

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUCKINGTON AND ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9th November 2016 AT LUCKINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Chairman Mr A Stopforth (AS)

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

Parish Council Clerk Mrs V Avery (VA)

908. Apologies

Ms S Godwin (Councillor), Mr J Thompson (County Councillor)

909. Declaration of interests

There were none.

910. A Presentation by Jonathan Bury and Simon Dring of Badminton Estate regarding land at New Farm, Alderton.

Mr Dring handed round basic plans of the site at New Farm. Badminton Estate plan to develop the site by converting the current barns and outbuildings into residential or office units and asked the Parish Council for their views on what would be preferable. If it was going to be residential then they wished to renovate them into traditional, good quality homes. Possibly some to be sold and some for the rental market.

The PC felt that affordable residential housing was something that the village needed more than office space which would possibly cause added traffic and noise.

(AS) mentioned the other renovations which had recently been undertaken in Alderton were of very good quality.

The existing farm will be moved to a site outside of the village and the farmer currently using the buildings is happy to move to the new site as the existing buildings are not adequate.

They are hoping to create some small dwellings and some larger. The PC enquired about the possibility of social housing. Mr Dring replied that they had thought this through and felt that it would not be very practical considering where the houses are in relation to public transport/shops etc.

The access to the site is still not decided upon but could possibly be across a small paddock as the current access would not be practical or safe.

The next stage is for the Estate to draw up plans and get planning consent. Essentially there are two outcomes, the Estate will convert, keep and let some of the properties and possibly sell plots individually. The Estate will look at alternative designs with a view to some of the properties being small.

(AS) felt that this would be quite a big injection of people into the village, however development of the existing site would be generally welcome.

When the Estate come back to the Parish Council with their new plans it was suggested that they come to a PC meeting which is held in Alderton Village Hall, therefore residents of Alderton could attend. This was agreed by all and (VA) will arrange with Jonathan Bury when this may be. Mr Dring and Mr Bury then left the meeting.

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

John Harris, member of the public, raised several questions which he put to the Council one by one.

Firstly, regarding the grass cutting tender document he queried the cutting season times of being 14 or 10 days in peak season. He wanted it to be clarified which it would be, 14 or 10 days? Surely in the peak season the cuts should be more frequent and not less.

(AS) commented that the Tender document had already gone out, therefore it should be addressed the next time a tender is needed which will be next year. Parish Councillors agreed with this.

Secondly, Item 9 of the Tender, the grass cutting around the Village Hall. This has not been cut sufficiently by the current grass cutter. Grass cuttings not picked up and cuttings have made their way into the hall which has been difficult to clean up after. Therefore members of the Village Hall Committee have cut it. (JB) said that the machines used do not pick up grass. It is impossible for a member of the PC to meet with the grass cutters as it is weather depended on when they come to the village and as volunteers, the councillors cannot always meet with them. (JB) does track down the current grass cutter as and when he can and has asked him to pick up or blow the grass away which the current grass cutter has done when asked.

Thirdly, Mr Harris is concerned about the fees and charges for internment and reserving burial plots in the cemetery. He asked 'why is the same fee payable whether you inter a body or ashes'?

(RM) replied that when the PC had renewed the fees and charges they had taken advice from other parishes with similar settings. Mr Harris visited an undertakers in Chippenham and they advised him that the going rate for C of E internments was £274.00. Why does the PC charge so little for a non resident.

(AS) said the pricing had been reviewed twice since he had joined the PC as they were all conscious that the prices were low compared to other cemeteries, therefore they had put the prices up but were aware they were on the cheaper side.

(JB) said that they had compared with other parishes and the current pricing was competitive.

Mr Harris said it was ridiculously cheap.

Mr Harris also raised the issue of speeding in the village. The Parish Council explained the various counter measures that are in place, i.e. the flashing sign, the regular speed checks carried out Noel Banks, Councillor and his team of volunteers.

Finally, Mr Harris commented that the cemetery was getting quite full and was the Parish Council thinking of buying more land and looking to expand the cemetery?

(JB) said the PC owned the paddock next door to the cemetery which is currently rented out. So, no, there is not an issue with obtaining more land.

Also, Mr Harris wondered why people were allowed to reserve a plot when they don't live in the village, therefore creating lots of vacant spaces. Councillors confirmed as did the Clerk that this was certainly not a frequent occurrence and anyone who had reserved a plot had very close relatives already buried in the cemetery. Other non residents who applied for a reserved plot were from people who had lived in the village for many years but had had to move away to care homes or to relatives but they all had a strong connection with the village. There had never been an application from a non resident who hadn't had a strong relationship with the village or close relatives buried in the cemetery.

912. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

- Post Box, (VA) had written to the Royal Mail offices at Dumpers Farm, Chippenham and is still waiting for a reply. This will be reviewed at the next PC meeting.
- Budget, (RM) will send an up to date budget out to Councillors before the next meeting.

913. Confirmation of the last meetings minutes

Minutes from the meeting in October were approved and signed.

914. Parish council to comment on planning schedules and applications:

Application No: 16/09355/PNTEL

Application for PN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Proposed: 4G equipment installation and associated works

At: Land east of Townfield Farm, 1 Alderton, Wiltshire, SN14 6NN

No Objections

Application No: 16/09803/TCA

Application for work to trees in a conservation area

Proposal: Fell 4 apple trees

At: Fourways, The Street, Alderton, Chippenham, SN14 6NL

No objections

915. Correspondence received

- Letter from Sharon Neal, Clerk to Hullavington Parish Council Re: Hullavington Neighbourhood Plan. LAPC have been asked for their comments on four items in the letter as follows:
 - Impact of Increased traffic through neighbouring villages - possibly your village (rat runs).
The PC felt this would not have an impact on Alderton or Luckington.
 - Potential issues with the Hullavington junction with the C31 and A429 at peak times (an accident black spot)
The PC agreed this was a bad junction and share Hullavington PC's concerns.
 - Are there any plans for housing developments within your parish that may have an impact on Hullavington parish?
There are none.
 - What are your plans going forward for your village regarding future housing development?
The LAPC said the only planning in the future was for small rural isolated infil as per the strategic plan.
(VA) will write to Sharon Neal with the above comments.

- Email from Jane Scott, Head of Wiltshire Council Re: Response to the 2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement Council Tax Referendum Principles for Parish and Town Councils.
LAPC supports the Council's comments.

916. Finance

(RM) handed out to Councillors a summary of the budget to date. As follows:

SUMMARY TO DATE		ANNUAL	LIKELY YEAR END
Nov-16		BUDGET	
INCOME			
PRECEPT	8,812.45	8,323.21	8812.45
VAT REFUND	106.27	40.00	106.47
INTEREST	0.00	0.00	
CEMETERY	180.00	250.00	220
SUNDRY	0.00	27.00	
TOTAL INCOME	9,098.72	8,640.21	9138.92
EXPENSES			
VAT	62.54	30.00	62.54
CLERKS SALARY	907.88	1680.00	1680.00

OFFICE ALLOWANCE	135.00	270.00	270.00
CEMETERY inc grass	0.00	937.50	937.50
POSTAGES/Stationery	74.61	130.00	130.00
VILLAGE grass cutting	0.00	1250.00	1250.00
WALC CONTRIBUTION	0.00	100.00	
SHERSTON Contribution	0.00	0.00	
MAINTENANCE	21.00	275.00	50.00
HIRE OF HALLS	90.00	165.00	165.00
INSURANCE	480.40	560.00	480.40
BANK CHARGES	0.00	0.00	
TRAINING	0.00	275.00	0.00
DONATIONS	0.00	1,800.00	300.00
SUNDRY	191.84	350.00	250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,963.27	7,822.50	5575.44
TOT START BANK BAL	9,020.00	9,020.00	9020.00
EXPENSES	1,963.27	7,822.50	5575.44
INCOME	9,098.72	8,640.21	9138.92
TOTAL BANK BAL	16,155.45	9,837.71	12583.00

Luckington and Alderton Parish Council
Financial Data as at 9th November
2016

£

Bank account balances at the report date:

Barclays Current Account	12,575.17
Barclays Deposit Account	2,839.37

15,414.54

Payments for Approval

Luckington Community School	-115.00
Mr P Bamford - Village Bench Paint	-21.00
<u>Clerk's Salary paid by Standing Order</u>	
Mrs Victoria Avery	-208.48

Payments Received:

VAT Refund -HMRC	106.27
Mrs M Cole - Cemetery Plot Reservation	180.00
Balance carried forward	<u>15,356.33</u>

917 Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
(AS) asked for this to be added to next month's Agenda.

918 Update on Village Green Bench

(PB) confirmed this has been refurbished. He had to take it to his garage to be cleaned up and applied two coats of sandoline. He then bolted it back on at the site and cleared the weeds surrounding it. The Parish Council would like to thank (PB) for all his hard work and doing a splendid job, all in his spare time.

919 Renewal of Grass Cutting Contract

(VA) confirmed that there had been some responses to the Tender and will report back with the tenders at the next meeting in December. (VA) to ask Badminton Parish Council as well as Tormarton and Acton Turville as to who does their grass cutting.

920 Cemetery

(VA) confirmed there had been a burial recently of Mr Godfrey Kington.

921 Highways

A car accident happened last week in the village opposite the Village Hall. The vehicle involved had mounted the kerb and then travelled across the pavement, before colliding with the stone wall. Both the vehicle involved and the stone wall sustained substantial damage. Local residents have expressed concerns regarding the potential threat that this accident posed to those who may have been using the footway, and questioned whether the vehicle was travelling too fast.

(JB) has been in contact with the local Wiltshire Police Neighbourhood Policing Team, and they have clarified that it appears that the accident occurred when the driver lost control due to a sudden mechanical failure on the vehicle. Speed was not considered to be a significant contributory factor in the accident.

Mr Snowdon contacted the PC as he was concerned about the accident being caused by speeding. (JB) visited Mr Snowdon and discussed the information supplied by the police, together with the ways in which the Parish Council can help address potential speeding issues in the village.

The Parish Steward is continuing to do a great job and can be spotted regularly around the Villages.

The Parish Council considered the points raised by John Harris regarding the cemetery, speeding and grass cutting, earlier in the meeting and felt that they had been covered by the council when the same issues had been discussed at previous meetings. As such the council were sympathetic to some of the points raised, but because they did not add anything new to the discussions that had previously taken place, no new action was justified.

922 Groundwater Flooding

(JB) has had a conversation with the Environment Agency and reported that they are keen to develop an 'early warning system'. He needs to go through the flood photos from 5 years ago. If any members of the Parish have any photos of the flooding in and around the villages, please contact John Buckley. This helps to build up a picture of why the flooding happened. He will then arrange to meet with the Environment Agency in the village.

923 Report from Outside Meetings

No reports from outside meetings.

924 Any Other Business

There was none.

925. Items for next month's agenda

- Grass Cutting Contract
- Cemetery
- Highways
- Groundwater flooding
- Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- Precept 2017/18

- Cemetery wall repairs

926. Time and Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm in Alderton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm The minutes were taken by Victoria Avery, Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council.