

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Cookham Parish Council
Held in the Community Room on Tuesday 6th August 2024, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr. B. Perry (Chairman)
Cllrs. C. Aisladie, M. Brar, E. Bune, J. Edwards, M. Howard, M-L. Kellaway and R. Kellaway.

Also Present: No members of the public or the Press were present.

OPEN FORUM:

Cllr Brar asked that the Council arrange to cut back the overgrowth on the footpath by the railway line in the Alfred Major Recreation Ground.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Cllrs. L. Austin, N. Bedwell, T. Caen, J Moore, H. Fleming, A-L. Regan and L. Tull.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd July 2024

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 2nd July were **approved** as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda

None.

5. Finance :-

5.1 The cashbook circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting was **approved** and payments **ratified**.

5.2 Expenditure of £600 for the twinning party in October 2024 was **approved**.

6. To ratify the decisions taken in relation to the finding of Oak Processionary Moths

Cllr Perry explained the decisions and expenditure of £800 plus Vat which were **approved**.

7. To consider proposals for re-routing the footpath at Terry's Lane due to anti-social behaviour

Cllr Howard proposed, seconded by Cllr Bune, and it was **agreed** that the Council should seek more information, in particular the evidence of the police, before reaching any decision on this matter.

8. To consider an application for a small grant from the Cookham Christmas Society

Cllr R. Kellaway proposed, seconded by Cllr Brar, and it was unanimously **agreed** that a grant of £1,000 be made.

9. To consider a request to RBWM for a 2 hour parking limit, no return within 4 hours, on Odney Lane and that the traffic warden be requested to undertake a weekend shift several times over the summer at Odney Lane

Cllrs Brar and Howard said that they would write to RBWM to seek parking restrictions in Odney Lane designed to deter long stay parking, especially at weekends. It was proposed by Cllr Perry, seconded by Cllr Brar, and **agreed** that this Council would also write to RBWM to seek a two hour parking limit, no return within 4 hours, in Odney Lane.

10. To consider putting in the new Parish Council Noticeboard on Odney Common a map and directions showing where the public toilets are by the Cookham Garage

It was **agreed** that this would be done once the new noticeboard was erected.

11. To consider and authorise adopting a '.gov.uk' domain name for the Council's website and emails and any necessary expenditure

This was proposed by Cllr Perry, seconded by Cllr M-L. Kellaway and unanimously **agreed**.

12. To authorise obtaining quotations to create a new website for the Council

This was proposed by Cllr Perry, seconded by Cllr Aisladie, and unanimously **agreed**.

13. To authorise obtaining quotations for and the authority for the Chairman and Locum Clerk to approve expenditure not exceeding £900 on the production of a noticeboard recording the Chairmen of the Council since its formation

It was **agreed** that quotations should be sought for such a board, preferably for a price below £900.

14. To authorise Cllrs Perry and Fleming in conjunction with the Locum Clerk to discuss with the owners of White Place Farm the potential acquisition of land connecting to the Council's Sutton Road allotments.

Cllr Howard expressed views about what might be worth buying, and Cllr R. Kellaway the view that this was likely to be an unnecessary expenditure. The motion was proposed by Cllr Perry, with the addition of Cllr Edwards to those authorised, seconded by Cllr Edwards, and **agreed** (Cllr Kellaway abstaining).

15. To authorise the Chairman in conjunction with the Locum Clerk to obtain advice upon updating the Byelaws governing the Moor and Odney Common, and the Cookham Dean Village Green, to include new Byelaws and to update the fines and other remedies which may be imposed for breach and how they are enforced.

This was unanimously **agreed**.

16. To authorise the Chairman, in conjunction with the Clerk, from time to time to appoint and remove proper Officers of the Council to enforce the Byelaws governing the Moor, Odney Common and Cookham Dean Village Green and to authorise appropriate expenditure therefor.

On the proposal of Cllr Perry, seconded by Cllr Howard, this was unanimously **agreed**.

17. To receive an update on the Corporate Plan

In the absence of Cllr Regan, held over.

18. To receive an update from the Communications working party

In the absence of Cllr Regan, held over.

19. To receive a report from the Chairman regarding the Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Perry said that he had prepared no written report because at the time the agenda had been drafted, there was nothing to report. Since then the green corridors issue had been resolved by agreement, he had checked with Locality on the progress of the technical package grant application for AECOM to the Ministry, to be told that there was no news,

and Mr Scarff had submitted the draft brief on agricultural issues. Accordingly, subject to any need to improve that and/or the equine brief, the AECOM aspect seemed to be the only point outstanding. Cllr Howard would contact Mr Reynolds, the new MP, to see if he could assist with the Ministry.

20. To receive an update from the Traffic working party

In the absence of Cllr Regan, held over.

21. Outside Bodies and Borough Cllr. reports

Cllr Brar and Cllr Howard reported that Mr Westlake at RBWM was doing a thorough job of dealing with the Thames Water/sewage issue in respect of Lower Mount Farm (AL37). He was doing a similar job in respect of Strande Park (AL38). As a result the applications were taking longer than originally expected to reach panel. It remained unclear what the results of his enquiries about the sewage issue, and how it might be resolved, would be.

Cllr Bune mentioned good work done by Shanly on restoring gardens and boundaries at Strande Park following the removal of the former bund, necessitated by moving the pipe formerly within it.

Cllr Bune presented the latest MMPA minutes.

22. Any other business (by permission of the Chairman and upon which no decisions may be made

None.

23. Under section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) and under Standing order 3d to agree in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted below that the public be temporarily excluded and be instructed to withdraw

This was proposed by Cllr Perry, seconded by Cllr Howard and unanimously **agreed**.

24. To receive a report regarding outstanding issues relating to the Clerk leaving her employment

Cllrs Perry and Aisladie reported the position.

25. To receive a report relating to the recruitment and selection of a new Clerk

Cllrs Perry and Aisladie reported the position.

26. To receive an update on the recruitment of an Assistant Clerk

Cllrs Perry and Aisladie reported that in the light of the streamlining of processes and procedures already undertaken by the Locum Clerk, and after discussions with her, they no longer considered this recruitment necessary, at present at least. It was accordingly unanimously **agreed** not to proceed further with this recruitment, at present at least.

Next meeting Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Community Room at Cookham Library.