



**The Minutes of the Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7pm
SE Davis Meeting Room, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane, B96 6BG**

Present: Cllr A. Sumner (Vice Chair), Cllr M. Churchill, Cllr P. Davis & Cllr T. Bennett

In attendance: Kate Brazier – Clerk
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.

23.099. Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr R Pinfield, Cllr V Gupta, District Cllr Ben Hurdman & Mr Tony Mitchell

23.100. 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)

23.101. Minutes: The Minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 12th September 2023**, were approved as a correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Cllr Churchill and seconded by Cllr Sumner.

23.102. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** – A PC and a PCSO from the Droitwich attended the Friday Coffee Morning on 6th October to introduce themselves to parishioners. Cllr Bennett continues to forward details of local crimes as and when they occur plus any information on scams. Cllr Bennett reported that there had been no comment from the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner, Paul Middlebrough since his visit in April. It was agreed that the clerk would chase this up
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – There have been a few reports of vehicle crime, but mainly in the Droitwich area.
- **Community Speed Watch** – Stephen Bullock, the Community Speed Watch Coordinator from West Mercia Police attended the Friday Coffee Morning at the Village Hall on 6th October to introduce himself. He is keen to get the volunteers from the Cookhill CSW Team back out on the roads before the winter and recommended some refresher training. He advised that some of the required paperwork had changed and members will need to be re-vetted. This will not hinder them carrying out a session though.
The Cookhill CSW Team coordinator attended the meeting and reported that there will be a Speed Awareness fortnight starting on the 16th October, running until the 29th October. The Team would like to get out during this period.

23.103. 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/23/01828/FUL Highfield Farm, Salt Way, New End, Astwood Bank, Redditch, B96 6NH

Proposed: Rotation of agricultural storage building approved under W/23/00840/FUL

Decision: The Parish Council recommended that the application be approved.

b) W/23/01569/HP Spring Close, 18 Cladswell Lane, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5JU

Proposed: Single Storey First Floor rear and Side Extension

Decision: The Parish Council recommended that the application be approved.

ii) Wychavon Planning Authority decisions:

a) 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: REFUSED 28/09/2023

b) 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: APPROVED 02/10/2023

c) 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: APPROVED 06/10/2023

23.104. Progress Reports

- a) County Cllr Laura Gretton:** Not in attendance, no apology received. It was requested that the clerk research the attendance of the County Councillor since her appointment to the role.
- b) District Councillor Update:** *An update from District Cllr Ben Hurdman*
 - *South Worcestershire Development Plan* – This has now been submitted for approval.
 - *Community Planning Event* – An event for Town and Parish Councils will take place on 23rd November at the Civic Centre in Pershore. The Chair and the clerk will attend on behalf of Cookhill Parish Council.
- c) Chairman's Update:** No update

d) The Clerk provided an update on the following:

Vehicle Activated Signs – The second new replacement VAS has been installed on the Evesham Road, and is working well.
Bus Stop – A member of the public attended the meeting and asked when the bus stop back would be replaced. Cllr Davis agreed to forward the information, including sizes and prices of alternative materials, to the clerk.

e) Parish Paths Warden: Apologies. The wobbly post reported at the last meeting, located at the entrance to the footpath from Oak Tree Lane to the main road, has been repaired by the Parish Paths Warden.

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: The Chairman, Vice Chair and Clerk interviewed two candidates for the Lengthsman vacancy on Friday 29th September and have agreed to take on one of the applicants. There is a space on the Lengthsman Training course on 27th October at County Hall in Worcester and the successful applicant will need to attend this before he can take carry out any work on the highway. The other applicant will be offered some work in and around the parish that does not fall under the Lengthsman duties.

h) Playing Fields: The hedge at the Playing Field will need cutting back urgently. A contractor has been contacted.

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

- *Plots & Tenants* – There are now 3 vacant plots. One plot will soon be vacated and an existing tenant will take this on.
- *Best Kept Allotment* – The awards for Best Kept Allotment went to plot 4, with runners up on Plot 4a. The overall quality and tidiness has been excellent this year. Tenants with untidy plots have been spoken to. The biggest problem has been fast growing weeds and grass, with the internal track still being mown well into October.
- *Pests* – A local pest control company has been contacted to deal with a wasps' nest on Plot 1 on two occasions and the perimeter fence has been repaired in three locations where rabbits have entered the site.
- *Water* – The mains water has now been switched off until next spring, and the meter read and reported to WaterPlus. Tenants have been advised to collect rain water via their water butts to prepare for the next growing season.
- *Hedges* – Work has started on cutting the field hedges.

j) Platinum Meadows & Ridgeway Meadows

- *Hedges* – Rooftop Housing have been contacted to cut back the hedge at Ridgeway Meadows.
- *Visit from Wychavon District Council Chairman* – A provisional date of 27th October has been suggested.
- *Grass-cutting* – The grass tracks have been mown at the meadow three times this month. Most of the trees are showing good signs of growth with approximately 50 needing to be replaced. More bark will be needed to put round central seat shortly.

23.105. Finance

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

23.106. 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.

- Parochial Church Charities report

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

- a. **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 14th November 2023

This meeting closed at 19:41

Signed Chairman

Dated