



**The Minutes of the Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 13th February 2024 at 7pm
SE Davis Meeting Room, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane, B96 6BG**

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

In attendance: Kate Brazier – Clerk
District Cllr Ben Hurdman

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.

Meeting commenced at 7:13pm

24.011. Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr Churchill, Cllr Gupta & Mr Tony Mitchell

24.012. 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)

24.013. Minutes: The Minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**, were approved as a correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Pinfield.

24.014. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** – Report received from PCSO Vicky Elliott. Nothing to report since the last meeting apart from one non injury RTC at the bottom of Edgioake Lane. Two vehicles involved.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – Cllr Bennett continues to forward relevant emails to the councillors. A new Ridgeway NHW Association has been started over the last month.
- **Community Speed Watch** – No sessions have taken place so far this year. CSW keen to get the team back out and vetting forms required again and refresher training.

24.015. 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/23/02508/FUL Land Adjacent, Brandheath Cottage, Salt Way, New End, Astwood Bank

Proposed: Demolition of 2 barns and erection of 2 dwellings - variation of condition 2 on planning approval 19/02604/FUL - rotation of dwelling

Decision: The Parish Council added to their previous comments.

ii) Wychavon Planning Authority decisions:

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

Proposed: Single Storey First Floor rear and Side Extension

Decision: APPROVED 16/01/2024

b) W/23/02287/HP Tamarisk, 43 Oak Tree Lane, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5LH

Proposal: Single Storey rear/side extension, loft conversion with 2No. side facing dormer roofs & extended ridge line.

Decision: APPROVED 1/02/2024

24.016. Progress Reports

- a) County Cllr Laura Gretton:** Not in attendance, no apology received. Part of the Divisional funding promised has now been received.
- b) District Councillor Update:** District Council Meeting to be held next week.
 - *Police & Crime Commissioner* – Cllr Hurdman has made the Police & Crime Commissioner aware of the continued speeding issues in Inkberrow, Cookhill and Holberrow Green. There is an election coming up in May.
- c) Chairman's Update:**
 - Concerns have been raised by several members of the public about the height of the roof of bungalow 3 at 47 The Ridgeway. Officers at Enforcement will visit the site to check the building with the approved plans.
- d) The Clerk provided an update on the following:**

- *Verge Damage* – Some damage to the verge has been reported at the site of the works on Lower Cladswell Lane. The location has been visited by Barry Barnes from WCC Highways who has found no significant damage caused to the ditch or the single grip across the verge. Some damage to the verge at the road edge has been noted and the Parish Council have asked that Highways revisit to fill in the damaged verge.
- e) **Parish Paths Warden:** Apologies.
- A partial obstruction to the footpath from Oak Tree Lane to the Evesham Road has been reported. Some large fence panels have come down during the recent storms but the path is still passable.
- f) **Cookhill Village Hall:**
- *Solar Panel Project* – Thanks to Wychavon DC for approving the grant funding to fulfil the project. The project is currently at the quote stage. The Parish Council agreed that, having analysed the three quotes, they are happy for the Cookhill Village Hall Committee to vote and agree on the company as they see fit.
- g) **Lengthsman Scheme:** The Lengthsman taken on by the Parish Council at the end of last year has resigned with immediate effect. The position has been advertised and a suitable applicant was in attendance. The Parish Councillors proposed to offer the applicant the role with immediate effect. The clerk will send through the relevant paperwork. The relevant road safety training will be required before any work can be carried out on the highway.
- h) **Playing Fields:** Goals will need moving and the hedge topping out.
- i) **Cookhill Allotments / Parish Land:** *Report from Mr David Claydon, Cookhill Allotment Association Chairman;*
- *Tenants* – Two tenants have given notice, so there are now 3 plots available at the site. With some extra land becoming available there could be up to 8 plots when the new season starts. The clerk will advertise the vacancies on the noticeboards. There is one person on the waiting list.
 - *Reducing the size of plots* – Several plans are being discussed, such as extending the car park or creating a dedicated area for soil conditioner / manure. One plot has been vacant for some time and may be better used as a wildlife area. The Allotment Association have requested an onsite meeting with the Parish Council to discuss future plans.
- j) **Platinum Meadows & Ridgeway Meadows** – The small free trees planted here are growing very slowly and some will need replacing, some have taken well and are showing good sign of growth. A selection of 105 new trees have been purchased from the Woodland Trust and will need to be planted as soon as possible. The daffodils are starting to show and should be even better this year.

24.017. The Parish Council reviewed the following;

- Land Tenancy Agreements – The councillors agreed that the clerk would send the Grazing Licenses to the field tenants using model agreements found on line due to significant increase in the fees quoted by Fisher German, the company usually used. It was agreed that the tenants would be informed that their fees would be reviewed.
- Disciplinary Procedure – It was agreed that this be moved to the March meeting for discussion.

24.018. Finance

- a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for January 2024 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.

24.019. 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.

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

- a. **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7pm.

This meeting closed at 20:50

Signed Chairman

Dated