

**LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm in Alderton Village Hall**

**Present**

**Chair**

Richard McCraith (RMC)

**Vice-Chair**

Mr Nigel Neale (NN)

**Councillors**

Mr John Buckley (JB)

Mr Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Ms Sue Godwin (SG)

Councillor Martin Smith (MS)

**Parish Clerk:** Dr Sheona Beaumont (SB)

WPC Jo Phelps

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**1735. Apologies for Absence**

There were none.

**1736. Declaration of interests**

SB noted that she will need to step out of the meeting during the discussion of her salary review.

**1737. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items**

There were none.

**1738. Public Question Time**

There were no questions.

**1739. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by RMC.

**1740. Matters arising from the Minutes**

a) NJG noted that the van has gone from the verge at Luckington Playground.

**1741. Neighbourhood Watch**

Council noted that Tim Guard has resigned as NHW representative. WPC Jo Phelps confirmed that Wilts Police and Wilts NHW Association value the NHW scheme (which is principally for crime awareness) and are keen to support it continuing. As well as promoting channels for NHW news such as social media and email subscriptions, she raised the appeal for a volunteer to come forward to run the scheme. Council agreed to support this appeal, SB to put something on the website in the first instance.

**1742. Correspondence received:**

- a) **Burial plot reservation request from Luisa Southgate (27/09/21).** SB to respond with correct fee in light of Council discussion and decision under item 1748.
  
- b) **Land query from Vicky Reynolds, Network Access Officer for Gigaclear (14/10/21)** JB confirmed this Brookend land query from superfast broadband contractors for Wiltshire looking to come in from end of

next year. There will be roadworks in verges across the next few months, village sign up at a later stage. Any issues of land ownership to come to JB.

- c) **Burial plot reservation query and notice of burial from Matthews Funeral Directors (15/10/21).** SB to confirm process of notification (for future use) in light of Council review under item 1748.
- d) **Response from Jack Derrick re. cemetery grass-cutting (26/10/21).** RMC confirmed that he had written to Heather Kington following her Facebook comments about cut grass being left on gravestones, and had included JD's response. Council understands the issue but ultimately supports the cutting of grass in the cemetery and its natural consequences.
- e) **Memorial enquiry from H. J. Jefferies stonemasons (27/10/21).** SB raised query as to whether this was for an ashes plot or not, Council agreed that its location amongst other graves would allow for the larger memorials. SB to respond accordingly.
- f) **Response from Amanda Wallis (Pumpkins Nursery Owner) re. Luckington Back Green parking (28/10/21).** Council acknowledged Amanda's response saying she will alert parents to the problem of the ground being churned up. RMC reported that neighbourhood concerns have been raised with him and that he has also contacted the School Headteacher.

#### **1743. To review and comment on the following planning applications:**

- a) [PL/2021/09668](#) – Proposed detached garage, SOUTH LEA, THE STREET, LUCKINGTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6NP. There were no objections.
- b) [PL/2021/09918](#) – Proposed works to trees in a conservation area, PULENS, CHURCH ROAD, LUCKINGTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6PG. There were no objections.

#### **1744. Update on Financial Issues**

a) To agree payments as listed on the financial summary. The following payments were agreed:

October grass cutting	£336.00
Clerk reimbursement (Microsoft subs)	£135.36
LAPC website subscription (Brunel Computing)	£13.20

Payments approved by all, SB to send out payment details.

#### **1745. Clerk Report and Salary Review**

[SB left the room for this item]. NN: All financial proposals made in the Clerk's report were unanimously approved.

#### **1746. PAYE update**

RMC confirmed that he had written to HMRC, waiting to hear back.

#### **1747. Budget**

RMC invited comments on the budget for 22/23. JB noted for context that this year inflation is up to 3.1%, that the Clerk's salary will increase, and that grass cutting costs will be affected by fuel changes too. Following a brief discussion, RMC proposed that Council adopt a 3% increase in the precept, JB seconded. NJG & SG voted for, NN against.

#### **1748. Cemetery Update and Burial Process Review**

Following a need for clearer guidance, the Council agreed the following:

- Resident fee applies for burials/reservations if the person's address is in the parish, or if they have had to move out of the village through no choice of their own (ie. For medical, palliative, or personal social care). The Council will approve the applicable fee in each case.
- To approve the updated cemetery plan as drawn up by SB at the next meeting, following the confirmation of a few details. The Council approve this plan as the authoritative document for the cemetery layout, replacing earlier versions (to be kept on file).

- To adopt the forms proposed by SB for Notice of Interment and Burial Reservation Requests.
- To review the fees and regulations in March 2022.

In discussion it was also confirmed that any gravestones or memorials which have come into disrepair, or are in danger of falling over, are the responsibility of the owner of the grave.

**1749. Fingerpost update**

In light of the slow response from Zeal Woodcraft, Council considered that the job for the fingerpost replacement and the cemetery gate repair should be put out to tender again. SB to action.

**1750. Highways update**

JB reported ongoing drain clearing, and pothole filling.

**1751. Report from Outside Meetings**

None to report.

**1752. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only**

RMC asked if anyone has shown interest in joining the Council, and encouraged Councillors to approach people for cooption. Due process was recommended, including the details being given as to what it involves. SB to put notice out on website and social media, with relevant link.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.