

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUCKINGTON AND ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
12th FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM, IN LUCKINGTON VILLAGE HALL.**

PRESENT

Chairman

Councillors Mr G Lynham (GL) Mr J Buckley (JB) Mr P Bamford (PB)
 Mr N Banks (NB) Mr R McCraith (RM) Mr N Neale (NN)

Parish Council Clerk Mrs S Wood (SW)

County Councillor Mr J Thomson (JT)

There was 1 member of the public present.

Item

603. Apologies

Apologies were given by the Chairman Councillor Stopforth, Vice Chairman George Lynham chaired the meeting in his absence.

604. Declaration of interests.

No interests declared.

605. Members of the public are invited to address the council on agenda items.

A member of the public asked for an update on the broken drain on Sopworth Lane which was mentioned at the January meeting. SW looked through the files and spoke to Robert Simpkins about the history of the drain and nothing relevant was found, so JB will look at the problem and get back to the gentleman concerned. JB will report back at the next meeting.

606. Approval of Minutes of last meeting.

The January minutes were approved.

607. Matters arising from the minutes -

607.1 Brook End Flooding – JB has been in regular contact with residents of Brook End and understandably there is a lot of anxiety regarding the possibility of flooding. JB will be talking with the Environment Agency regarding the feasibility study carried out in 2005 and its current status. JB has also attended Wiltshire Council Operational Flood Group (North) meeting which he found very informative. It was suggested whether the parish council should buy sandbags in preparation however JT informed the council that Wiltshire Council have over 7000 sandbags available to those who need them. If anyone is in real danger of flooding or has been flooded they can contact Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0105 they will be put through to the 24hour emergency room. If in doubt contact the parish council who will assist in any way possible.

608. Planning

608.1 Planning application 14/01053/1056/1059/1060/1061/1073/1075/1079HRN – Hedgerow removal of 2 sections of 6 metres of hedge, land at Luckington Road, Luckington Road, Bristol Road, Sopworth Road, Cherry Orchard Lane, Sherston Road, Hebden Farm. These applications have been registered by Bristol Water for work involving its water pipe renovations.

There were no objections to these applications especially as all hedgerows will be replanted after the work has been finished.

609. Correspondence:

609.1 Wiltshire Council – Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule – Consultation

WC is preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) charging schedule. This is a new charge that local authorities in England can place on development in their area. The money generated through the levy will contribute towards the funding of infrastructure to support growth. This levy will replace the current sec 106 contributions. The consultation on this new schedule is currently underway until 24th of February.

609.2 Luckington School – Playground Improvement Scheme Update

The pre-school has applied for a community Area Board grant for the sand and water play area. The Waitrose in Chipping Sodbury have accepted the pre-schools application for the in-store charity appeal in February so hopefully they will get a good share of the £1000 on offer from Waitrose. NB who is a Cotswold Voluntary Warden has carried out some work in the playground, chainsawing some existing timber and carving a seat out of dead tree, he also intends to put up a small rail fence to separate an area.

609.3 Luckington Paddock

The current leaseholder of the Paddock wrote a letter asking if the fences that border the cemetery could be made more secure. This will be deferred until the March meeting when the agreement can be looked at in detail. ACTION – SW to bring paddock lease agreement.

609.4 Wiltshire Council – Invitation to submit locations for 20mph restrictions for CATG

The Wiltshire policy for 20mph restrictions has now been approved by the cabinet member. CATG are to be involved in selecting the locations for further study. They are asking town and parish councils to put forward suggested locations for 20mph restrictions to the community area manager. Highways Offices review the list of locations and remove those that do not meet the criteria. The Malmesbury CATG will priorities the remaining short list and identify two locations to be taken forward for full assessment in 2014/15. Suggestions need to be in by the 31st March. Unfortunately there is nowhere in the parish that meets the criteria specified by WC.

Late –

609.5 Tolldown Shipton Moyne Main Renovation Update

Mr Kelson the PR manager from Bristol Water contacted the parish council asking if there were any questions it might have in regard to the new water main renovations scheme. JB has met with the Bristol Water Engineer for the project Mr Stephen Boyle, and now has the updated maps of the routes which he has emailed to all councillors.

609.6 WC Communications – Capping

WC have informed the parish council that council tax vote threshold to be 2%, if councils in the coming financial year want to increase its precept over 2% it will have to hold a local referendum. The new limit excludes parish councils during the forthcoming year, however after April 2015 it may include town and larger parish councils.

610 Finance

610.1 The Cemetery Wall

Part of the cemetery wall collapsed during January and in between meetings SW sought approval for repairs to be undertaken on the wall before the next meeting so the work could be undertaken. After emailing councillors with the price it was agreed that work could commence on the wall. However it was agreed to revisit the financial regulations to allow for similar emergency decisions in the future. The meeting unanimously approved the action taken to repair the wall without undue delay, and approved the costs incurred of £80.

610. 2 Finance

The receipts balances and accounts for payment were circulated.

Luckington and Alperton Parish Council

Financial data as at 12/02/2014

£

Bank account balances at the report date:

Barclays Current Account	2695.11
Barclays Deposit Account	<u>2835.48</u>
<u>Total balances</u>	<u>5530.59</u>

Payments for approval at this meeting:

Viking – stationery and ink	55.73
R Simpkins – repair of wall	80.00
<u>Total payments for approval today</u>	<u>135.73</u>
<u>Receipts given this month</u>	
Cemetery Fees for the late Mr Millard	80.00
Paddock Rent 2013	60.00
Total	140.00

610.3 Banking

GL has arranged that the clerk is authorised to have access to all information held by the council's Bank including electronic access to the bank statements. In addition the clerk is authorised to instruct the bank, either in writing or electronically to transfer funds between its accounts which have the same signing arrangements. The clerk has no authority to make external transfers.

Also the number of signatories has gone up from three to four. At least two of the appointed signatories must authorise any payments from the bank account. Councillor Neale was appointed an additional signatory on the Barclays Bank PLC mandate.

These new arrangements were approved by all councillors and agreed that this new information is included in the financial regulations under banking section 6. After some discussion the following was agreed – the first paragraph was unaltered, but the second was amended to read – 'The number of signatories authorised to operate any account with Barclays Bank PLC is increased to four.'

611 Councillors to discuss amendments to the financial regulations

GL said that the wall incident highlighted the need to have emergency procedures in place so that urgent decisions may be agreed, if in the opinion of the chairman it would be detrimental to the council to delay the decision to the next meeting subject to every councillor being in agreement. Discussion took place about the exact wording of the section 'Urgent Decisions Process'. JB had compiled the draft updates of the financial regulations, GL agreed with what JB had written except for the part where it says that the Chairman or Vice Chairman (if chairman is uncontactable) will also endeavour to contact the unresponsive councillor by at least one other means. It then goes on to include all means of communication applicable.

GL believed this detail regarding contacting an unresponsive councillor to be unnecessary, especially in the circumstances where a councillor has suffered a server illness or bereavement and would not be contactable. JB disagreed with GL about his points regarding contacting an unresponsive councillor and also believed that the matter should be formally discussed when the chairman is present. GL has spoken to AS about the item and he was made fully aware what was being discussed and resolution agreed especially after the recent wall collapse even though he would be absent.

JB informed the council that as he had produced the draft document and as it was not finalised, he didn't want it formally approved and refused to take any further part in the debate. He said there were outstanding legal issues which needed to be resolved. He proposed that the issue be deferred to the next meeting when the Chairman would also be present to participate in the debate. The Clerk offered an alternative legal mechanism that may provide the same desired outcomes. She suggested that they could be achieved by using the delegated powers available under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, as outlined in Arnold-Baker's 'Local Council Administration' (8th Edition). This was not discussed.

Whilst the motion to defer was discussed and voted upon GL announced that he would stand down as acting chairman. NN was appointed, by vote, as temporary chairman and a vote took place regarding whether this item should be deferred until the March meeting. NN, NB, JB, RM and PB all voted that the matter be discussed and finalised at the next meeting, GL disagreed and wanted the matter to be discussed and agreed at the February meeting. After the vote NN nominated GL to return as acting Chairman for the remainder of

the meeting all councillors agreed.

612 Update on the Blind House/Lock

GL had received the title deeds and ownership documentation from the Land registry. Luckington and Alderton Parish Council have been named legal owners of the blind house and pump. Documents include completion of registration, 3 Statements of Truth, and a letter from WC. JB has taken the documents to be scanned and then will drop off back with SW to go with the relevant files.

613. To discuss the section 106 funds available to the parish.

A section 106 is a financial contribution made by developers when a new home or homes are built, the contributions are then given to WC who then choose who the funds should go to. The section 106 is only to be spent on Public Open Spaces that the whole community can use; areas such as sportsfields, parks, playgrounds etc. The funds can't be used on improvements to buildings or play equipment. Any organisation can apply for these funds, as long as their project fits the criteria and the parish council support the application. Colin Kennerson (Wiltshire Council) has confirmed that £5800 is now available to use for outdoor and recreation purposes.

The playground charity have been in contact with Mr Kennerson about applying for the funds to go towards improving the sporting facilities in the village which include ideas such as restoring the football pitch, installing cricket nets installing a BMX track and planting WW1 commemorative orchard and gardens. The playground charity would need the support of the parish council for the application to be considered. The playground charity has not yet approached the parish council to discuss their plans but hopefully will soon. GL informed the parish council that the Alderton Village Pond Charity is also interested in applying for the funds. If any group is interested in applying please contact SW.

614. Update on Luckington Cemetery and paddock

614.1 After contacting Matthews Funeral Directors in Malmesbury and asking for advice regarding burial fees, SW has now received a couple of examples of burial fees in local parishes. The current cost in Luckington for exclusive right of burial plot the cost is £80 and for interment of a person over 12 is £80 (non resident £120) In the parish of Hullavington it is £116 for exclusive right of burial plot and for interment £173. In Little Somerford it is £60 for exclusive right of Burial plot, and £70 for interments. SW read out other information relevant to the discussion and it was agreed that the fees should remain the same.

614.2 A funeral took place on the 6th February of Mr Clement Gerald Millard.

615 To discuss the ownership of the Luckington website domain

Due to his absence AS will update the council at the March meeting.

616. Update on local road /bridge closures

Malcolm Beaven (WC Highways Engineer) sent an update informing the parish council that WC are continuing to repair verges and potholes on both the official and unofficial diversion routes to ensure the highway is in a suitable condition. It has an agreement with Network Rail that they will reimburse WC of the associated costs of repairing the verges. The verges will only be fully repaired when the works have finished, Mr Beaven also went on to say although some patching work took place on Alderton Road the full resurfacing scheme is scheduled after the NR work is complete.

The extent of the resurfacing will be from junction at Fosse Lodge through to the junction at Widleys Lane/Rathole. The latest dates given for the re opening of the roads and bridges is the 17th and 18th of April for the Acton Turville Bridge/B4040 and the Fosse Bridge, currently no date has been given for Pig Lane. JB has been in constant contact with WC and Network Rail and will continue to give updates on any changes involving works and cranes passing through the area.

617. Highway issues

Potholes on Luckington Lane have been patched up and some of the worst potholes on the road to Fosse Lodge. NB asked about the Rathole and if it will be resurfaced at the same time that the Fosse lodge road is done later this year. JB informed NB that unfortunately it is not included in the scheme, however once repairs start it might be an opportunity for Highways to include the Rathole in its schedule. JB will continue to bring the poor condition of the Rathole road surface to the attention of Wiltshire Highways.

618. Matters for Highways and Parish Team

Mentioned previously.

619. Reports from outside meetings.

JB informed the council that he has attended the Wiltshire Council Operational Flood Group (North) meeting as previously mentioned but also went to Badminton parish council to update them on the latest regarding the road closures and Network Rails plans. He has also provided a verbal briefing concerning the ongoing rail bridge works to the Chairman of Brinkworth Parish Council.

620. Items for next months' agenda and other matters for information only.

All previously discussed.

621. Public Question Time

No questions.

622. Time and Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 12th March 2014 at Alderton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm. Minutes were taken by S Wood, Clerk to Luckington & Alderton Parish Council.