



COPPULL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES



**MEETING: PARISH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2023 - 7.00 P.M.
SPRINGFIELD PARK LEISURE CENTRE, COPPULL**

PRESENT: Parish Councillors Michael Atherton (Chair), Marjorie Parkinson (Vice-Chair), Pauline Cobham, Neil Coggins, Sheila Makin, Ken McCrea, Lynne Moores, Paul Taylor and Susan Edwards (Clerk)

Chorley & Lancashire Councillor Julia Berry and Chorley Councillor Ryan Towers

1. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Parish Councillors Jan Colecliffe (working), Matthew Crook (holiday), Steve Holgate, Elaine Jones, Chris Kay (hospital), Maggie Peel Impey (holiday)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL / PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Members of the Parish Council are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provision of the Local Government Act 2000) – **None declared.**

2.2 DECLARATION OF GIFTS – None.

3. AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2023 – (emailed/distributed to Parish Councillors)

PROPOSED: Councillor L. Moores

SECONDED: Councillor P. Cobham

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the above meeting be approved as a correct record.

THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT STANDING ORDERS BE SUSPENDED TO ALLOW OTHER BODIES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK - AGREED.

4. POLICE REPORT – PCSO Maria Fetherstone had sent in incident figures for March, which are still very high. The Clerk had contacted Maria to ask what the Police are doing to try and bring the figures down. Maria replied that Coppull Neighbourhood Police team are committed to targeting crime and ASB and continue to do the best they can given their limited resources. She hoped this reassured the Parish Council.

Statistics for February from the website are:

- Anti-social behaviour – 5
- Violence and sexual offences – 11

- Public Order - 4
- Other theft - 2

This is a percentage of 4.9% in crime statistics, the lowest it has been since March 2022. This information can be found on the Police website:

<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/lancashire-constabulary/coppull>.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Councillor Julia Berry commented on the following:

- The Police have not got the resources to be everywhere and the PCSO's have to cover a very large area, not just Coppull. Cllr Berry stressed the importance of people reporting incidents to the Police, if there is no report, no action can be taken. The Police will work with other agencies to sort out problems if they are aware of them. Cllr Berry thought that holding a surgery in the Library may be a way of getting people to report more incidents, possibly anonymously, as some residents are afraid to report in case of retaliation.
- The Library has some good projects being undertaken at the moment and have received £8,000 in funding. Gardening is being taught along with cooking and art. Recently, clog dancers attended the Library, which was very informative and enjoyable. Funding has also been received to bring Talking Tables into the Village Kitchen (formerly Nellie & Marles on Preston Road) and hoping to be able to set up a grief group. There is some space available in the Methodist Church Hall for activities since the Good Food Club relocated. Cllr Moores stated that Jigsaw is going to be using the hall for healthy eating and cooking classes and also some arts and crafts.

Councillor Ryan Towers reported on the following:

- Cllr Towers had asked for a pop up station, so people could go and speak with the Police, but unfortunately this did not happen. He felt it was a long term problem building trust and relationships with people, so that they felt they could report incidents.
- Chorley Buddies Good Food Club moved a few weeks ago to St. John's Church Hall as they had outgrown the Methodist Church Hall. They are now looking to expand to include electrical goods from Amazon, furniture and cleaning products. They will be getting schools involved. They now have a breakfast club, free raffles and a social luncheon on the first Wednesday of each month, entertainment or craft activity. Booking essential.
- There has been an issue regarding damp and mould in some of the houses looked after by Jigsaw and a neighbourhood walk round has taken place to pick up these issues. Dehumidifiers will be put in the properties and a clean-up undertaken. There has been some difficulty in reporting these issues, but this is being sorted. Cllr Moores stated

that there has been a spring clean on the Longfield Estate, to encourage residents to clean up around their houses and then planting has taken place.

The Clerk to include an article in the next newsletter outlining the importance of reporting any incidents to the Police and detailing ways of doing this.

6. ITEMS INTRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None.

THE CHAIRMAN PROPOSED THAT STANDING ORDERS BE REIMPOSED AND THE MEETING CONTINUE – AGREED.

7. GENERAL MANAGEMENT/FINANCE

- 7.1 Accounts to end of March 2023 – Unfortunately, due to the Clerk being ill and Bank Holidays so far in April, the accounts have not yet been completed. The Clerk will send these out to everyone when they are finished.
- 7.2 Appointment of Internal Auditor for the end of year. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the same Internal Auditor as last year.
- 7.3 Applicants for Parish Councillor Vacancy/Elections. There had been one new applicant and he was informed to complete the papers at Chorley Council. As the election has been uncontested, all candidates are elected uncontested and will take office on 9 May 2023, when the Declaration of Office is signed.
- 7.4 Good Councillors Guide £4.99 each. It was **RESOLVED** that an electronic version of this guide be forwarded to the new council on acceptance of office.
- 7.5 New Village Hall update. Cllr McCrea has been visiting the site often to check on progress and it is coming along nicely. The next payment stage is for 1st floor timber work all completed, brickwork & blockwork completed to wall plate ready for the roof to be started.
- 7.6 Railway Subway – Update on the Public Inquiry 14 March 2023. Network Rail put forward a very good case in regard to not opening the subway and an excellent closing report (previously forwarded to Parish Councillors). The decision should be received week commencing 17 April 2023.
- 7.7 Annual meeting of Residents scheduled for 26.04.23 (APM). A discussion ensued on whether or not to hold this meeting, which is usually not attended by residents. It was **RESOLVED** to hold the meeting as usual this year, but to consider making it a more prominent meeting next year, holding talks from various sources and providing refreshments. To also look at how to communicate better with the residents to inform them of this meeting.
- 7.8 Annual Council Meeting – This meeting will be held one week later than usual due to the elections – 17 May 2023.

- 7.9 National Minimum Wage increase £10.42 (2 part-time Lengthsman – casual cleaner). This comes into effect from 01.04.23.
- 7.10 Pay Award for 2023/24 for Clerk and full-time Lengthsman. An agreement has not yet been reached.
- 7.11 Funding for Picnic in the Park approved and update. Funding from LCC Parish Champion, the Parish Council and Councillors, Residents, Friends and Family has been match funded by Lancashire County Council’s Crowdfund and an amount of £1,725.38 has now been received. This is the funding received, less a small charge. The event is on track with activities booked.
- 7.12 Moving children’s seats and table at Jubilee Garden. It was **RESOLVED** to move these nearer the front of the garden and away from houses, as residents are having problems with ASB and drug use.
- 7.13 Loose rubber surface for play areas – two quotes received 500 kg @ £277.00 & £339.99 inc.vat - 1 tonne of bark £286.25 exc.vat. It was **RESOLVED** to change over the bark on the tyre swing to rubber. The Clerk to check first how much it would cost to have a more fixed rubber surface.
- 7.14 Policies Review – New Sponsorship policy. The Clerk felt that a policy is required so that all sponsors and the council know exactly what this entails. At the moment there are just two sponsors of flower beds in the village. A draft to be brought to the next meeting.
- 7.15 A1 Fitness & Leisure Centre updates. Unfortunately, there are no updates yet for A1 Fitness due to holidays and illness. The Leisure Centre review is not due until next year. A1 Fitness to be advised that they may be able to obtain help and advice from Chorley Council.
- 7.16 Proposal to fund “movement cameras!” for the ginnels in Coppull - prices and information from LCC to be discussed – funding may be available. Lancashire County Council require more information on the cameras and the exact location of where these are required to be placed. The funding application also requires a great deal of information. Cllr McCrae to gain more information and liaise with the Clerk.

8. DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE CLERK’S DELEGATED AUTHORITY (After consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair – delegated to make low key decisions on behalf of the Parish Council due to Covid-19 – maximum spend £500 – now raised to £1,000)

- Funding received from Chorley Council (£5,000, matching the Parish Council’s) for the multi swing unit, now placed on order as previously agreed and a disability swing also ordered as per conditions of funding;
- Dog Competition – Prizes given £10 each winner, £20 overall winner, plus doggie Easter eggs and treats from Pinewood Vets;

- Parish Council Insurance – Revised quote of £2,806.73 (excluding the Village Hall whilst it is under construction).

The Council **RATIFIED** the above decisions, but the insurance of the Leisure Centre building to be raised as per the original quote.

9. PLANNING – Councillor Coggins

9.1 Applications:

- App.No. 23/00245/FULHH – 17 Hurst Brook – Demolition of existing sectional garage and erection of brick built garage with craft room at first floor. There are no concerns in regard to overlooking, or overshadowing of neighbouring properties. Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** this application.
- App.No. 23/00204/FULMAJ – Blainscough Industrial Estate - Erection of 7 no. industrial units (use class B2) with associated outdoor storage areas, parking and landscaping. There are no concerns with loss of amenities or overshadowing and no over-development of the site. Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** to **SUPPORT** this application.
- App.No. 23/00259/FUL – Early Birds Nursery, 193 Spendmore Lane – Section 73 application to remove condition no.3 (time limit for removal of the portacabin) of planning permission ref: 21/00832/FUL (retrospective application for the siting of a portacabin unit for use as additional space for nursery staff). The nursery have followed the correct procedures for this application, but it was **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council remain **NEUTRAL**.

9.2 To consider any planning applications received after publication of this agenda for which a response is required prior to the next meeting: **None**.

9.3 Decisions:

- App.No. 22/00285/FUL – 10-12 Spendmore Lane – Conversion of two existing vacant mixed use buildings that consist of a shop and a solarium at ground floor level and 1 no. 3 bed flat above, into 1 bed self-contained residential flats – **GRANTED**.
- App.No. 23/00086/FULHH – 13 Spinners Close – Single storey rear extension – **GRANTED**.

10. CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS FOR DECISION – None.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE DISCUSSION

- The loan originally taken out many years ago for the Leisure Centre now has only £4,989.13 left on it.

- Coppull's population from the 2021 Census is £8,300.
- The government has confirmed the Section 137 expenditure limit for 2023/24 is £9.93. This enables the first tier of local government to spend a limited amount of money for purposes for which they have no other specific statutory power, helping them to continue to invest their small share of council tax to support and improve their communities. This is the maximum amount in any one year is per head of the population. The relevant population is the number of persons on the electoral roll for the town, parish or community on 1 April.

As this is the last meeting of the current council, the Chairman thanked everyone for their support over the last four years and hoped that the new council would work together for the benefit of the residents of Coppull. Due to the elections, the next meeting of the Parish Council is Wednesday 17 May 2023.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm.

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Councillor Michael Atherton
Chairman