

# **LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

[www.luckington.org.uk](http://www.luckington.org.uk)

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016 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 19 members of the public and 7 members of the Council present.

#### **1. Approval of Convening Notice**

The Convening Notice was approved.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from County Councillor Thomson.

#### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

These minutes were approved.

#### **4. Matters Brought Forward from the Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Badminton Road has now been recently repaired to a much more satisfactory level.

George Lynham asked for surplus materials from the resurfacing of The Street, Alderton, to be removed from the drain by Yew Tree Cottage, this had subsequently been done.

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

Councillor Stopforth started by stating that the current council members have just completed their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 4 year term of office which began in May 2013 and ends in April 2017.

There has been no change in the makeup of the Council over the past year except for position of Parish Clerk which changed in September 2015 from Victoria Allman to Victoria Avery.

In April 2017 all Councillors stand down and may choose to stand for re-election, as indeed may anybody else that lives in the parish. If there are less than 7 names put forward for election then it is uncontested and those people start as councillors in May 2017.

### **Finances**

The reserves increased from £5,600 in March 2015 to approx.. £7500 at the end of March 2016.

The precept is the portion of the council tax that is passed on to PCs from Wiltshire Council and is our own source of funding other than income from the cemetery. The Parish Council voted to increase the precept this year.

There is a significant underspend of money earmarked for grants and donations.

### **Grants**

The Parish Council welcomes applications for grant funding in line with its grants policy which is available on the PC website, [www.luckington.org.uk](http://www.luckington.org.uk). The PC can also help and

advise on sources of grant funding and how best to approach an application for such funding.

There was only one application this year of £500 to Alderton Pond Charity for silt clearing and other repairs.

### **The Community**

The Parish Council provides a forum for community debate. It facilitated a debate on forming a Community Land Trust to develop a site of significant size in Alderton for housing which, in the end, did not proceed to planning.

We have debated the need for a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Wiltshire Council Strategic Plan allocates no planned development in the parish, other than infill development. On that basis, and considering the cost and effort of creating and agreeing a plan, the view of the council is that there is currently no need for a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish.

### **Grass Cutting**

The contract is in place until 31.12.16. The present contractor is doing a good job under tight supplier management from Councillor Buckley.

### **Cemetery**

Part of the grass cutting contract is to cut the grass in the cemetery as per the contract which is working well.

There have been two community tidy up sessions which are proving to be a great success.

Fencing is ongoing .

### **Bus Shelter**

Repairs are ongoing.

### **Wiltshire Council**

There has been major investment in infrastructure as can be seen with the recent extensive road repairs in and around the Luckington and Alderton area.

The installation of fast broadband and the road repairs are due to the exceptional support of our local County Councillor, Mr John Thompson, the Parish Council would like to thank him for all his hard work in bringing the local issues of this Parish to the attention of Wiltshire Council.

### **Transparency**

The Parish Council adopted a Transparency Code which can be found on the Website, [www.luckington.org.uk](http://www.luckington.org.uk).

The Parish Council tries to get its message out to the community in a number of ways by using the Notice Boards for the Agendas and Minutes. Community Matters emails also help to increase our profile. There is also the Website and a Facebook page.

The Parish Council would like to thank Tim Guard for distributing our communications.

Thanks also to the charities in the villages and indeed, anyone that volunteers their time to contribute to life in the parish.

With that in mind, a special thanks to the Vice Chair, Nigel Neale, for deputising on the occasions I couldn't be at the meetings and to the Clerk, Vicky, and to all the Councillors who have served and given their time freely over the last year.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Q1 A member of the public enquired whether the grass on the footpaths would be cut?

Councillor John Buckley replied that footpaths were not under the Parish Council's jurisdiction. However this is something that the re-instated Parish Steward could look into.

Q2 A member of the public enquired about a small tree on the village green which has stray branches that needed pruning.

Councillor John Buckley replied that he would have a look at it.

Q3 A member of the public queried that a strange chemical smell in the village water had been noticed and was unpleasant.

Councillor John Buckley suggested they contact Bristol Water. It was also suggested that they contact Tim Guard of Community Matters to see if any other residents are experiencing a similar problem.

Meeting finished at 7.20pm

Mrs Victoria Avery

Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council