

Luckington and Alderton Parish Council

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**Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th May 2024
at 7pm in Alderton Village Hall**

Present

Dr Sheona Beaumont – Parish Clerk (SB)
Mr Richard McCraith (RMC)
Mr Nigel Neale (NN)
Mr John Buckley (JB)
Mr Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Mr Martin Smith – Wiltshire Councillor

1. Apologies

Ms Sue Godwin (SG)

2. Parish Councillors to choose and vote in a new Chair and Vice Chair

RMC was willing to stand as Chair again for the year. NN proposed and NJG seconded. This was voted for unanimously.

NN was willing to stand as Vice Chair again for the year. RMC proposed and JB seconded. This was voted for unanimously.

3. Clerk handed meeting over to Richard McCraith

4. Chair and Vice Chair to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office

RMC and NN signed.

5. Declarations of interest.

There were none.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th of May 2023

These minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

7. Matters Brought Forward from the Meeting of 10th May 2023

There were no matters brought forward.

8. Annual Report by the 2023/2024 Chair of the Parish Council, Mr Richard McCraith

I would like to start by thanking all the Councillors for their support throughout the year and all the help they have given.

We continue to look after grass cutting the cemetery and general village support.

We did have at the end of the year a huge solar park (2000 acres) proposed, Lime Down Solar Park. This has produced a lot of local opposition and as a Parish Council we are offering as much support as the local area needs with meetings and information.

We have had an excellent Clerk throughout this year and she has once again done a lot of work - we completed the work required with Barclays Bank.

We have had a change in the grass cutting contract and a local villager is now doing it. We thank Ryan Russell for taking on the remaining one year from the previous contractor.

For next year we will be spending about what we get in leaving not much for reserves. We have not given any donations. We spent about £2,500.00 on maintenance this year, mostly the walls of the cemetery / phone box painting. Our finances have remained healthy and we have approx £13,000 in our accounts after the year end. We increased the precept by 10% for 24-25.

We have had only 5 councillors this year which does suit the way things are run. However as we are allowed 7 people in total, we are always open to new blood.

9. Other Parish Business

MS and NN to draw up advert for new Councillors, for discussion at June meeting.

Meeting finished at 7.30pm

Sheona Beaumont - Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council