel
District Cllr David Wilkinson – Left the meeting before item 20.101.
Mr T. Mitchell – Parish Paths Warden
6 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. He commented that the Parish Council will be recording the meeting. This will be kept for a period of up to 3 months.

20.097. Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr C. Hamilton

20.098. Declarations of interest

- a) Register of Interests. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests.
- b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
- c) Other Disclosable Interests – Cllrs Pinfield, Sumner and Davis registered an interest in item 20.101 b) & c) & Cllrs Sumner & Churchill registered an interest in item 20.104 b)
- d) Written requests for the Council to grant dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

20.099. Minutes: The Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 8th September 2020** were approved as a correct record by the Council, and signed by the clerk on behalf of the Chairman.
Proposed by Cllr Sumner and seconded by Cllr Davis.

20.100. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** –
 - Break in on the Evesham Road
 - Investigation of elderly resident being invited into a car and driven to his home where the offenders tried to get him to agree to certain house repairs.
 - Increase in attempted scams, by phone, email and social media. Please be vigilant as they can seem legitimate. If in doubt do not click on any links or numbers on your phone.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – Communication issues with the Police. Ongoing investigation into missing communications and a suitable alternative. Call 101 for non-urgent issues.
- **Community Speed Watch** – Currently on hold

20.101. 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/20/01350/FUL Land to the rear of 40 Wood Lane, New End, Astwood Bank

Proposal: Erection of 5 affordable bungalows (rural exception site)

Consultation ended 29th September: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL

b) W/20/01754/FUL The Sling, Dogbut Lane, Astwood Bank, B96 6LD

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings and erection of agricultural machinery store and workshop area in connection with agricultural contracting business. Variation of condition 9 of planning permission 97/00437/PP

Decision: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL, vote of 5 against with 1 abstention.

c) W/20/01755/FUL The Sling, Dogbut Lane, Astwood Bank, B96 6LD

Proposal: Proposed replacement of existing stable block with workshop / maintenance building. Variation of condition 6 on planning permission 12/02702/PN to enable the building to be used in connection with non-agricultural contracting work.

Decision: The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL, vote of 5 against with 1 abstention.

It was recorded that the Chair and the Vice Chair had disclosed an interest in this application. The Chair had been approached by the applicant and the Vice Chair had a personal, non-financial, interest due to a personal friendship with other residents in Dogbut Lane.

ii) Pending application updates: None for discussion

iii) Reports from Wychavon Planning:

a) W/20/01371/FUL Land used for training and premises, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank

Proposal: Full planning application for the proposed installation of a Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) system to serve existing workshop building.

Decision: APPROVED 07/09/2020

iv) Planning enforcement matters from Wychavon Planning: None received by the Parish Council

20.102. Progress Reports

a) County Cllr Anthony Hopkins:

- Cllr Hopkins reminded Councillors that he is not allowed to comment on safety issues relating to highways planning matters. He can pass on information to the planning officers but he cannot question their assessment.
- Police communication with Parish Councils is being investigated (*as mentioned in item 20.100*)
- The damaged bollards at the Arrow crossroads have been reported and are due to be replaced with a more serviceable design.
- Speeding and volume of traffic on the Salt Way has once again been highlighted. Funds have been allocated for the planned works at the Edgioake crossroads. Speed limit on Lower Cladswell Lane to be evaluated.
- Spike in Covid19 cases in Wychavon.

b) District Councillor Steel:

- Planning Training for Parish & Town Councils event. Recommended that a representative attends.

c) District Councillor David Wilkinson:

- No longer in attendance

d) Chairman Cllr Pinfield:

- New bus stop at the Village Hall installed on 11th September. It is cleaned by Silver Shine once a month.
- The parish defibrillators have been checked. The battery at the Village Hall has been changed and pads replaced. The battery at SE Davis will be monitored and purchase of a replacement has been approved.

e) The Clerk provided an update on the following:

- *Sandholes* – The application has now been allocated a case officer by the Land Registry.

f) Parish Paths Warden:

- Two bridges on the footpaths on Wood Lane.
- The disability gate to be installed on the Ridgeway is ongoing.
- The stile on the land behind Dogbut Farm has been investigated.

g) Cookhill Village Hall:

- The hall are looking at a bill of £2,000 for updating, servicing and replacing emergency lights, fire extinguishers etc. Fundraising is on hold at the current time. Only regular clubs are hiring the hall at present.

h) Lengthsman Scheme:

- Cleared the footpath at the end of Dogbut Lane up to the Salt Way and removed discarded stone from the weather station on the A422.
- To be asked to clean the village signs and strim around the village gateways.

i) Playing Fields:

- Equipment and play area are checked once a week by the Chairman. The equipment is cleaned twice a month by Silver Shine who are doing a very good job. The play area is being well used by parishioners. It was discussed whether the Track & Trace QR code be available for visitors.

j) Affordable Housing – Ridgeway Meadows:

- Some vehicle still parking on pavements.

k) Cookhill Allotments:

- Two plots available with one becoming vacant at the end of the month. There are people on the waiting list to fill these.
- Mains water has now been switched off and the meter reading taken.
- The padlock at the main gate has been difficult to open and close. It will be replaced, free of charge, at the end of the week, as they were only replaced 6 months ago.
- Fencing repairs will be carried out on the perimeter fence.
- The Parish Council thanked David Claydon and the Allotment Association for all their hard work at the site.

20.103 Parish Council Transparency

- *Cookhill News & Events* – Following a request from a member of the public to put a current planning application on the Facebook page, the Council discussed the feasibility of publishing all applications. It was agreed that this would be for information only and that commenting on these posts should be turned off. It was noted that unless the PC can commit to posting all applications, then it would be agreed not to post any. Applications to be posted and monitored for a month.
- *Copies of Planning Responses* – A Parish Councillor requested that all PC comments to planning applications be shared with Councillors for their review.
- *Vehicles* – Following an incident of vehicles parking on the footpath, the Parish Council have been advised by West Mercia Police that vehicles and number plates should not be published on social media.

20.104. Finance

- a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for September 2020 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) Cookhill Village Hall – The committee have requested for assistance from the Parish Council to pay the maintenance charges for the Millennium Clock at the Village Hall. The costs are £250 - £300. The Parish Council made the decision to decline the request.

20.105. 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.

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

- a. **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 10th November 2020

This meeting closed at 21:33

Signed Chairman

Dated