



Chairman's Notes for Annual Parish Meeting – 12th April 2022

1. War in Ukraine

The Parish Council have been horrified and saddened by the war in Ukraine. Our thoughts are with everyone affected by the conflict.

2. Precept for 2022/23 – £24,815 (including the DCLG Support Grant)

This equates to a decrease of 1.5% compared with the current year's charge and results in a Band D charge of £40.12.

Grants from 2021/22 - £3,000 budgeted

Details of Grants in 2021/22

- May 2021 £1,000 granted to St. Paul's Church for churchyard maintenance
- September 2021 £1,000 granted to Cookhill Baptist Church to carry out maintenance
- December 2021 £1,000 granted to Cookhill Cricket Club to purchase a storage container

-
- **Total** £3,000 from Grant allocation

The Budget for Grants for 2022-23 is £3,000, if you would like to apply for a Grant from the Parish Council please contact the Clerk.

3. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This year is The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A special occasion as Her Majesty will be the first British monarch to have reached such a milestone.

While there are several national activities taking place throughout the year, Buckingham Palace is also keen that communities get involved in joining in the celebrations. Cookhill Village Hall, St. Paul's Church and Cookhill Baptist Church are working together to organise various activities, including a Race Night, picnic, and the Cookhill Beacon will be lit at 9:45pm on Thursday 2nd June, along with beacons across the country.

4. Plant a Tree for the Jubilee & Rewilding Project

The Parish Council have begun a rewilding project to return the field behind Ridgeway Meadows into a meadow and orchard.

On 19th February the Council, along with some volunteers from the Cookhill Allotments, planted 100 woodland trees, donated by The Conservation Volunteers as part of the 'I Dig Trees' initiative. The trees, a mixture of English Oak, Silver Birch, Alder and Willow, have been planted in an avenue along the footpath, and part way around the edge of the field. The ongoing project will involve the planting of a small number of fruit trees in the autumn, along with some wildflowers.

5. COVID19 / Coronavirus & Parish Council Meetings

Following a return to face-to-face meetings in June 2021, the Parish Council made the decision, the following month, to move their meetings to the larger meeting room at SE Davis, on Edgioake Lane. Unfortunately, Cookhill Village Hall were no longer able to accommodate the PC on their usual 2nd Tuesday of the month. The ability to safely socially distance is a high priority, so the larger meeting room at SE Davis was investigated and agreed upon.

The Parish Council joined NALC and CALC in supporting the campaign to give Councils the choice of meeting in person, or remotely, should they feel it necessary. Legislation to support remote meetings was removed in May 2021 and has not, yet, been reinstated.

6. Planning Applications

The Parish Council continue to receive planning applications. The Parish Council can only advise and pass on their recommendations. The results of planning applications are ultimately decided by a delegated team of salaried planning officers. Details of how the Parish Council deals with planning can be found on the Parish Council website.

The Councillors generally go out and visit the sites when restrictions allow and report back to Wychavon with views and recommendations. The Parish Council are local and generally know the area better than the Planning Officers.

7. Computer Club

The Computer Club / Internet Café is taking currently taking a break. Members had continued to meet remotely during the pandemic but found that attendance had dropped. The Parish Council are hoping to relaunch the club in May, providing there is enough interest.

8. Allotments

The Parish Council wished to thank Mr David Claydon and the Allotment Association for their ongoing hard work at the site, a new drainage system was successfully installed in 2021 with plans for extending this for 2022. The plots were renumbered and smart new numbers added to the plots. With the departure of some tenants at the end of the season the site has seen the arrival of some new members to take their place. The current trend for growing your own food has seen lots of keen, younger tenants.

There are currently no vacant plots at the site, interested parties can contact the clerk or the allotment association chairman to put their names on the waiting list.

9. Cookhill Village Hall

The Village Hall were successful in securing S.106 Funding from Wychavon District Council that they have used to renovate the wooden floor in the hall, install a wooden trim trail for children to use and to add some more oak benches to the Memorial Garden. Part of the funding, allocated to improve Cookhill for cyclists, has gone to purchasing several bike lock planters that will be placed around the village and will be planted with seasonal bulbs.

With the latest wave of COVID-19 the Village Hall Committee have worked hard to stay open safely. Many longstanding clubs have postponed their return due to the virus but the committee have run a number of very successful pub and game nights.

10. Cookhill Playing Fields

The Parish Council monitor the Playing Fields weekly to check it is being used safely. It remains a very popular location and the Parish Council has the equipment cleaned once a month.

11. CONCLUSION Thank you to Kate Brazier, the clerk and to all the councillors.