



**The Minutes of the Cookhill Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7pm
SE Davis Meeting Room, Sandhills Farm, Edgioake Lane, B96 6BG**

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

In attendance: Kate Brazier – Clerk
Mr Tony Mitchell
6 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.

24.021. Apologies received and accepted from: Cllr Churchill & District Cllr Ben Hurdman

24.022. Declarations of interest

- a) Register of Interests. Councillors were reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests.
- b) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Cllr Anne Sumner declared an interest in item 24.025 a)
- c) Other Disclosable Interests
- d) Written requests for the Council to grant dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

24.023. Minutes: The Minutes from the last meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Tuesday 13th February 2024**, were approved as a correct record by the Council, and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Pinfield.

24.024. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

- **Police Report** – Cllr Bennett continues to forward the emails received as relevant. Fly-tipping along Dogbut Lane had been reported to Cllr Bennett who reported this to the Police. There was a substantial amount of cannabis plants discarded. When the police visited the location a few days later the plants had gone.
- **Neighbourhood Watch** – A Neighbourhood Watch Team has been set up in the Allotment area of the Ridgeway.
- **Community Speed Watch** – The volunteer currently in charge of the CSW has stepped down. A request for volunteers will be circulated and new sites to be requested.

24.025. 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/24/00137/FUL Cladswell Hall Farm, Cladswell Lane, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5JT

Proposed: Proposed agricultural building for storage of hay/straw and associated loading machinery

Decision: The Parish Council recommended that the application be APPROVED with conditions.

b) W/24/00373/FUL Mearse Croft, Mearse Lane, Inkberrow, Redditch, B96 6LN

Proposed: Retrospective and new permission sought for agricultural buildings including grain silos, chicken sheds and movable hen houses (Removal of condition 3 Ref 21/02986/FUL)

Decision: It was agreed that the original comments on application 21/02986/FUL still apply and no further recommendations would be made.

c) W/24/00263/FUL Land At (OS 0416 6089), Manor Farm Cottage, Edgioake Lane, Astwood Bank

Proposed: Conversion and extension of barn to a live/work unit

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

d) W/23/02395/FUL High Venture, 47 Lower Cladswell Lane, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5JY **AMENDMENTS**

Proposed: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 3 new dwellings with associated works

Decision: Consultation ended on 11th March 2024. The Parish Council have submitted further recommendations and requested that the application be called in for full planning.

ii) Wychavon Planning Authority decisions:

a) W/23/02515/HP Field House, Church Lane, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5JS

Proposed: Installation of electric gates to front of property (retrospective)

Decision: REFUSED 27/02/2024

b) W/23/02334/HP 34 Lower Cladswell Lane, Cookhill, Alcester, B49 5JY

Proposed: Proposal of a wall (under 2 metres in height) to be built on boundary with electric sliding gates to be installed

Decision: APPROVED 11/03/2024

24.026. Progress Reports

- a) **County Cllr Laura Gretton:** Not in attendance, no apology or report received.
- b) **District Councillor Update:** District Cllr Ben Hurdman sent his apologies and sent the following report;
 - *Planning* – Wychavon have appointed a new Head of Planning. Mr Ian Macleod has joined from Birmingham City Council.
 - *Fly-tipping* – The incident mentioned earlier, regarding fly-tipping on Dogbut Lane, was discussed with OPCC John Campion and the lack of communication and action following the incident was reported.
 - *SWDP* – Inspectors for the plan have now been appointed.
- c) **Chairman's Update:** Following reports of a sewage leak on Wood Lane the Chairman wished to thank a resident who has spent a lot of time dealing with Severn Trent to rectify the situation.
- d) **The Clerk provided an update on the following:** The council was asked to read through the Action List provided by the clerk and request information if required.
- e) **Parish Paths Warden:** Not much to report. There is one item outstanding in Dogbut Lane with a damaged stile.
- f) **Cookhill Village Hall:**
 - *Coffee Mornings* – Cllr Sumner has been running a very successful Coffee Morning on Friday mornings from 10am until noon. It was reported that the hot water boiler has broken and is unable to be repaired. The Committee have put in a request to the Parish Council for a grant to purchase a replacement boiler, this was proposed by Cllr Pinfield and agreed unanimously. Cllr Pinfield and Cllr Bennett wished to thank Cllr Sumner for running the Coffee Morning and for everything she does at the Village Hall.
- g) **Lengthsman Scheme:** The Lengthsman candidate offered the role at the last meeting declined the offer. A new candidate has been shown round the parish and has agreed to take on the role and the necessary road safety training run by the Lengthsman Scheme. He is currently working on planting trees at Platinum Meadows and moving the goals at the Playing Fields until he can work on the Highway.
- h) **Cookhill Allotments / Parish Land:** *Report from Mr David Claydon, Cookhill Allotment Association Chairman;*
 - The site is still very boggy, but slowly drying out.
 - There are currently two vacant plots (19 & 36) with the option of up to three more by reducing plot 31.
 - Plot 20 will no longer be offered to potential tenants. The grass will be kept strimmed and it will be used as a wildlife area. This will include small shrubs that attract butterflies and bees.
 - Two new tenants have joined, one of whom has taken over part of a larger plot (Plot 1) and the second will be taking on plot 35. Keeping these two plots means that the committee is no longer considering extending the car park. The pile of hard core has now been removed from the car park, making space for up to three additional vehicles. Some of this hard core has been used to fill a dip in the public footpath, on the edge of the allotments, which continually collects water. It has prevented many walkers from using that right of way.
 - An existing tenant has also taken on vacant plot 29 at the far end of the site.
 - The mains water will be turned on for testing during the first week in April, the site now has the benefit of an underground stop tap in the field near to the allotment car park to enable the water to be turned off quickly in the event of a leak, or for repairs.
 - The sit on mower and strimmers have all been serviced and are ready for use.
- i) **Platinum Meadows & Ridgeway Meadows** – New whips have been planted at Platinum Meadows by the Lengthsman.

24.027. Disciplinary Procedure – Moved to April meeting.

24.028. Finance

- a) The monthly statement and bank reconciliation for February 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.
- b) Clerk's Salary – It was agreed that any increases to the clerk's salary be implemented.
- c) Grant Request – Cookhill Village Hall requested a grant from the Parish Council to purchase a replacement hot water boiler. It was proposed that the grant be approved and that the Parish Council purchase the boiler on behalf of the Village Hall. *See item 24.026 f).*

24.029. 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.

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

- a) **Annual Parish Meeting** – Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 7pm
- b) **Parish Council Meeting** – Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 7.30pm

This meeting closed at 20:16

Signed Chairman

Dated