

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUCKINGTON AND ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th July AT 7.30PM, IN LUCKINGTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

Chairman	Mr A Stopforth (AS)	
Councillors	Mr J Buckley (JB)	
	Mr P Bamford (PB)	Mr N Neale (NN)
	Miss S Godwin (SG)	Mr N Banks (NB)
County Councillor:	Mr J Thompson (JT)	
Parish Council Clerk	Mrs V Avery (VA)	

There were 4 members of the public present.

851. Apologies

Mr R McCraith (RM)

852. Declaration of interests

(AS) Declared an interest to the planning application at Fountain Cottage, Alderton.

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

- Mr J Fellowes addressed the PC. He has an issue with the current condition of the cemetery. His parents are both buried there and thinks the condition of the cemetery is disgusting. He proposed that he takes over the grass cutting and general maintenance but he would need public liability insurance. He has lived in the village all his life and would like to contribute something now that he is retired. He has spoken to (AS) and knows that the grass cutting contract is up for renewal in December 2016.

(AS) mentioned that he had had a telephone call with Mr Fellowes recently regarding the issue with the cemetery.

(JB) confirmed that the Parish Council has to put the grass cutting contract out to tender. He suggested in the meantime that Mr Fellowes talks to his insurers to see what the possible public liability insurance would be. At the moment it is a two year contract and covers a wide range of areas around Luckington. (JB) felt that there may be difficulties in getting a contractor to tender without the cemetery as one of the areas as it is a large part of their income.

(AS) asked for Mr Fellowes' address and confirmed that he would copy him in on any tender proposals over the next few months. Mr Fellowes seemed happy with this arrangement and would contact his insurers.

- (AS) moved seats to sit as a member of the public. (NN) moved to sit as acting Chairmain. (AS) spoke regarding his declaration of interest in relation to the planning application at Fountain Cottage, Alderton. The house is directly opposite (AS's) home and a similar application arose a few months ago. Since then that application was withdrawn and the owners sold the house. Now there is an original application for a two storey extension to the side of the house which directly affects (AS's) home as they have a view across the road to open countryside which will now be obscured. There is also a window which will directly affect (AS)'s family's privacy as it would look straight into their house. (AS) has already spoken to the planning and conservation officer and revised plans have been submitted with the window removed. LAPC have not received these revised plans. (NN) asked if anyone else in the village was objecting to the application. (AS) replied that he wasn't aware of any. (NN) confirmed that the PC will discuss the application when it arises later on in the Agenda.

854. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

Email correspondence to Ellen Blacker the Health and Wellbeing Champion for Wiltshire Council. (VA) has since had a telephone conversation with Ellen and suggested that she contact John and Judith. Ellen Blacker was very happy to go and see them and hand them some leaflets.

Bench on the green. (PB) asked for the issues with the bench to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. (VA) confirmed she would do that.

855. Confirmation of the last meetings minutes

Minutes from the May AGM with amendments were approved and signed. Minutes from the meeting in June were also approved and signed.

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

Application Ref: 16/05555/FUL

Proposal: Erection of a residential annexe

At: Walleaze, Sherston Road, Luckington SN14 6PH

(AS) queried that the main house had recently been built and was only granted planning permission subject to no other building being erected. (JT) said he had taken the application to the planning committee where it was confirmed that if there was any need for a further domestic dwelling to be erected it had to be applied for and that the planning permission was outside the policy at that time.

On that basis the LAPC supports the application.

Application Ref: 16/05648/FUL

Proposal: Two storey extension

At: Fountain Cottage, The Street, Alderton Wiltshire SN14 6NL

(AS) left the meeting. (NN) stood in as Chair. The Councillors looked at the plans that were supplied. The window in the gable end is a concern to the councillors as it looks over neighbouring properties. They felt there would be sufficient light entering the house as there were plenty of windows at the front and back of the new extension.

Parish Council Supports subject to following conditions:

That the window on the gable end should be removed and new plans submitted omitting the window.

Application Ref: 16/05397/FUL

Proposal: Change of use and incorporation of existing village shop with the associated dwelling.
At: The Post Office, The Street, Luckington, SN15 6NT

The Parish Council fully supports this application and asks the Planning Department to expedite approval on this application.

Application Ref: 16/05337/FUL

Proposal: Proposed front and rear extension and addition of new village shop
At: Old Royal Ship, Sopworth Lane, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6PA

The Councillors are aware of this application and asks the Planning Department to expedite it as there have been a lot of concerns locally that when the current Post Office/Shop closes at the end of August there will not be a shop. There are vulnerable members of the Parish who rely on this service. There is very limited public transport and for many parishioners it is the life blood of the village. There has been a public meeting where there was an overwhelming response in favour of these plans.

The parishioners have been consulted and the Parish Council is aware of the very strong support for this application. Therefore the PC fully supports this application.

Application Ref: 16/04732/FUL

Proposal: New cattle building, straw barn and midden
At: Land off Alderton Road, New Farm, Alderton SN14 6NN

Councillors support this application.

Application Ref: 16/05285/FUL

Proposal: Repositioning of oil tank from rear to front of property
At: 20 Avon Rise, Luckington, Chippenham SN14 6PF

Councillors support this application

857. Correspondence received

- Grant application from Luckington Playground Charity (LPC)

(JB) - the LPC circulated their accounts for the Parish Council to view but not the wider public as the LPC asked for them not be published with the Agenda as per the PC's Transparency Policy. These accounts have not been externally accredited or verified. The Parish Council felt that if the explanation from LPC of why the accounts were not allowed to be published wasn't within the Policy then they could not approve the grant.

The PC queried why the accounts were not in the public domain. There are other village charities for example, **Alderton Pond and Green Charity, who have their accounts audited every year by an independent local resident appointed by the Trustees. In view of the amount they do not need to be certified by a qualified Chartered Accountant but are available for inspection on request.**

(JB) feels the lack of willingness by the Luckington Playground Charity to publish the accounts doesn't comply with the Policy.

(AS) confirmed that the Policy is to ensure that the public money the PC receives goes to a viable organisation.

(JT) explained that they sometimes get similar applications at the Area Board. Their policy is that they would be prepared to consider a grant if the accounts are externally audited then they can publish the set of accounts in the Minutes when a decision has been made.

(PB) asked how long has the Policy been in place?

(JB) said about 2-3 years. (PB) asked whether every other grant the PC has given since then was compliant with that? It was confirmed that all grants have been compliant.

(NB) feels they are self- appointed, unelected members of a charity. He thinks the PC is being used as a financial milch-cow by the LPC. In common with many other villages the playing fields should be under the Parish Council's remit. Councillors confirmed that the playing fields were owned by the LPC and had been for a very long time.

(JB) The LPC were granted money towards a ROSPER inspection of the playground in March 2014. However it looks from the accounts that this money was never claimed as they were only granted the money on condition of supplying invoices and verifying that the work had been done. Receipts were never produced.

After the above discussions, the Parish Council decided that they will consider a grant when the LPC has complied with the Transparency Policy.

- Email from R Williams, Wiltshire County Council
Re: Zorb events throughout the region over the Summer Holidays.
(VA) to forward to (RM)
- Email from Sodbury Sportive. On 21st August there will be many cyclists going through the village of Luckington. (VA) to notify Tim Guard, Community Matters.

858. Finance

(VA) shared with the Councillors the current statement of accounts.

Luckington and Alderton Parish Council

Financial Data as at 13th July 2016

Bank account balances at the report date:

	£
Barclays Current Account	13,933.83
Barclays Deposit Account	2,839.02

16,772.85

Payments for Approval

Community First - Insurance Admin fee and IPT	-114.80
Alderton Village Hall Hire	-15.00
Mr Ashley Stopforth for Gradwell Call Divert	-24.24
Auditing Solutions Ltd	-192.00

Clerk's Salary paid by Standing Order

Mrs Victoria Avery	-157.50
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Payments Received:

SSE - Wayleave Fee	31.00
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Balance carried forward **16,300.31**

859 Luckington Cemetery

(NB) addressed the Parish Council and confirmed he had done a bit more to the fencing but the mound of soil at the back of the cemetery is still in the way. (VA) will contact Andy, the gravedigger again to see what could be done about removing the soil.

(JB) reported that he had spoken with Andy, the grass cutter who would be doing another cut of the cemetery grass this evening and clearing the cut grass and putting in the far corner. He will do this for free. Councillors welcomed this development and it contract is up for renewal in December 2016, this will be discussed in the next Agenda item, Grass Cutting.

(JB) said it was an appalling situation this year in particular with the speed of the grass grown season. The grass cutting contractor has had to hire new equipment to cope with the heavy, wet grass.

There have been complaints from members of the parish and Ms Jo Hinkley who contacted the parish clerk and JB. (AS) will reply to Ms Hinkley.

860 Grass Cutting

There were various discussions around the grass cutting contract which is up for renewal on 31st December 2016.

The grass in Luckington Playground is cut by the PC's contractor which makes up 20% of the contract.

(AS) asked if it could be put in the tender letter that we need a special approach to the cemetery which needs to be of a higher standard. (PB) suggests there is a possible case to make the cemetery a separate contract to the rest of the grass areas. (NN) one tender for the cemetery. Another tender for the other areas perhaps?

(AS) suggests that we have one main tender contract as it is currently but to factor in a higher standard of cutting at the cemetery i.e. trim edges of path, trim around the graves, unblock drains, sweep down path, remove excess grass cuttings. Perhaps asking Jeff Fellowes to do a 'top up' contract to cover the grass growing season.

Eventually after much discussion it was decided to ask (JB) and (VA) to put one contract out for tender to include collecting the grass cuttings from the cemetery and strim around the graves. (JB) confirmed he would work on the new contract to be ready for agreement by September's meeting, as the PC does not meet in August.

861 Highways

(JB) reported that he has put the top five priorities for the area to the new Steward responsible and will wait and see.

862 Luckington Post Office and Shop

No updates.

863 Report from Outside Meetings

(AS) attended the Area Board meeting. He highlighted that Wiltshire County Council have a new scheme to extend basic broadband to rural communities. There has been extra funding put in place for those not benefitting from the recent roll out. **This could be of particular interest to Brookend residents since they did not benefit from the recent roll out of broadband in Luckington.** Please follow the link below and look at pages 21 and 22 of the Minutes of the Area Board meeting.

<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/g10361/Public%20reports%20pack%2006th-Jul-2016%2019.00%20Malmesbury%20Area%20Board.pdf?T=10>

(NB) attended a Village Hall Meeting last Monday. They were going to re-tile the ladies and gents toilets. They were getting some quotes for the urgent roofing that needs doing. (AS) suggests they contact the Area Board as they have recently given large grants to two other village halls in the county which needed repair.

864 Any Other Business

(JB) handed round a draft Donations Policy which has been working on and asked the Councillors to take it home to read through and let him know their thoughts, if any. A proposal will be put on the Agenda for September's meeting to be adopted.

865. Items for next month's agenda

- Grass Cutting Contract
- Paddock
- Cemetery
- Highways
- Audit
- Luckington Post Office
- Donations Policy
- Bench on Luckington triangle.

866. Time and Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 14th September 2016 at 7.30pm at Luckington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

The minutes were taken by Victoria Avery, Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council.

