

COCKING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING

4 DECEMBER 2023, 6.30PM

PRESENT: Cllrs Miss F Russell (Chair), T Carter, A Cornwell, D Imlach, W Renney and D Summerfield.

IN ATTENDANCE:

G Burt, Clerk to the Council

Cty Cllr Tom Richardson

1 Member of the Public.

1. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mrs J Jackson due to a prior engagement. The apology and reason given were 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.

Cllr T Carter declared a pecuniary interest in item 7 as the applicant ref SDNPA/23/04405 and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

3. Questions from Visitors

A resident gave an update on plans for the Village Christmas Tree, kindly donated by the Cowdray Estate. (Chair to thank.)

A resident reported that a lorry (details known) had damaged the knee rail around *The Croft* green; he was asked to report it to Hyde Housing who owned the green.

4. To receive reports from County & District Cllrs.

Dis Cllr J Brown-Fuller had sent her apologies.

Cty Cllr Tom Richardson reported that the footway alongside the A286 was still on a WSCC *to do* list. He asked if the *Book a Bus* could be promoted in the *Cocking Column* pls? There seemed to be some confusion about how it worked but it would pick up in Cocking if a resident booked it.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the 6 November 2023, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

7. Planning

Comments on applications were **RESOLVED** as follows.

SDNP/23/04405/LDP	Flint House A286 The Croft To Bex Lane Cocking Causeway, Cocking GU29 OHD	Proposed lawful development - new ground floor door opening on existing side extension.	NO OBJECTION
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8. Highways Updates

- a. Footpaths & Footways – see minute 4. The Clerk reported that for some reason our application for CIL funds to improve the ROW from Cocking Hill down into the village had not been received but would be carried forward to the next bidding round.
- b. Cycleways – nothing to report.
- c. Traffic Calming – Community Speedwatch – Cllr T Carter advised that PPE for the volunteers had been delivered. A meeting on *Teams* had been held and sessions were planned for that Wednesday and Sunday. Well done to all for getting this scheme up and running.

9. Updates on Parish Matters

- a. Playground – The annual inspection report was awaited; despite a request, this had been undertaken without a rep. of the Council being present. Cllr Imlach was exploring the replacement of the two dead trees to the back of the area.
- b. Village Hall – nothing new to report
- c. New noticeboard – sadly continuing wet ground conditions had stalled the installation of the hard-standing.

10. Finance

- a. Payments since last meeting were **RESOLVED** and any receipts NOTED – Appendix A.
- b. Bank Reconciliation to 8 November 2023 was **RESOLVED** – Appendix B and the corresponding bank statement was subsequently initialled by the Chairman.
- c. Members discussed further the 2024-25 budget which would be finalised at the January 2024 meeting.

11. Any Other Matters for Information

- a. There had been some confusion over the purchase of Christmas cards – the Clerk had prepared address labels as requested.
- b. The Clerk was pursuing a speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors.
- c. A Cllr reported that a resident was concerned about festive light pollution and she would be encouraged to seek advice from the SDNPA's Dark Skies officer!

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 8 January 2024 6.30pm

13. Exclusion of Press & Public

RESOLVED that due the nature of the business about to be transacted (staffing), the press and public be excluded and they be instructed to withdraw.

14. Pay Award

Members were advised of the nationally agreed 2023-24 pay award, negotiated by NALC and SLCC. The Clerk was on SCP 17. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk's salary be increased in accordance with the national agreement accordingly.

The meeting closed at 7.11pm

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX A

INCOME & EXPENDITURE SINCE LAST MEETING TO 6 NOV 2023						
EXPENDITURE						
				GROSS	VAT	NET
05/11/2023	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	1056	Parts for play equipment	£33.53	£5.59	£27.94
05/11/2023	Selstar Firework	1057	Village Fireworks	£2,100.00	£350.00	£1,750.00
05/11/2023	G Burt	1058	Clerk salary - Oct	£241.85		£241.85
			BT reimb	£138.63	£11.42	£127.21
			BT reimb	£202.13	£8.99	£193.14
05/11/2023	HMRC	1059	Clerk Tax - Oct	£60.40		£60.40
05/11/2023	CVH	1060	Hall hire 2023 meetings	£165.00		£165.00
				£2,941.54	£376.00	£2,565.54
INCOME						
11/10/2023	CVHC	BACS	Grant towards fireworks	£930.00		

APPENDIX B

BANK RECONCILIATION				
CASHBOOK				
Balance brought forward as at 01/04/2023		£9,677.73		
Add Total Receipts		18,478.00		
Less Total Payments		(13,923.10)		
TOTAL		£14,232.63	◀	
BANK				
Lloyds Treasurers A/C (08/11/2023)		16,591.56		
Less unrepresented cheques				
1056	33.53			
1057	2,100.00			
1059	60.40			
1060	165.00			
		-2,358.93		
Plus unrepresented deposits				
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TOTAL		14,232.63	◀	

TALLY