

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Cookham Parish Council held in the
Community Room, Cookham Library, Tuesday 6th December 2022, at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr M. Howard (Chairman)
Cllrs L. Austin, C. Aisladie, M. Barnes, M. Brar, C. Doyle, J. Edwards, J. Perry,
B. Perry, H. Philip, P. Roe and L. Tull.

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

OPEN FORUM:

Cllr C. Doyle noted that the Christmas trees on the Moor and at Station Parade were looking good again this year. She had received positive comments from residents. This will be passed on to Holdford's Landscapes who organise and install the trees on behalf of the Parish Council.

Maidenhead Food Bank: Cllr C. Aisladie, who collects food donations on behalf of the charity, asked if anyone wished to donate, either food or money, as she was gathering much needed items for their Christmas contributions.

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs E. Bune, I. Herd and I. Wernham.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllrs have signed a Grant of Dispensation regarding matters related to the setting of the Precept.

There were no further Declarations of Interest.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1st November 2022 were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr B. Perry seconded by Cllr C. Doyle.

4. APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Subject to the correction of the date of the meeting, the minutes of the Planning Committee mtg held on 15th November 2022, were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr B. Perry seconded by Cllr C. Aisladie.

The minutes of the Inquorate Finance Committee mtg held on 22nd November 2022, were approved as a true record of the meeting, on the proposal of Cllr P. Roe, seconded by Cllr C. Doyle.

5. FINANCE: TO APPROVE PAYMENTS/RECEIPTS IN NOVEMBER 2022: The list of payments and receipts made in November 2022 were unanimously approved.

Cllr L. Austin at arrived 7.40pm

6. TO APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Cllrs were referred to the minutes of the inquorate Finance Cmte meeting of 22nd November, the budget details as reported on the Accubus spreadsheet and further notes from Cllr P. Roe.

For the financial year April 2023 to March 2024, the finance report shows a budgeted expenditure of £206,478 with a predicted income of £189,521. There is a planned effort to reduce the general reserve to bring it into line with financial regulation of 3-6 months running costs, by utilising funds in the next financial year of £16,957.

As noted on the Finance Cmte minutes, the budget calculations had been worked out on a provisional precept increase of 5%.

Although an increase of 10% has been used to get to the 23/24 budget expenditure amounts, the forecast for future years remains at 4% at this stage.

A review of the current financial year will take place at the March Finance Cmte meeting, where decisions on moves to strategic reserve will be made.

The Budget, as presented on the Accubus finance report, was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Cllr M. Howard.

7. TO APPROVE THE PRECEPT REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Based on the approved budget discussed in item 6, a precept amount of £140,781 for the year April 2023 to March 2024 was approved on the proposal of Cllr M. Howard, by 10 votes with 2 abstentions. Based on the available Tax Base data, this gives a Band D equivalent charge of £47.24 per household.

8. DUE TO THE RECENT CO-OPTION OF CLLRS, TO APPROVE THE CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP TO THE PLANNING, GENERAL PURPOSES AND FLOOD AND MAJOR INCIDENT COMMITTEES AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING PARTY:

Changes were made to the following committees membership:

General Purposes Cmte	Cllr L. Tull (added)
Planning Cmte	Cllr P. Roe (removed) Cllr J. Edwards (added)
Flood and Major Incident Cmte	Cllr C. Doyle (removed) Cllr J. Edwards (added)
Neighbourhood Plan Working Party	Cllr L. Tull (added) Cllr J. Edwards (added)

9. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CLLR B. PERRY REGARDING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WP:

Since the last Council meeting, developments needing report and/or approval are:

1. The Working Party met on 9 and 29 November to consider the latest draft of the Plan.
2. The WP proceeded by trying to approve the 'Policies', then the 'Projects' (the 'Projects' are things not within the remit of a planning document but deemed important to the future of Cookham and worthy of inclusion within the CNP), plus supporting wording.
3. Most of the Policies and Projects in the revised draft were agreed without further debate. The WP has, managed to agree the other 'Policies' and 'Projects' (almost entirely) on a consensual basis.
4. The draft has been remitted to Troy for revisions in accordance with the latest decisions. Most requiring only minor changes of wording. In some cases Troy has been given instructions on what is wanted, for it to produce wording for approval. Once the revisions are completed the WP hopes to approve that and then look at the 'underlying' text which surrounds the Policies and Projects. It is hoped to begin that exercise shortly.
5. The next step should be to provide the revised draft to the 'significant landowners' group for their views, following agreement by the WP.
6. As instructed by the WP, Troy Planning and Design have released the draft plan to RBWM for review and SEA/HRA clearance as approved/amended on an interim/partial basis on 9 November.
7. WP members and permanent consultees have been asked to keep all alternate Wednesdays (at 6pm) from 7 December available for WP meetings.

10. **TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO CHANGE THE SOUND TUBES ON THE LARGE MULTI PLAY CLIMBING FRAME AND APPROVE ANY FURTHER SPEND WHERE NECESSARY:**

Since the completion of the installation of the play equipment on 25th October 2022, the Council has received 3 letters of complaint regarding the sound tubes on the 'Up and Around' multi play equipment. These are from High Road residents that back onto the Alfred Major recreation ground. Council has taken these complaints on board and thought about solutions. Cllrs were encouraged to visit site, view and listen to the equipment.

Options available to council:

- Leave the tubes as they are.
- Replace the section with a non-sound element at a cost, depending on the change, of between £792 and £2080 (ex VAT).
- Muffle/dampen the sound (unfortunately not possible via Sutcliffe Play).

Following a discussion, Cllrs unanimously approved a decision to leave the sound tubes in situ and review the matter again after six months at the June 2023 Full Council meeting. The Clerk to update relevant residents.

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

Cllr M. Brar **Borough Cllr Report:** supplied via email prior to meeting. Points covered: Draft Budget (saving needed of £12mn, growth proposal of £9mn and Council Tax increase by a total of 4.99%) and Consultation on EV Charging points.

Clerk PKF Littlejohn will remain as our external auditor for the next 5 years until 26/27. New Administration Clerk in place. Training is in progress.
 Franking Machine: changes to stamps means our current machine will be redundant, Clerk to research alternatives.
 Office closure on Thursday 8th Dec, due to staff holidays.
 Clerk attended 2 day, ICCM Exclusive Rights of Burial Course (postponed from September).

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

The report was reviewed with the following updates:

- H&S Audit – Cllrs Austin and Aisladie have met, further work needed. To be dealt with in New Year.
- Turkey Housing Pl/ap – Cllr M Brar, in her capacity as Borough Cllr, is still waiting for information from the Planning Authority.
- Memorial Trees – Clerk to find further information – this has not been a priority due to staff changes.
- GigaClear – Cllr Howard to ask for an update.
- FaceBook changes: On hold until new Council.
- Cookham High Street parking: Noted as 'discussion completed' – remove from list.
- Cannondown Bridge: RBWM scheme being installed in January 2023.
- Dean Lane traffic calming: No further information.
- Public use of school play equipment: Holy Trinity Primary school didn't feel it appropriate to let the public on site during closed periods. Cllr B Perry to speak to RBWM Cllrs/Officers regarding alternative options. Remove from list as no longer a Parish Council initiative.
- Land Assets: Work in progress.

13. **CHAIRMAN'S SUBMISSIONS:**

The Chairman wished all a Merry Christmas.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.