

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL**Minutes of a Meeting of the Cookham Parish Council****Held in the Community Room, Cookham Library, Tuesday 2nd August 2022, at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr M. Howard (Chairman)
Cllrs C. Aisladie, M. Barnes E. Bune, M. Brar, C. Doyle, B. Perry, J. Perry and P. Roe

Also Present: 2 members of the public were present.
There were no members of the press present.

At the start of the meeting there was a minute's silence for former Councillor Martin Coker who had recently passed away. He had been a knowledgeable and well respected Councillor who had served Cookham Parish Council since 2000.

OPEN FORUM:

Cllr C. Doyle spoke from the public gallery to raise awareness of an event she is running on the Alfred Major Recreation Ground as part of the Keep Britain Tidy 'Love Parks' week. It will run on Friday 5th August from 8.30am to Midday. Cllrs will be gathering feedback from the public on related topics and promoting Council projects connected to the park such as the Play Area improvements, CCTV upgrade and the work on updating the signage.

A representative from Cookham Footprint spoke of the work the group are doing to help reduce Cookhams average energy bill, which is due to increase significantly over the autumn/winter. The group are creating Energy Champions who will be able to give advice to residents. They asked for financial assistance, this will be added to a future agenda. They also referred to Cookham Footprints response to the emerging Neighbourhood plan, specifically around community and large scale local energy production. This had been considered by the Neighbourhood Plan Working party as part of consultation feedback.

As a resident, they also commented on agenda items 8, Ratification of the objection to Spencer's Farm planning applications and 9, Odney Wier fencing proposal.

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs L. Austin and I. Wernham,
Cllrs I. Herd and H. Philip did not attend.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Clerk Item 10 Pecuniary

Cllr M Howard stated that he is no longer involved with Cookham Footprint having been its Chairman for a period.

3. TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VACANCIES FOR TWO COOKHAM RISE WARD COUNCILLORS FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF CLLR COKER AND THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR SULEIMAN AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE PROCESS OF REPLACEMENT:

The information supplied previously by the Clerk was acknowledged.

The Notice of Vacancy for T. Suleiman was placed on 19th July and will end at midnight on 8th August and the Notice of Vacancy for M. Coker was placed on 2nd August and will end at midnight on 22nd Aug. After these dates the RBWM Elections team will confirm if an election has been requested and for how many seats. An election, if one is to be held, would take place within 60 working days of 19th July (Mon to Fri with no Bank Holidays). The Clerk will report back in due course.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Full Council meeting, including Part II, held on 5th July 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr C. Doyle seconded by Cllr M. Brar.

5. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The minutes of the Planning Committee mtg held on 12th July 2022, were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr C. Aisladie, seconded by Cllr M. Barnes.

6. FINANCE:**i. To approve payments/receipts in July 2022:**

The list of payments and receipts made in July 2022 were approved on the proposal of Cllr P. Roe.

ii. To receive the first quarters figures (April to June 2022):

These were acknowledged.

7. TO APPROVE THE CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES TO FILL VACANCIES LEFT BY TWO COUNCILLORS AND TO REVIEW OUTSIDE BODIES REPRESENTATION:

- i. **General Purposes:** Cllrs unanimously decided that this position would remain vacant until such a time that new Cllrs were on board.
- ii. **Flood and Major Incident:** Cllrs C. Doyle and B. Perry will become part of the committee.
- iii. **Outside Bodies:** Cllr E. Bune will continue to represent CPC at the MMPA meetings, Cllr M. Brar can stand in where necessary. Cllr Bune asked that she is kept informed of any discussions with GWR or Network Rail in order to raise the issue though the MMPA as well.

8. TO RATIFY THE DECISION FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS 22/01537/OUT 22/01540/FULL AT SPENCER'S FARM, SUMMERLEAZE ROAD, MAIDENHEAD.:

The objection to planning applications 22/01537/OUT and 22/01540/FULL was unanimously ratified. The information had been forwarded to the Planning Authority on 6th July.

9. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S PROPOSAL FOR FENCING AT ODNEY WEIR:

Cllrs considered the proposal from the Environment Agency to erect 2m high palisade fencing around the weir at Odney Common. Cllrs were unanimous in their objection to the proposal on a number of reasons including: it is out of context with the area, it is a disproportionate reaction to concerns at this site, the fencing is spiked and could cause injury. Cllrs also reiterated their request that the bridge over the weir is reopened as it is a popular walking route to Cookham Lock. Cllr Howard will write a response, raising these and other issues for review by Cllrs. Responses need to be with the Environment Agency by 15th August.

CPC will consider a Freedom of Information request if information regarding the Environment Agency's Public Safety Assessment for the weir is not forthcoming.

10. TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR THE CCTV SYSTEM:

The recording device for the CCTV system will need to be replaced as the old device no longer has the required technical specification for the upgraded software used to record and view the data. On the proposal of Cllr P. Roe, seconded by Cllr M Howard, a standalone recording device, at a cost of £591.45 +VAT supplied and installed by Active Security will be purchased. This was unanimously approved.

11. TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO THE RBWM PUBLIC CONSULTATION: DRAFT SOUTH WEST MAIDENHEAD SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT.

After discussion, it was decided that there was little value in Cookham PC responding to the consultation and therefore no response was recorded.

12. **TO CONSIDER SIGNING UP TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER:**

Following a discussion, it was decided that Cookham PC would not sign up to the Charter.

13. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLR B. PERRY REGARDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WP:**

The NP Working Party met at the end of June and have considered all responses to the Plan including those of Cookham Footprint. All decisions were discussed, agreed and have been minuted. Cllr B. Perry noted that the Working Party have worked hard to come to decisions that represent the majority interest of the group.

Cllr B. Perry commented that following a decision by RBWM Cabinet, there is due to be public consultation on the Tall Buildings Supplementary Planning Document. There is a concern that this will affect some sites within Cookham Rise. The matter will be added to the Planning agenda for preliminary discussion.

14. **TO CONSIDER A REDUCTION OF THE BURIAL FEES FOR CLLR M. COKER:**

Cllrs acknowledged Cllr Martin Coker's dedication to his service of Cookham Parish Council since he began as a Cllr in 2000.

After reviewing the information supplied by the Clerk, Cllr B. Perry proposed a 50% reduction in the burial fees which were £1220. This was unanimously approved. As the fee has already been paid, a refund to the value of £610 will be actioned.

It is advised that this does not represent any precedent or a Council Policy but is made as a goodwill gesture to the family.

15. **OUTSIDE BODIES, BOROUGH CLLR AND CLERK'S REPORTS:**

Cllr E. Bune **MMPA:** Meeting 27th July 2022, minutes supplied.

Cllr J Perry **Twinning:** report via email. Plans for welcome reception to be discussed at September Full Council.
PPG: AGM 26th July. Report supplied. Health Evening at Pinder Hall to be held on 13th October

Cllr M. Brar **Borough Cllr Report:** supplied via email prior to meeting. Points covered: shortfall in parking income, RBWM Chief Exec to leave, £150 Council Tax rebate - RBWM having problems trying to contact some of the residents who don't pay by Direct Debit, Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) joins Windsor Forest Colleges Group in merger.

16. **TO REVIEW AND PROVIDE UPDATES FOR THE FULL COUNCIL ACTION LIST:**

The licence for WildCookham to work on the Harris Woodbridge Wildlife reserve has been received.

Cllr C. Aisladie asked that the Operation Bridges process be reviewed in September as discussed.

17. **CHAIRMAN'S SUBMISSIONS:**

Cllr Howard noted the following:

- Awaiting date for RBWM's World Café to come to Cookham.
- The Cookham Village Conservation Area appraisal is due to go to Cabinet in September.
- Quarry Wood road is being resurfaced.
- The National Trust are responding to previous requests.
- Information on installation dates and future maintenance visits have been requested from Sutcliff play.
- The Flood Boards have been replaced by the EA.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.