



**The Minutes of the Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7pm
SE Davis Meeting Room, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane, B96 6BG**

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

In attendance: Kate Brazier – Clerk
Mr Tony Mitchell

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.

24.001. Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr Sumner, Cllr Gupta & Cllr Hurdman

The Council were advised of the resignation of Cllr Paul Davis. Notice of the Casual Vacancy have been advertised on the notice boards and on the Parish Council website.

24.002. 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)

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

24.004. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** – Cllr Bennett advised that he is still not receiving much information from the police and has not received the speeding data from the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner as yet.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – Information is forwarded through by Cllr Bennett when it is received.
- **Community Speed Watch** – No sessions have taken place this year.

24.005. 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 since the last meeting.
- ii) **Wychavon Planning Authority decisions:**
 - a) **W/23/02086/HP Cladswell House, 44 Lower Cladswell Lane, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5JY**
Proposed: 2 Storey Rear Extension together with the provision of 2 new windows in the existing house gables
Decision: Approved 14/12/2023
 - b) **W/23/02192/HP The Cowshed, Linsey Farm, Cladswell Lane, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5LA**
Proposed: Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation
Decision: Approved 22/12/2023

24.006. Progress Reports

- a) **County Cllr Laura Gretton:** Not in attendance, no apology received.
- b) **District Councillor Update:** Apologies. *Report received.*
 - **Community Legacy Grant** – The Wychavon community legacy grant opened on 8th January. If there are any projects the parish council are keen to get off the ground this may be worth looking at. The grant is aimed at innovative, ambitious capital projects that will benefit the community. All details are on the Wychavon website as of 9th January.
 - **Trees Call to Action Project** - Heart of England Forest are promoting a new initiative for community orchard projects. The Trees Call to Action Project (TCAP), along with Wychavon and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund partnered with Heart of England Forest, are offering schools and community groups the opportunity to access trees to plant an orchard.
- c) **Chairman's Update:** Updated VAS proposed for the Salt Way to replace the old sign following continuing reports of speeding in this area.
- d) **The Clerk provided an update on the following:**
 - **Water Leak** – The owner of the house has been contacted and he says it is a natural spring causing the problem. The PROW Team are investigating a solution. Ongoing.
 - **Notice Board at SE Davis** – The notice board that was damaged during the installation of the new entrance still needs repair or replacement. Prices to be investigated.
- e) **Parish Paths Warden:** Nothing much to report since the New Year. The water leak onto the footpath (mentioned above) was discussed.
- f) **Cookhill Village Hall:** Please contact the Village Hall if you can offer any assistance with events.

- g) **Lengthsman Scheme:** The new Parish Lengthsman has been carrying out necessary work in the parish and has cleaned the road signs.
- h) **Playing Fields:** The goals will be moved and the hedge assessed as it will need to be cut back soon.
- i) **Cookhill Allotments / Parish Land:** *Report from Mr David Claydon, Cookhill Allotment Association Chairman;*
- *Plots* – There are currently three allotment plots available. Tenants have been asked to let the committee know if they intend to give up their plot before the spring invoices are sent out.
 - *Weather conditions* – Following the heavy rain of the last few months the inner track has recovered well following the additional drainage works. Tenants have been reminded to take advantage of any dry spells over the coming months to turn over their plots and add some compost or manure.
 - *Servicing* – The sit on mower and the two strimmers will be serviced during January / February.
 - *Hedge Trimming* – The allotment and field hedges have now been trimmed.
- j) **Platinum Meadows & Ridgeway Meadows** – Hedges have been trimmed.

24.007. The Parish Council reviewed and approved the following;

- Financial Regulations
- Standing Orders
- Risk Assessment
- Asset Register

24.008. Finance

- a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for December 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) The Parish Council resolved to approve the Budget and set the Precept at £26,650 for the 2024/25 financial year. This will result in a Band D charge of £43.46 and an increase of 2.3% compared with the current year's charge. Proposed by Cllr Pinfield and seconded by Cllr Bennett, all in favour.

24.009. 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.

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

- a. **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7pm.

This meeting closed at 20:10

Signed Chairman

Dated