



**The Minutes of Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 11th April 2023
SE Davis Meeting Room, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane**

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

In attendance: Kate Brazier – Clerk

County Cllr Laura Gretton
APCC Paul Middlebrough – Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner – West Mercia Police
1 member 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.

23.035. Apologies received and accepted from: District Cllr D Wilkinson & Cllr A Steel, Mr Tony Mitchell

23.036. 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
- d) Written requests for the Council to grant dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

23.037. Minutes: The Minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 14th March 2023**, were approved as a correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Churchill

23.038 Presentation from APCC Paul Middlebrough, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner, West Mercia Police

The meeting was closed for a short presentation from APCC Paul Middlebrough. Topics covered were the Community Charter, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the relaunch of the Community Speed Watch and Speed Awareness in Cookhill. The Parish Council would like to thank Mr Middlebrough for attending.

23.039. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** –
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – The new Community Charter has been completed by the clerk and submitted to the Safer Neighbourhood Team. APCC Paul Middlebrough recommended a visit from the Inspector of the SNT would be beneficial to make the team aware of the unique issues that affect Cookhill.
- **Community Speed Watch** – Still awaiting a new officer at CSW HQ. APCC Paul Middlebrough will chase the appointment of the new officer so that the CSW can recommence. Cllr Gretton agreed to research the speed limit issue from the 60mph zone to the 30mph zone on the Salt Way.

23.040. 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 received
- ii) **Wychavon Planning Authority decisions:**
 - a) **W/23/00343/HP 43 Lower Cladswell Lane, Cookhill, B49 5JY**
Proposed: Single storey rear extension
Decision: APPROVED 23/03/2023
 - b) **W/23/00080/HP Amberley, Salt Way, New End, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6NE**
Proposed: First floor side extension and two-storey rear extension plus new porch
Decision: APPROVED 29/03/2023
 - c) **W/23/00367/HP 7, The Ridgeway, New End, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6LS**
Proposed: Erection of single storey front extension and rear extension with side balcony, raised terrace and render to whole property.
Decision: APPROVED 11/04/2023

23.041. Progress Reports

- a) **County Cllr Laura Gretton:**
 - *Funding* – Part funding of the replacement VAS, and funding of the fruit trees planted at Platinum Meadows, has been agreed.
 - *Speeding* – The PC have asked again that the 50mph zone be reviewed to have the speed limit lowered.
- b) **District Councillor Steel:** Apologies
- c) **District Councillor David Wilkinson:** Apologies
- d) **Chairman** – Items further down the Agenda.
- e) **The Clerk provided an update on the following:**
 - *PROW 520C* – Harrison Clark Rickerbys have now investigated the access rights over PROW 520C. Their legal recommendation is that the Parish Council register for Caution against First Registration with HM Land Registry to ensure that they continue to have the rights to cross the Parish Council land.

- *Replacement Gate* – Cllr Davis will research replacement gates for the access to the Parish Council fields. It was reported that the first quote to install the gate was £500 plus VAT. Further quotes will be sought.

f) **Parish Paths Warden:** No updates

g) **Cookhill Village Hall:**

- *Coffee Mornings* – A new coffee mornings will be starting at the Village Hall from this Friday morning - 10am till 12 noon. It will be £2 per person, including coffee/tea and cake. It is recorded that this will be run by volunteers and not by the Parish Council.

h) **Lengthsman Scheme:** The Parish Council have, as yet, been unable to source a replacement Lengthsman. This will be advertised on social media and on the noticeboards, to see if someone local would like to carry out the necessary training.

i) **Playing Fields:** The Annual RoSPA report has been received and was reviewed by the Chairman and amendments noted and checked.

The grass contract is being fulfilled until June by volunteer, Mr Hughes, and will be resumed by the usual contractor from June.

j) **Affordable Housing – Ridgeway Meadows:** Nothing to report.

k) **Cookhill Allotments / Parish Land:** Report from Mr David Claydon, Cookhill Allotment Association Chairman;

- Two longstanding tenants have moved on and one has downsized to one plot from two. Three new tenants have joined.
- There is now one large plot vacant and a smaller, new plot, currently under preparation. The larger plot will be divided into two more manageable plots. These three plots will be available in the next two months. There is no one on the waiting list and the clerk will advertise the vacancies on the noticeboards and on the PC website.
- All tenants have made a good start, with some new raised beds and extended beds. The site is looking very smart and this has been commented on by members of the public using the footpaths.
- Tenants have been asked not to bring vehicles onto the internal grass tracks whilst the weather is wet.
- The husband of one tenant has kindly painted some new signs for the site. Thank you from the Allotment Association and the Parish Council.

l) **Platinum Meadows:** Mr Hughes continues to cut the grass at Platinum Meadows and has now sown the wildflower seeds along the hedge, just inside the gate from the Ridgeway. Some of the families who live near the meadows had organised an Easter Egg Hunt using Platinum Meadows.

23.042 King's Coronation – 3 boxes of mugs have been ordered and will be offered, initially, as one per household to residents of Cookhill. Parishioners should register their interest via the clerk and mugs will be available from the Village Hall during the Coronation weekend.

The Village Hall are awaiting timings and will provide tea and coffee and will open the bar. It was advised that the Village Hall can transmit the Coronation without having a television license. It was agreed that the funding of £334 from Wychavon would go towards decorating the Village Hall for the event. It was approved that the clerk would purchase the items required for decorating the hall on behalf of the council and be reimbursed from the funding.

23.043. Finance

a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for March 2023 showing the available funds, the income and expenditure comparison to the budget was approved.

Bank Transfers / Direct Debits were presented, approved and authorised for payment.

b) **Grant Request** – The Baptist Church have requested funding towards further maintenance of the wall at the Baptist Chapel. The clerk advised the meeting that funding cannot be given to any religious organisation. Funding towards a non-religious publication would be researched.

23.044. 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.

23.045. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meetings

- Parish Council Annual General Meeting** – Tuesday 9th May at 7.00pm
- Annual Parish Meeting** – Tuesday 9th May at 7.30pm

This meeting closed at 21:00

Signed Chairman

Dated