



**The Minutes of the Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 4th July at 7pm
SE Davis Meeting Room, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane**

Present: Cllr R. Pinfield (Chairman), Cllr A. Sumner, Cllr V. Gupta & 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.

23.069. Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr Churchill, District Cllr Ben Hurdman & Mr Tony Mitchell.

23.070. 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)

23.071. Minutes: The Minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 13th June 2023**, were approved as a correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Cllr Sumner and seconded by Cllr Bennett.

23.072. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** – A renewed copy of the community charter has been emailed to the SNT in Droitwich. Cllr Bennett continues to send updates from the Police advising of scams and crimes in the area. Cllr Bennett has been in touch with the SNT Team regarding an incident in Cookhill.
Fly-tipping – Cookhill has been targeted on a number of occasions with fly-tippers recently. Large amounts of rubbish has been dumped on Lower Cladswell Lane and Mearse Lane. Both these issues have been reported to the police and Wychavon, who collected the waste.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** –
- **Community Speed Watch** – There was a report of a road incident at the junction with the A441 and A422. Witnesses have been asked to contact the police.

23.073. 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/23/01095/FUL 30 Wood Lane, New End, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6NW**
Proposed: Replacement stables for personal/private use (retrospective)
Decision: The Parish Council recommended that the application be approved.
- b) **W/23/00874/HP Fiddlers Row, 94 The Ridgeway, New End, Astwood Bank, B96 6LX**
Proposed: Erection of two-storey rear extension and dropped kerb
Decision: The Parish Council recommended that the application be approved with conditions.

ii) Wychavon Planning Authority decisions: None received

23.074. Progress Reports

- a) **County Cllr Laura Gretton:** The clerk advised that she had emailed Cllr Gretton enquiring about the promised funding but had not received a reply to date.
- b) **District Councillor Update:** Apologies. There has not been a full council meeting yet so there is nothing to report.
- c) **Chairman's Update:**
The new gate has now been installed at the entrance to the Parish Council fields from footpath 520C. The invoice is included in the payment schedule.
- d) **The Clerk provided an update on the following:**
The new VAS has been delivered and will be installed this week at the site on the Ridgeway. The old VAS will be recalibrated by Unipart Dorman and will be re-sited on the A441, where it has been reported that the VAS is not working.
- e) **Parish Paths Warden:** Apologies.
Report received – The footpath adjacent to the Allotment site and the PROW from Oak Tree Lane to Lower Cladswell Lane have now been strimmed following reports that they were impassable. The damaged gates have been reported to the PROW Team for repair / replacement.
- f) **Cookhill Village Hall:**
 - *Solar Panels* – The Village Hall Committee are still investigating installing solar panels at the hall to save money.
 - *Aber Valley Male Voice Choir* – The Aber Valley Male Voice Choir will be returning to the Village Hall on Saturday 15th July. Tickets will be £15 including supper. Doors open at 6 – 6.30pm. All profits will go to Birmingham Children's Hospital.
 - *Volunteers and Friends of Cookhill Village Hall* – The committee are still looking for volunteers and helpers for Village Hall events. The clerk will advertise this on the Parish Council website.

- g) Lengthsman Scheme:** The PC are still looking to recruit a Lengthsman for the Parish. Posters are on the notice boards, on the Parish Council website and Facebook page. It was agreed that Limebridge be asked to help with footpath clearing if necessary.
- h) Playing Fields:** Silver Shine continue to keep the equipment clean and the grass is being cut regularly by JK Garden Care.
- i) Cookhill Allotments / Parish Land:** Report from Mr David Claydon, Cookhill Allotment Association Chairman;
- *Plots & Tenants* – There are now 38 plots on site due to the dividing of several larger plots. 3 are currently vacant. Parishioners interested in these have been contacted.
 - Most tenants are doing well with their plots. Tenants with untidy plots have been reminded to cultivate them to an acceptable standard. The Allotment Association have requested a Parish Council inspection in the next couple of weeks.
 - *Dogs on site* – All tenants have been reminded of the rules regarding dogs on site. Whilst a dog friendly site, tenants must keep dogs on a lead and clean up after them.
 - *Footpaths & Internal Grass Track* – The grass tracks and public footpaths around the site have been mown by a tenant volunteer. This tenant has also taken on the task of looking after the ride-on mower and is doing a great job.
- j) Platinum Meadows & Ridgeway Meadows:**
The meadow tracks have been cut and the segments of the flag have been left to grow. Most members of the public using this facility have shown respect and appreciation of the hard work undertaken to keep it looking good. Some wildflower seeds have now been planted between the trees.

23.075. Finance

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

23.076. 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.

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

- a. **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 8th August 2023

This meeting closed at 19:56

Signed Chairman

Dated