

**COCKING PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**12 APRIL 2021, 6.30PM**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Miss F Russell (Chair), Mrs Elliott-Renney, D Imlach (from Minute 9), Mrs J Jackson, R Marks and D Summerfield.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** G Burt, Clerk to the Council  
Dis Cllr G Macara (Until Minute 4)

A minute's silence was held in memory of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The Chairman confirmed the meeting was being broadcast via *Facebook Live* and asked that if Cllrs wished to speak, to hold up their yellow cards or similar.

**1. Apologies**

None

**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.

Cllr D Summerfield declared an interest as a Member of the Village Hall Management Committee.

**3. Questions from Visitors**

There had been no requests to join the meeting to ask a question, and no questions had been submitted to be read out.

**4. To receive reports from County & District Cllrs.**

Dis Cllr Gordon Gordon Macara had sent a written report in advance, circulated to all Councillors and joined the meeting. Cty Cllr David Bradford had tendered his apologies.

**5. To consider any applications for cooption**

No applications for the remaining vacancy had been received.

**6. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman in due course.

**7. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk apologised that at the last meeting, he hadn't recalled that a verge to the north of the village had already been registered with WSCC for a reduced grass cutting regime, and that wildflower seeds had already been planted there.

## 8. Planning

Comments on planning applications were **RESOLVED** as set out in Appendix A.

## 9. Highways

### a. Footpaths and Footways

It was reported that work to cut back encroaching surface vegetation of the Cocking to Heyshott turn footway alongside the A286 was in hand.

A District Councillor has offered to take up the issue of the need for signage atop Cocking Hill, asking drivers to slow down due to SD Way walkers crossing the A286

### b. Cycleways

Nothing to report.

### c. Bus Shelter

This was still flooding, advice and prices still being sought.

### d. 50mph Speed Limit

Cllrs were pleased to see that the 50mph limit from Cocking to Midhurst, requested by the Parish Council, had now been implemented. However, WSCC had erected larger than previous roundels on our new gateway signs and were not centred. The Clerk would take this matter up with WSCC.

### e. Pedestrian barriers

Cllr Imlach suggested that the constantly-damaged pedestrian barriers may not after all be the result of regular RTAs but, in fact, machinery towed by tractors.

## 10. Parish Matters

### a. Playground

A quote to repair the benches etc. in hardwood looked prohibitive. Alternative solutions would be considered including recycled plastic. The suggestion of some adult outdoor gym equipment seemed to be popular judging by comments on social media, and it was agreed that suggestions for sites might be invited via the next newsletter.

### b. Village Hall

Members looked forward to the hall being able to reopen in due course as COVID restrictions were lifted. Councillors did have some concerns about still being able to hold social-distanced meetings, when the power to hold virtual meetings expired in early May, given the size of the hall. The Clerk advised that the Government's refusal to extend the power to hold virtual meetings was being challenged in the High Court, and it was believed that the Government itself was not likely to block the challenge, so virtual or possibly hybrid meetings may be able to continue. We should know by the May meeting.

### c. Broadband

It was reported that some work had started.

**d. Defibrillator**

This had now been sourced from an alternative supplier. The Clerk suggested that although he understood that it required minimal maintenance, it would be good to have a volunteer to keep an eye on it for vandalism, checking it was charging, occasionally cleaning it etc. Cllr Jane Elliot-Renney kindly offered.

**e. Newsletter**

Cllr Imlach would kindly compile a draft spring edition.

**f. Other Parish Matters**

Cllrs confirmed that the Council official notice board on the Post Office was required.

**11. Finance**

- a. Payments since last meeting were **RESOLVED** and any receipts NOTED – Appendix **B**.
- b. Bank Reconciliation to 2 March 2021 was NOTED – Appendix **C** and the corresponding bank statement was subsequently initialled by Cllr Miss Russell.

Grant Applications

- c. **RESOLVED** that an application for a grant of £100 to Air Ambulance Kent, Surrey & Sussex be supported, in accordance with S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- d. **RESOLVED** that an application for a grant of £100 to 4Sight Vision Support be supported, in accordance with S137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**12. WSALC to receive an update on the AGM and possible split from SSALC.**

The Clerk reported that since the AGM, many of the Directors of WSALC Ltd had either resigned or been removed. As a result, systems and structures had been put in place not too dissimilar from previous, such that things had calmed down and it is business as usual. The Parish Council was therefore happy to renew its membership of WSALC & NALC accordingly.

**13. Any Other Matters for Information**

Cllr Richard Marks gave some background to the previous uses of a former dairy, meaning it may not require change of use to catering.

**14. Date of Next Meetings**

**Monday 10 May 2021 6.30pm**

*The meeting closed at 7.18pm*

Chairman:

Date:

## APPENDIX A

Ref. No	Address	Details	Comment
SDNP/21/00 904/LIS	Mill House Mill Lane Cocking GU29 0HJ	Rear extensions to ground floor and first floor. Demolish existing garage and relocate new garage with residential/holiday accommodation over.	<p>OBJECTION for the following material reasons:</p> <p>The proposed new garage (with residential / possibly holiday accommodation over) by virtue of height, mass and design will be at variance to the prevailing form of development in the area and therefore represents an overdevelopment of the site which will be detrimental to the amenities of the (Conservation) area (within the South Downs National Park) and neighbouring properties.</p> <p>The proposed external staircase to the holiday let will lead to overlooking, representing a further diminution to the amenities of neighbouring properties.</p> <p>The proposal will increase traffic onto this already inadequate largely single track unadopted access road and therefore be to the detriment and safety of other highway users.</p>
SDNP/21/00 355/FUL	Longmeadow, Bell Lane, Cocking GU29 0HU	Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling with associated garaging and associated surface parking.	<p>Whilst the reduction in number of dwellings is to be welcomed, the Council considers that the concerns raised in the original application are still warranted, and thus sustains its previous comments, as amended, below.</p> <p>OBJECT for the following material reasons:</p> <p>The proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Would by virtue of light pollution impact on wildlife particularly the bats and owls resident in this location;</li> <li>2. Would be to the detriment of pedestrians, as it would add traffic onto Bell Lane which is a narrow rural lane without a footway;</li> <li>3. Be to the detriment of other highway users, by virtue of their being no provision for visitor parking. There is no additional parking available on Bell Lane and there is already a problem with local residents blocking the Lane where properties have two cars and only space for one car. This Lane is already busy with large agricultural vehicles who take the full width of the Lane.</li> </ol>
SDNP/21/0 1201/HOU	Bankside Bell Lane Cocking	Repacement of roof tiles. Repointing of chimneys.	NO OBJECTION
SDNP/21/0 1094/HOU S	Bell House Bell Lane Cocking GU29 0HU	UPVC Cladding to front elevation (South facing).	NO OBJECTION
SDNP/21/0 1398/LIS	Stephens Cottage Church Lane Cocking Midhurst West Sussex GU29 0HW	Repositioning of front door and porch. Internal changes and fenestration changes. To make good external and internal walls to match existing.	NO OBJECTION

## APPENDIX B

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 11 APRIL 2021						
DATE	PAYEE	CHEQUE NO	DESCRIPTION	GROSS	VAT	NET
15/03/2021	Cowdray Estate	905	Village Hall ground rent	£143.66		£143.66
			Rewc Field ground rent	£100.00		£100.00
15/03/2021	SP Service (UK) Ltd	906	Defibrillator + cabinet	£1,610.77	£268.46	£1,342.31
15/03/2021	Parco Civil Eng & G	907	Install gateway features / REPLACEMENT CHEQUE	£2,717.12	£452.85	£2,264.27
22/03/2021	G Burt	908	Clerk salary - Mar	£219.95		£219.95
22/03/2021	HMRC	909	Clerk Tax - Mar	£55.00		£55.00
22/03/2021	CDC	910	Litter bin emptying 20-21	£89.23	£14.87	£74.36
				<b>£4,935.73</b>	<b>£736.18</b>	<b>£4,199.55</b>

## APPENDIX C

BANK RECONCILIATION		
AS @ 02 MARCH 2021		
<b>CASHBOOK</b>		
Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2020		£10,990.44
Add Total Receipts		13,667.00
Less Total Payments		(10,686.76)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£13,970.68</b>
<b>BANK</b>		
Lloyds Treasurers A/C (02/03/2021)		14,971.58
<b>Less unrepresented cheques</b>		
853	£450.00	
899	£219.95	
901	£219.95	
902	£55.00	
903	£20.00	
904	£36.00	
		-1,000.90
<b>Plus unrepresented deposits</b>		0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13,970.68</b>

TALLY