

COCKING PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
3 FEBRUARY 2020, 6.30PM
VILLAGE HALL, BELL LANE, COCKING

PRESENT: Cllrs Miss F Russell (Chair), D Imlach, Mrs J Jackson, R Marks and D Summerfield.

IN ATTENDANCE: G Burt, Clerk to the Council
Cty Cllr D Bradford
3 Members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Jenkins (during the meeting) and T Waite due to prior engagements. The apologies were noted and reasons given approved.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members and officers were invited to make any declarations of pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda and were reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the meeting if it then became apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue was to be considered.

Mrs J Jackson and Miss F Russell declared interests as shareholders in the Bluebell Community Hub. Cllr Summerfield declared an interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

3. Questions from Visitors

A resident asked if the speed limit to the north of the village could be reduced to 40mph? It was stated that having achieved a reduction to 50mph due to be installed this year, it was doubtful. The Clerk would none the less ask WSCC the question.

A resident asked if another speed indicator could be installed to the north of the village? It was reported that previous attempts had not been successful. Again, this could be revisited.

A resident said she had offered her services for Community Speedwatch but had not been contacted. It was hoped to relaunch this when more volunteers came forward.

A representative from the Village Hall Committee sought clarification on any grant applications for the car park extension. It was confirmed that third parties could seek funds for the project on behalf of the Council.

4. WSCC Report

Cty Cllr D Bradford reported that the WSCC precept would rise by 4% and roads proposed to be removed from gritting routes to save money had ben reinstated following public pressure.

5. CDC Report

No report

6. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 6 January 2020, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

8. Planning

There were no planning applications to consider.

9. Bluebell Inn Community Project – to receive an update if available from the Council’s representative.

Cllr Miss F Russell advised that staff were still being sought.

The Chairman then went on to report that a public meeting had recently been held to discuss the future of the shop and Post Office to which 70 had attended. There was overwhelming support to keep the facility in its current location. The Post Office were supportive. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be willing to lend its support, in any negotiating or facilitating role if required to bring about a reopening. An initial suggestion to relocate the Post Office to the Bluebell would not be possible, as it would then become a Community PO and not a Local PO, which are funded to different levels.

10. Highways

a. Village Gateways – to receive an update.

The gates had been ordered and the Clerk needed to ask Cowdray if they could put the end of the west side gateway in their hedge.

b. Bell Lane TRO.

The Clerk had submitted a formal request under the Community Highways Scheme to reduce the limit to 30mph.

c. Footpaths and Footways

We had supported a request from the SDNPA to endorse a funding application that would see ROWs improved from the SD Way into the village.

d. Cycleways

Nothing to report.

e. Speed Reduction Cocking to Midhurst

WSCC had confirmed that our bid to reduce the limit between Cocking & Midhurst to 50mph had been successful.

11. Parish Matters

a. Playground

Nothing to report.

b. Newsletter

Cllr T Waite had kindly offered to take forward the collation of the Council's page within the new pan-village newsletter once it was definitely given the go-ahead. Cllr D Imlach was thanked for his excellent efforts over many years in preparing the Council's own newsletter. It was agreed that should the launch of the new newsletter be delayed, then we would need to do our own Spring Newsletter so as to ensure the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors was advertised in good time.

c. Village Hall

The Clock was now working.

d. Village Hall Car Park

See Minute 3 above.

e. Broadband

The Chairman would be chairing a meeting with WSCC and affected local residents on the 19 February to discuss how to take this issue forward.

f. Defibrillator

It was agreed that this should be taken forward, as there was currently no public defibrillator in the village. The Bluebell was willing to host a device on its wall facing the main road. The Clerk offered to apply for a grant to IGas.

g. Bus Shelter

Due to the *fall* to the rear, rain and ground water sat in the bus shelter. In addition, due to the base being cut into surrounding ground, water could not escape. Cllr D Imlach would ask Malcolm for a quote to see what could be done to rectify the problem. All previous vandalism had been repaired. Comment was made about the difficulty in getting pins in the backboards when putting posters up.

12. Finance

a. Payments from 7 January to 3 February 2020 totalling £1,464.05 as set out in Appendix A, were **RESOLVED** and any receipts noted.

b. A Bank Reconciliation to the 14 January 20120 was agreed, Appendix B. Cllr Mrs J Jackson initialled the corresponding entry on statement number 70.

13. To review a new draft operating agreement between the Council and the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Chairs had reviewed the document and suggested suitable amendments. Subject to the change of the Hall Committee meeting their own insurance premium, **RESOLVED** accordingly.

14. Corporate Risk Assessment

Members reviewed the Council's Corporate Risk Assessment and **RESOLVED** accordingly.

15. Asset Register

Members reviewed the Council's overall Risk Assessment and **RESOLVED** accordingly.

16. Forward Strategy / Cocking Voice

Nothing to report.

17. Crest

The Clerk would put an item on the Council's Facebook page inviting design suggestions which could then be considered.

18. Correspondence

The Clerk had submitted a summary of notable correspondence since the last meeting - Appendix C. The Chair and Vice Chair had expressed an interest in attending the All Parishes Meeting.

19. Any Other Matters for Information

- a. The Annual Parish Meeting of Electors had been booked for Thursday 16 April 2020, 7pm when the guest speaker would be Sgt Danny West of The Chi District northern Policing Team.
- b. It was asked that Shop & Post Office be added to the future agendas.
- c. At the public meeting referred to in Minute 9 above, it was suggested that more public car parking was required in the centre of the village. As previously discussed, the Council would not be willing to make the Village Hall Car Park for general public use.

20. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 2 March 2020 6.30pm

The meeting closed at 7.51pm

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

PAYMENTS: - 7 JANUARY - 3 FEBRUARY 2020						
DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO	DESCRIPTION	GROSS	VAT	NET
03/02/2020	Littlefield Lawncare	842	Playground grass cutting 2019	£1,100.00		£1,100.00
03/02/2020	G Burt	843	Clerk's Net salary for Jan	£214.85		£214.85
03/02/2020	HMRC	844	Clerk's Tax - Jan	£53.60		£53.60
03/02/2020	M R Woods	845	Bus shelter repairs	£95.60		£95.60
				£1,464.05		£1,464.05

APPENDIX B

BANK RECONCILIATION				
AS @ 14 JANUARY 2020				
CASHBOOK				
Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2019		£14,004.86		
Add Total Receipts		13,686.67		
Less Total Payments		(13,517.96)		
TOTAL		£14,173.57	◀	TALLY
BANK				
Lloyds Treasurers A/C (14/01/2020)		14,173.57		
Less unrepresented cheques				
Plus unrepresented deposits		0		
TOTAL		14,173.57	◀	

APPENDIX C

NOTABLE CORRESPONDENCE TO 3 FEBRUARY 2020			
Date	From	Subject	Action (Forwarded to all Cllrs unless otherwise stated.)
06/01/2020	WSSC	Publication of Soft Sand Review of the West Sussex Joint Minerals Local Plan (Regulation 19)	
07/01/2020	CDC	Media release: Investment could unlock over £1m funding to support wildlife projects	
08/01/2020	CDC	Media release: Council takes steps to help tackle air quality in Midhurst	
08/01/2020	CDC	Media release: Chichester District Council responds to feedback on car parking charges	
16/01/2020	WSSC	Town and Parish Council News Special	
25/01/2020	CDC	All Parishes Meeting - Monday 10 February 2020	
25/01/2020	SDNPA	South Downs News - January 2020 edition	
28/01/2020	WSSC	Highways, Transport and Planning Newsletter - January 2020	
29/01/2020	PO	POST OFFICE LIMITED - GRAYSHOTT	
29/01/2020	WSSC	North Chichester County Local Committee - 12 November 2019 - agenda	
29/01/2020	WSSC	Your Town and Parish Council News for February	