

Costock Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of a meeting of Costock Parish Council held on Wednesday 18 January 2023, 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 Peter Gordon (Vice Chairman), Cllr Mike Mears, Cllr Lindsay McGowan, Cllr Sharon Wilson, Cllr Victoria McCourt, Cllr Reg Adair and Lucy Brazendale (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** It was resolved to accept apologies from Cllr John Finney 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 16 November 2022.
4. **Clerk's report:** The Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund being offered by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) was discussed but it was established that our refurbishment of the Village Hall toilets would not meet the criteria.
5. **Verbal report from the Borough Councillor - Reg Adair:**
 - Clerk thanked Cllr Adair on behalf of the Parish Council for the grant of £200 towards the cost of a new village noticeboard, which has now been received
 - Cllr Adair said that the budgets are close to being approved (within the next 3 weeks) and that Council Tax increases look like they will be as follows:-
Overall 4.8% increase of Council Tax (based on band D properties) made up of a 2.8% increase in basic rate tax and a 2.0% increase for adult services

The Borough Council will raise their element of the Council Tax by 0% for properties in bands A - D and for properties in other bands there will be a raise of 2%

Police and Crime costs will rise by £15 and Fire Services by 2%

Therefore the average increase overall in Council Tax should be 4%

6. **Correspondence:** nothing of relevance to the village

7. **Planning Matters:**

Application Number	Proposal / Location	Comments Deadline	Distribution Date to Cllrs
r 22/01339/LDO	Proposal: Revisions to the proposed Local Development Order for development at Ratcliffe on Soar Power Station, Ratcliffe on Soar, Nottingham, NG11 0EE Resolved: Clerk to submit comments regarding concerns about increased traffic through the village	19.1.23	15.12.22
22/02103/FUL	Proposed: Mr and Mrs Ash Construction of detached garage Location: High Ridge Ash Lane Costock Nottinghamshire LE12 6UX	Application withdrawn	16.12.21
22/02320/FUL	Proposal: Mrs S Hayes - Construction of two storey side extension. New detached garage/workshop with first floor store room. New highway access. Location: Ratcliffe House Leake Road Costock Nottinghamshire LE12 6XA	25.1.23	4.1.23

	Resolved: to look further into the impact of the new highway access and submit comments if required		730
23/00014/FUL	Applicant: Kirk Development: Change of use from agricultural store to light industrial unit Location: Glebe Farm Wysall Road Costock Nottinghamshire LE12 6XQ	1.2.23	11.1.23

8. **Playing Field and Equipment:**

- Cllr Owen is still dealing with the split wood on one of the pieces of equipment.

- It was agreed that formal, regular risk assessments of the playground and equipment be put into place. Cllr Mears has very kindly volunteered to undertake the assessments and the Clerk will draw up documentation so that this can be recorded.

9. **Environment:**

- Flag pole - It has been established that it would be prohibitively expensive to repair or replace the flag pole lock and so it was decided to leave it as it is for the current time

- Verge on A60 - it is still not clear what the issue with rubbish here is and Cllr Finney was not in attendance at the meeting. Cllr Adair said that it was the responsibility of Rushcliffe Borough Council to clear if it is rubbish and not soil that is the issue. Cllr Finney will be asked at the next meeting.

- Christmas Tree - Cllr McGowan has asked that a revised plan is put in place for the Christmas Tree at the Village Hall next year as there was only her and another volunteer this year which was not enough as the tree was very large and heavy.

- Cllr McGowan has very kindly taken measurements of the current noticeboard. The Clerk will research whether it is possible to find a noticeboard that will fit on the current posts instead of removing the whole noticeboard and replacing everything

10. **Nature Reserve:**

- Cllr McGowan has sought advice regarding the boundary concerns at the Nature Reserve and has drafted a response to the concerned party regarding this.

-Cllr McGowan has found a professional to conduct a tree survey on all the trees in the Nature Reserve. On advice, it was resolved that this should be done once the trees are in bud (to properly assess health) and to ask if the survey could be extended to all the trees on public land in the village.

11. **Village Hall:**

- Cllr McGowan reported that the toilets are due to be refurbished between 10th and 20th February and that all users of the Village Hall have been notified.

- during the Christmas period a car was seen to be parking in the Village Hall car park. This situation will be monitored to see if it is an ongoing problem.

- Insurance - The clerk explained that it has become clear that the Parish Council and the Village Hall (and Committee) require their own insurance policies. The clerk is currently trying to get quotations for this and will chase it as a matter of urgency and contact RCAN for their advice regarding possible alternative insurers.

Cllr Adair left the meeting at 7.45

12. **Finance:**

- Council Bank account - Cllr Owen updated the Council on the progress with arranging internet banking for the Parish account . This should be resolved within the next week and then the mandate for the account can be updated.

- The invoices for December and January (below) were approved

December 2022	Date	Payee / service	Net	VAT	Total
	23.12.22	Peter James - Grass cutting	£55.00	£0.00	£55.00
		Clerk's expenses - Parish Clerk Phone monthly fee	£4.00	£0.00	£4.00
	7.12.22	Clerk's expenses - Norton Antivirus protection	£19.99	£0.00	£19.99
	25.11.22	Clerk's expenses - key cutting & stamps	£19.50	£0.00	£19.50
	20.12.22	GDPR training course	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
	2.12.22	Year End / Audit training	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00
		October & November Clerk's cost of living pay increase	£42.00	£0.00	£42.00
		December Clerk's salary		£0.00	
Total expenditure for meeting			£521.79	£0.00	£521.79

January 2023	Date	Payee / service	Net	VAT	Total
	3.1.23	Nottinghamshire County Council - Playing Field Rent	£777.00	£0.00	£777.00
	18.1.23	Grasshopper Hosting - manage, advise and updating website	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00
		Clerk's expenses - Parish Clerk Phone monthly fee	£4.00	£0.00	£4.00
		Clerk's salary - January		£0.00	
Total expenditure for meeting			£1192.30	£0.00	£1192.30

The Cllrs reviewed the proposed budget and precept for 2023/2024. It was agreed that because of concerns over the current cost of living the Council would reduce the proposed costs in two areas:-

- for the Coronation - events that were of a lower cost to run, like open gardens, would be preferred
- that the budget for the Village Hall expenses would be reduced, even though this year spending on the Village Hall, due to repairs, had been much higher than budgeted, and that current reserves would be used to absorb some of these costs.

It was resolved to set a budget of £20,000 for the financial year 2023-2024 and to send a precept request for £20,000. This will present a charge of £62.73 per year for

each Band D household (this is the Costock Parish Council element of the overall Council Tax Charge), an increase of 3.22%. We understand that this is a difficult time

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for all our parishioners, and we have agreed a budget that reflects underlying cost increases that the Council is facing.

13. **Village Website / newsletter:**

- Cllr Gordon has noticed a couple of errors on the website. The clerk will organise for these to be corrected as soon as possible

- It was agreed that a newsletter should be produced to advertise the village Coronation celebrations. Cllr McGowan will prepare a poster for the next meeting which can be included in the newsletter

14. **Items for information:**

no items for information

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

The next Costock Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 7pm unless advised otherwise