



**The Minutes of the Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7pm
SE Davis Meeting Room, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane, B96 6BG**

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

In attendance: Kate Brazier – Clerk
District Cllr Ben Hurdman
Mr Tony Mitchell – Parish Paths Warden

14 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.

23.088. Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr T. Bennett & Cllr V. Gupta

23.089. 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)

23.090. Minutes: The Minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 8th August 2023**, were approved as a correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Cllr Sumner and seconded by Cllr Pinfield.

23.091. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** – Emails are received and forwarded to all councillors.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – Emails continue to be forwarded by the NHW representative.
- **Community Speed Watch** – Contact from CSW Co-ordinator to ask if any assistance can be offered to get the scheme back up and running.

23.092. 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/23/01452/CU Land at (OS 0511 5952), The Ridgeway, New End, Astwood Bank**
Proposed: Change of use from agricultural land to a Tree Surgery Business. Retrospective.
Consultation ended on 28th August. The Parish Council recommended that the application be refused, with comments.
 - b) **W/23/01610/HP 30 Wood Lane, New End, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6NW**
Proposed: Extensions and alterations to existing house and creation of new access and driveway.
Decision: The Parish Council recommended that the application be approved.
 - c) **W/23/01652/HP, Fiddlers Row, 94 The Ridgeway, New End, Astwood Bank, B96 6LX**
Proposed: Erection of part two-storey/part single-storey rear extension, creation of dropped kerb and creation of two dormer windows to front elevation. - (Variation of condition 4 Ref W/23/00874/HP)
Decision: The Parish Council recommended the application be approved.
 - d) **W/23/01733/PIP 21 Wood Lane, New End, Astwood Bank, B96 6NN**
Proposed: Permission in Principle for the demolition of 21 Wood Lane and the construction of up to 6 self-build plots.
Decision: The Parish Council recommended that the application for permission in principle be refused with comments.
- ii) **Wychavon Planning Authority decisions:**
 - a) **W/22/02307/FUL Villa Farm Barns, Astwood Bank**
Proposed: Construction of 4no. new dwellings, upgraded access and associated landscaping works.
Decision: Approved 21/08/2023

23.093. Progress Reports

- a) **County Cllr Laura Gretton:** Not in attendance, no apology received.
- b) **District Councillor Update:** *An update from District Cllr Ben Hurdman*
 - *Rural Advisory Panel* – Fly-tipping has become an increasing problem. Rural crime and antisocial behaviour will be targeted.
 - *Community Legacy Grant* – Cookhill has the opportunity to apply for the grant. The application must bring community value and be for a new idea. An officer will come and give a talk to the parish council if requested.
- c) **Chairman's Update:**
 - A new VAS to be installed to replace the damaged one on the Evesham Road. This will be installed on Thursday, weather permitting.
- d) **The Clerk provided an update on the following:** Items included in other sections.
- e) **Parish Paths Warden:**

- New signs have now been installed on the parish fields to signpost the correct footpaths. Further signage is needed and will be installed soon.
 - Post to be replaced on the footpath from Oak Tree Lane to the main road.
- f) **Cookhill Village Hall:** The Village Hall are still looking for volunteers. Please contact Cllr Sumner for more information.
- Quiz Night – Saturday 28th October - £10 per person, including a light supper
 - Skittles Evening – 25th November - £10 per person, including a light supper.
 - Magician – Saturday 16th December - £15 per person, including a light supper.
- All information about the above events will be published on the Cookhill News & Social Events page.*
- g) **Lengthsman Scheme:** Following the advertisement of the post on Indeed two prospective candidates were welcomed to the meeting. Training is supplied by Worcestershire County Council. The chairman thanked the candidates for attending.
- h) **Playing Fields:** Hedge will need cutting to keep it within a suitable height.
- i) **Cookhill Allotments / Parish Land:** *Report from Mr David Claydon, Cookhill Allotment Association Chairman;*
- *Plots & Tenants* – Of the 38 plots there are now only two vacant (20 & 36).
 - *New locks* – The new locks, approved last month, have now been fitted to the internal perimeter gates, taps and toilet.
 - *General site* – The plots are all showing numbers and the site is looking neat & tidy. The combination of wet & warm weather has made fast growing weeds challenging.
 - *Perimeter Fencing* – Repairs have been carried out to the perimeter 'rabbit proof' fence to stop them getting onto the site.
 - *Allotment Association AGM* – Saturday 30th September at 11 am. Cookhill Village Hall. Cllr Pinfield will attend to give out the trophies for the Best Kept Allotment. **Posters have been requested to advertise the event.**
 - *Fields / Hedges* – All fields have been harvested for hay. The hedges will be cut in the coming weeks.
- j) **Platinum Meadows & Ridgeway Meadows**
- *Grass Cutting* – One of the field tenants has taken over the cutting of the grass at the meadow. It may need a few more cuts before winter. Cuts have been agreed at £30 per cut, as per the contract held at the Playing Fields. Extra bark has been laid around the oak tree. More will be required to complete the task.
The Chairman wished to thank the resident, who had been cutting the grass up to this stage, for all his help and hard work.
 - *Visit from Wychavon District Council Chairman* – To commemorate the 50th birthday of Wychavon in 2024 the Chairman for this civic year, Cllr Robert Raphael, has been tasked with visiting every parish before April. WDC have requested to visit Platinum Meadows and pupils from the Ridgeway School have also been invited to attend. The Cookhill Allotment Association will also be invited to thank them for their help in the planting of the saplings, orchard and maintenance assistance. A date in October is to be confirmed.

23.094. **D-Day 80 Commemorative Events for June 2024** It was agreed that this be moved to the October Agenda.

23.095 **Housing Needs Survey** – It was reported that an anonymous Housing Needs Survey had been distributed to households in Cookhill. The survey had been compiled by WRCC. A representative had been invited to attend the October meeting but had declined. Wychavon had confirmed that they had not been consulted on the survey.

23.096. **Finance**

- a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for August 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) *Internal Audit 2023/24* – The Parish Council approved the re-appointment of DM Payroll Services to carry out the Internal Audit for the 2023/24 financial year. Councillors read and approved the Privacy Policy and agree to DM Payroll Services Ltd. using personal data for the purpose of carrying out the audit only.

23.097. **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.

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

- a. **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 10th October 2023

This meeting closed at 20:14

Signed Chairman

Dated