

Costock Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of Costock Parish Council held on Wednesday 16 November 2022, in the Village Hall, Costock at 7.00pm

Parishioners were welcome to attend in person – no members of the public attended

Attendees: Cllr Kath Owen (Chairman), Cllr Mike Mears, Cllr Lindsay McGowan, Cllr Sharon Wilson, Cllr Reg Adair and Lucy Brazendale (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllr Peter Gordon, Cllr John Finney, Cllr Victoria McCourt and Cllr John Cottee
2. **Declarations of Interest or requests for Dispensation:** None
3. **Approval of previous minutes:** The meeting approved the minutes from the Costock Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 19 October 2022.
4. **Clerk's report:** The Clerk's new computer and office software has now been purchased and clerk's email and phone number now up and running
5. **Verbal report from the Borough Councillor:**
 - There is a consultation on the Devolution Bill taking place to be completed by January 2023. We will be sent a link to consider for this.
 - Budgets are currently being worked on, which are proving difficult in the current financial situation, and will be affected by the Government's budget tomorrow.
 - The Planning Department now has a new head of department which should allow the department to run more smoothly and efficiently
 - Clerk to contact Cllr Adair regarding the grant of £200 he has available for the village – the Councillors agreed that if this was put towards the cost of a new Village noticeboard it would be of benefit to the community. Clerk to research costs and suppliers of such boards.
 - Cllr Adair and the Cllrs noted that it was great for the community to see the Generous Britain public house was back open and seemed to be doing really well
 - Cllr Adair said that in the Borough Council elections next year he would not be standing for office again. The Cllrs thanked him for all his hard work.

6. **Correspondence:** Instructions have been received regarding the Queen's Book of Condolence – Cllr Owen will send to County Hall as specified.
7. **Planning Matters:** No planning matters
8. **Playing Field and Equipment:**
 - Cllr Owen has emailed the supplier of the play equipment about the split wood on one of the pieces of play equipment. A response has not yet been received but it was decided that the piece of equipment is safe to be used.
9. **Environment:**
 - Flag pole – Cllr McGowan will take a look at the damaged lock and see what needs to be done to fix it but it does not affect the use of the flag pole
 - Verge on A60 – Cllr Finney to be further consulted by Cllr Owen on this as not sure if rubbish or soil (with concerns about flooding) which is causing concern
 - Christmas Tree – Cllr Mears will speak with Chris Oldham about whether he might donate a tree again this year. It was resolved that the tree would be put up at the Village Hall as the Hall is to be decorated for Christmas and there is already an electricity supply there. It was agreed that a stand be purchased for the tree and that it would be tied to the brackets on the Hall for safety. Cllrs McGowan, Wilson and Owen said they would all help to put up the tree and decorate.

Cllr Adair left the meeting at 7.40

10. **Nature Reserve:**
 - One of the neighbours to the Reserve is still complaining about potential damage to his fence by the Hibernaculum. Cllr Owen has researched the original paperwork regarding the Nature Reserve, but this matter will be looked into further by the Cllrs.
 - 5 November Work Party was really successful with a good number of volunteers
11. **Village Hall:** The Village Hall committee has discussed the need for refurbishment of the Village Hall toilets with some of the Councillors. It was agreed by the Councillors that the Village Hall toilets do need refurbishing. It was also agreed that they form part of the fabric of the building and so repairs should be funded by the Parish Council. Two quotations for the work have already been received and the

Cllrs agreed that the lower quotation of £7,000 should be accepted so that the work can be carried out as soon as possible as it can only be done during the school holidays

12. Finance:

- Council Bank account – Cllr Owen has done a lot of work to try and resolve the change of signatories and status of internet banking for the Parish account following Mike Elliott's retirement. This is proving very difficult, but she will continue to work on it.

- The invoices for November (below) were approved

November 2022				
	Rushcliffe Borough Council	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00
	Mike Elliot meeting expenses	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00
	Clerk expense - Parish Clerk Phone monthly fee	£4.00	£0.00	£4.00
	Clerk's expenses - computer, office 365	£385.87	£77.18	£463.05
	November Clerk's salary	£300.30	£0.00	£300.30
Total expenditure for meeting		£733.17	£77.18	£810.35

- John Birch has approached the Council about a contribution to extend the school garden, which the Council initially helped to set up. The garden has proved very successful and popular with the children so it was agreed that the £200 grant set aside in this year's budget could be used to contribute to this work.

- Agreed that election next year unlikely to be contested as has not been for many years and so will include election costs at £100 in next year's budget.

13. Village Website / newsletter:

- The website is looking much better and Cllr McGowan is going to see if any groups in the village would like a link from the website to their own website / facebook sites.

- Cllr Owen will look into what should be put on the website about Christmas events and Church services

- It was agreed that there was no need for a newsletter to be prepared before

Christmas

14. **Items for information:**

For next meeting - Council to think about possible village events for the King's Coronation in May next year

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

The next Costock Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 7pm unless advised otherwise

DRAFT