

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON  
14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL LUCKINGTON AT 7.00PM**

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**Present**

Copies of the Agenda were circulated to all in attendance. There were 3 members of the public, 5 councillors and John Thomson, Wiltshire County Councillor.

**1. Approval of Convening Notice**

The Convening Notice was approved

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were given by Councillor Neale and Councillor McCraith.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

These minutes were approved.

**4. Matters Brought Forward from the Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

None.

**5. Annual Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Ashley Stopforth.**

Councillor Stopforth replaced Robert Simpkins as Chairman last May and two new Councillors joined the Parish Council. Mr Stopforth read his review of the past year.

**Road Closures**

The closure of the B4040 and the Fosse for almost 8 months became a major inconvenience to local residents. The parish council played an active role in keeping communications open with Network Rail, Wiltshire Council and the public and ensuring good reinstatement of the roads will be undertaken.

**Flooding**

Despite heavy rain fall this winter, there has been no report of serious flooding of homes in the parish which is good.

The Parish Council were instrumental in resolving the constant flooding of Back Lane in Alderton, which now doesn't flood despite heavy rain fall.

**Luckington Lock Up**

The Parish Council have re established ownership of the Lock Up with the land registry, thanks to the help of councillors and the owner of the Pump House.

**Community Support**

The parish council has assisted local charities and Community groups both financially and with advice. These charities include The Luckington Children's Playground charity, the Primary School, Luckington and Alderton Village Halls, the Alderton Village Pond and Green Charity, Wiltshire Good Neighbour Scheme, Citizens Advice and Victim Support.

**Precept**

This year the Parish Council chose to increase the precept, the increase will enable the parish council to continue to support local charities and groups like those mentioned above.

#### Other

On advice of the clerk, updated standing orders and financial regulations have now been put in place which ensures good financial practice.

Community Speed Watch has been quiet this year due to admin and legal issues, however whilst these hopefully have been resolved, the scheme could still do with more volunteers.

The Parish Council would like to thank Tim Guard for his work on both Community Matters and Neighbourhood Watch.

Councillor Stopforth also thanked all the councillors for their work over the year. The chairman went on to thank the clerk for her work for the council over the last 4 years and how she will be missed when she leaves in July.

Report by Ashley Stopforth

#### **6. Other Parish Business**

Mrs Marshall asked why the large pile of rubble including large girders was still on Cherry Orchard. The rubble she believed all came from the Barn at Cherry Orchard which is being renovated. Councillor Buckley explained that the parish council have been dealing with this matter. He has spoken to the owner of the barn and was told that once the work has finished the rubble that has come from the renovation will be removed. Half of the mound pre-dates the barn and Wiltshire Council have ensured the Parish Council that it will be removed and they are in the process of working out who is responsible. Mr Buckley is going to a Wiltshire Council Highways meeting later in the month so will ask for an update and will report back at the next meeting.

Mrs Marshall also asked why the gate was locked leading on to the fields as you come from Alderton up to the village on the right hand side of the B4040. Mr Buckley informed Mrs Marshall this path was not a Right of Way but permissive access so the landowner was within his rights to lock the gate, especially if he had livestock in the field.

Mr Harris thanked the parish council for all voluntary work they have undertaken for the community and thanks to the clerk who he will be sad to see leave. Mr Harris brought up the subject of a Neighbourhood Plan and asked if the Parish Council was going to compile one.

The parish council informed him that in the Core Strategy there is no provision for any development in Luckington and Alderton, only infill. JT explained that Sherston is undertaking its plan because of its size, facilities and developers are being keen to build more housing there. A neighbourhood plan only helps manage development not stop it. It is a way for a community to take control over where it would like new homes to go and how many and the benefits that could come from new housing. Sherston was chosen as a front runner by the Government so has been giving funding which is helping with the plan, otherwise creating a plan is very time consuming and expensive (usually in the region of £10,000-£15000). The parish council decided last year that at the moment it will not be doing its own plan as the benefits are minimal but will be keeping an eye on the situation.

Mrs Poole wanted to ask the parish council for clarification regarding grass cutting in the village. She has noticed currently four different contractors cutting grass, some grass was cut often and some areas not at all.

Councillor Buckley explained that there are actually two main contractors; one is Wiltshire Council who cut all verges along the B4040 and certain areas within the village. The larger parts of Luckington such as the playing fields, the cemetery, village green and the area outside the village hall are cut by AW Services which is employed by the parish council. The parish council do have the schedule of Wiltshire Council and when the grass is cut.

Last year Wiltshire Council changed its contractor which did lead to a bit of confusion regarding which areas they were responsible for but it has now resolved itself. Wiltshire Council cut on basis of length of grass whereas AW Services come every ten days.

Mr Buckley has a map showing which areas are cut by whom and will talk to Mrs Poole to establish which areas are not being cut.

Mrs Poole also complained about the amount of gravel and stones along the pavement on the Street and that the road needs to be swept. The parish council are currently negotiating with Wiltshire Council Highways about getting the road resurfaced next year; in the meantime Councillor Buckley will send John Thomson details on the road and pavement.

Action – JB to meet with Mrs Poole and send information to Mr Thomson

Mr Harris asked if there could be more publicity and the Annual Parish Meeting agenda be sent to Community Matters. The clerk agreed that this should be done.

Meeting finished at 8.000pm

Mrs Sarah Wood

Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council