



**The Minutes of the Cookhill Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7pm  
SE Davis Meeting Room, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane**

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

**In attendance:** Kate Brazier – Clerk

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.

**23.060. Apologies received and accepted from:** Cllr Gupta, District Cllr Ben Hurdman & Mr Tony Mitchell.

**23.061. 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)

**23.062. Minutes:** The Minutes from the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023** and the Annual Parish meeting, held on the same night, were approved as a correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Sumner and seconded by Cllr Bennett.

**23.063. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports**

- **Police Report** – The Police & Crime Commissioner, John Campion, has been invited to attend a future meeting. Cllr Bennett continues to forward emails regarding local crimes, frauds and scams to all councillors.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – There have been numerous reports of thefts from farmland and outbuildings in the area.
- **Community Speed Watch** – It was confirmed that the 50mph VAS on Evesham Road is not working, the clerk will make contact with the engineers to visit. It was proposed, and agreed, that the VAS from the Ridgeway be moved to replace the Edgioake Lane sign when the new one has been installed.

**23.064. 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/23/00866/HP The Wrens Nest, Salt Way, New End, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6NE**

**Proposed:** New Vehicular and pedestrian accesses together with new boundary wall and gates including removal of 1 no tree and replacement with new.

**Decision:** The consultation fell before the meeting and the Parish Council recommended REFUSAL.

**ii) Wychavon Planning Authority decisions:**

**a) W/23/00102/HP 62 Evesham Road, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5LL**

**Proposed:** Two-storey rear extension & internal alterations

**Decision:** APPROVED 12/05/2023

**b) W/23/00179/HP Tanglewood, 114 The Ridgeway, New End, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6NA**

**Proposed:** Single storey rear extension, infilling of existing open-fronted porch, dormer extension, new open-front porch, PV installation, and other minor alterations/improvements

**Decision:** APPROVED 18/05/2023

**c) W/23/00366/FUL Ridgeway Nurseries, Evesham Road, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5JR**

**Proposed:** Demolition of existing garden centre buildings and erection of 4 dwellings as approved under planning reference 21/01369/FUL - variation of condition 2 as approved under planning reference W/22/02396/FUL - variation of condition 7.

**Decision:** APPROVED 22/05/2023

**23.065. Progress Reports**

- a) County Cllr Laura Gretton:** No report received. It was recorded that the council had not been able to make contact with Cllr Gretton since she attended the meeting in April.
- b) District Councillor Update:** Apologies and Report received from District Cllr Hurdman.
  - Two new officers have been appointed to the planning department at Wychavon which should speed up the process.
  - There will be a full council meeting in July when there will be more to report.
- c) Chairman's Update:**
  - **Noticeboards** – It was agreed that a new noticeboard will be sourced to replace the board that has been damaged for some time at SE Davis. It was proposed that a replacement noticeboard be purchased as soon as possible and this was agreed unanimously.
- d) The Clerk provided an update on the following:**
  - **Gate at PC Fields** – Cllr Davis has now sourced a suitable gate for the entrance, this has now arrived at SE Davis ready for installation. The PC will be invoiced. The tenant at the field will arrange for the installation when some fencing work is carried out in the next month.
- e) Parish Paths Warden:** Apologies. The issue with the footpath on Brandheath Lane has been passed to the WCC PROW Team.
- f) Cookhill Village Hall:**

- AGM – Unfortunately, the committee are still diminishing in numbers. Mrs Eileen Payne has agreed to continue as Chair and Cllr Sumner will be Vice Chair, with a fellow committee member to be trained up to share the role. Volunteers are still needed urgently.
  - *Aber Valley Male Voice Choir* – The Aber Valley Male Voice Choir will be returning to the Village Hall on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Tickets will be £15 including supper. Doors open at 6 – 6.30pm. All profits will go to Birmingham Children’s Hospital. Anne will be raising money for the Children’s Hospital by shaving her head during the evening!
- g) Lengthsman Scheme:** The PC are still looking to recruit a Lengthsman for the Parish. The next training event at WCC will be October, a contractor cannot work on the highway until the safety training has been completed. Councillors were asked to agree that contractors be employed to carry out urgent work. This was agreed unanimously until a Lengthsman can be employed.
- h) Playing Fields:** Silver Shine will be asked to clean bird muck off the top of the slide following a complaint from a parishioner.
- i) Ridgeway Meadows:** Nothing to report.
- j) Cookhill Allotments / Parish Land:** Report from Mr David Claydon, Cookhill Allotment Association Chairman;
- There are four vacant plots, 20, 35, 36 & 37. Two new plots have been made by dividing the larger plot 35.
  - A new tenant will be taking on new plot 37 as a result of the adverts posted on the noticeboards last week.
  - The three new tenants have settled in well, including new plot 10A that was created by reducing the size of the grass track. This plot was covered in weeds but is now a very neat, well prepared plot.
  - All tenants have been advised to make sure that at least 70% of their plot is cultivated.
  - *Mains Water* – A major leak to the underground pipe connection has been repaired. Two taps are showing signs of wear and will be replaced shortly. Tenants have been advised that the water charge of £5 will be reviewed in the autumn.
  - *Locks & Keys* – The 15 year old locks and keys – used across the site – will need to be changed.
- k) Platinum Meadows:**
- There has been a complaint about antisocial behaviour, and several complaints about dog waste not collected, at the meadow. This matter has been reported to the PCSO. A letter will be sent to all the residents in Ridgeway Meadows to remind them that dogs must be kept under control, with collars and name tags, and dog waste must be collected and binned.
  - The grass on the meadow has been let to grow around the paths and won’t be cut until later this year. Many of the saplings are showing good signs of growth but some of them may need replacing towards the end of the year. The new fruit trees are doing very well. The meadow is being well used, not just by dog walkers, but by families with young children as a quiet recreational area.

**23.066. Finance**

- a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for May 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.

**23.067. 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.

- Ridgeway Meadows & Platinum Meadows

**23.068. To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting**

- a. **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023, this meeting will be a week earlier than usual.

This meeting closed at 20:00

Signed Chairman

Dated