

CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL



Minutes of the Extra Meeting of the Full Council held at 7pm on 6th September 2018

Present: Mrs F Laing (Chair), Mrs M Dormer, Mr W Faas, Mrs A King, Mr C Mercer, Mr S Oversby-Powell, Mr M Sambrook

In Attendance: Mrs S Heynes (Clerk)

FC066. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr A Burton and Mr P Mantripp.

FC067. Declarations of Interest

None.

FC068. Public Question Time

None present.

FC069. To discuss the imminent closure of Cuckfield Post Office and consider the options available to the Parish Council

The Clerk provided a summary of the options identified to date:

1. Form a working party to investigate the options to provide a Post Office Service in Cuckfield. Potential options included providing a location for a mobile Post Office to set up on a regular basis, forming a Community Interest Company/Community Benefit Society support a new Postmaster to apply for the Post Office. These options would not require the General Power of Competence.
2. The Parish Council apply to take over the Post Office in Cuckfield. This would only be possible if Post Office Limited chose to allow the business to be advertised, which it had not done so to date. The full application process would take 7 months to 1 year to complete, and a full time Postmaster would be required; it would be possible to recruit a Branch Manager, who would be involved in day to day management, however the Postmaster would still need to work closely with this person to ensure the business is being managed appropriately. This would not be current members of Parish Council staff.

It would be necessary to investigate the tax implications and understand whether a Parish Council was considered to be a Company if an application was made. If so, additional requirements would be necessary.

The General Power of Competence would be required to undertake this.

3. Another option would be to offer to subsidise the existing Post Office with an annual grant to assist with running costs if this were the reason for closure, and therefore keep it open. The General Power of Competence would be required before this option could be offered.

After discussion, Council resolved by majority vote to form a Working Party to investigate in further detail the options available to restore a Post Office service to Cuckfield after the closure of the High Street branch in September.

FC070. Matters Arising

The Clerk was instructed to add to the next Full Council agenda an item to discuss the use of Social Media for Council business.

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed _____