

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUCKINGTON AND ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th March 2016 AT 7.30PM, IN ALDERTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Chairman | Mr A Stopforth (AS) | |
| Councillors | Mr J Buckley (JB) | Mr R McCraith (RM) |
| | Mr P Bamford (PB) | Mr N Banks (NB) |
| | Miss S Godwin (SG) | |
| Parish Council Clerk | Mrs V Avery (VA) | |

789. Apologies

County Councillor – Mr J Thompson
Councillor – Mr N Neale

790. Declaration of interests

There were none.

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

Mr S Lawrence-Mills spoke first in relation to the closure of Luckington Village Post Office and Shop. He attended a 'Community Hub' meeting with other members of the public in Luckington Village Hall on Saturday 20th February 2016. He felt that the general consensus of the community was that they wanted a shop. However, an attempt needs to be made to find out everyone's view and therefore he suggested a brief questionnaire would be the next logical step in determining what the entire community wanted. He also asked that the community work with the LAPC to find a location for the shop if it was decided from the results of the questionnaire that a shop was needed.

(JB) spoke on behalf of the LAPC in reply and suggested that the questionnaire was a good idea but needed to be more detailed to get a better understanding of what the community wanted. If the questionnaire results were in unanimous favour of a shop then there needed to be a person with a keen desire to drive the business of a local shop and asked if anyone knows of someone who would like to take it on and run it they should come forward.

The situation in Luckington was complicated as there was no standing premises with car parking.

Mr Lawrence-Mills suggested that the Village Hall could be considered. (JB) replied that it was run by charitable trust and would there would be difficulties obtaining permission to run a shop.

Mrs M Eldridge posed the question of what is the 'community hub'? In reply (JB) said it was a get together of villagers to discuss a Youth Group, the public transport situation and the village shop. It was just a forum for villagers to meet and discuss relevant issues concerning the community.

(RM) asked Mr T Guard of Community Matters if he could send out the questionnaire? Mr Guard agreed he could.

Mr N Burridge had investigated the possibility of getting the newspapers delivered to the village. He had contacted Fosseway News who ran a delivery service in Grittleton and Badminton. They would be happy to deliver to Luckington and Alderton as well but needed more than 30 people to make it viable. They charged £2.50 per delivery. This could also be put in the questionnaire if people want that sort of service.

Mr Burridge thinks that taking the newspapers out of the shop may be a more viable option for someone who wants to run a shop/post office due to the very early morning deliveries.

Mrs J Pollock posed the question, do the LAPC know how much advice John and Judith have taken from Agents to buy the shop?

(JB) replied that 'yes, they have taken extensive advice'. All the potential buyers reported back that as there were two shops in neighbouring villages together with increasing internet shopping and large supermarkets it was no longer a viable business. Sherston is a Crown Post Office so they can provide many more services than Luckington PO. They have been trying to sell the business for 5 years and it was not an uncommon problem for smaller village shops/post offices to have difficulty finding buyers.

Mr Guard said that something needs to be done about the vulnerable people that John and Judith kept an eye on. (JB) said there are currently about 12 to 16 households who currently benefit from a regular visit by them and would otherwise be unseen. Mr Guard asked of the LAPC could put something in place so that these vulnerable household can access help at all times?

Mr Burridge said that arising from the Community Hub meeting, one lady mentioned that she cooks for the school and offered to cook extra meals for those who needed it.

(JB) said the PC would discuss this issue later on in the meeting.

Mr Ollie Phipps, the Malmesbury Community Engagement Manager introduced himself. He suggested Elen Blacker (Support for Vulnerable People in the Community) from Wiltshire CC, could be contacted and give us advice and support. He also has access to 'Monkey Survey' which is an excellent way of getting the questionnaire out to people and he would arrange that for us.

(AS) welcomed Mr Phipps contribution and also put it to the public that the LAPC would welcome people within the community to help out. He suggested a sub-committee of the LAPC could be formed together with some members of the community to create the questionnaire.

A member of the public asked if premises could be found, will it be community run or a private business? (JB) responded that if it became a community led/run project it would need to have a proper legal entity or possibly bolted on to an existing business. Luckington does not have the same model as Sherston, where premises are concerned. There has to be a business case so that it is a profitable venture.

Lorna Corbett felt that it is a fact that a village shop is no longer a viable business in Luckington. (RM) asked would the shop still close if it were a profitable business? (JB) said 'yes' as there are other factors to the business closing.

Lorna Corbett thought that it would be a struggle to find the commitment of people who do what Judith and John do.

(AS) In summary there are three main points:-

1. Community questionnaire to establish if we can continue without a shop. If no, what would the model be? A community/voluntary project or privately run venture.
2. A business case/feasibility study needs to be conducted.
3. Impact on the vulnerable and how the community can look after these households.

The LAPC will discuss in detail the public's questions regarding the closure of the shop at Item 7 of the Agenda.

Mrs M Eldred asked if the LAPC were doing anything for the Queen's 90th Birthday celebration. (AS) said that it was discussed at the last LAPC meeting in February and if any members of the public wish to organise an event, the LAPC would welcome their ideas.

791. Closure of Luckington Post Office

(AS) firstly a need for a Post Office/Shop needs to be established. (AS) suggested a sub-committee of the Parish Council should be set up and tasked to build a questionnaire to define a need for a shop. They need help from members of the community to join the sub-committee. As this is an urgent matter the sub-committee should complete the questionnaire, send out and collect results then report back at the next LAPC meeting on 13th April. (RM) and (SG) offered to establish the sub-committee. They will design, send out and collect responses will ask committed members of community to help and join the sub committee.

The PC will contact Elen Blacker of Wiltshire County Council and ask for her advice on keeping an eye on vulnerable people.

Councillors will attempt to make contact with those who are vulnerable in the Parish and find out what their needs are.

Suzanne De Rozier of Age UK was suggested to be a very useful contact for help and advice.

792. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

Fallen tree near footpath between Luckington and Brookend Villages. VA has received a response from the Environment Agency who said that there could possibly be a block to the watercourse which would flood adjacent footpath but the properties would not be affected. It is the land owner's responsibility to carry out maintenance on river bank and they will be liable should any injury/damage be incurred due to the tree falling. The LAPC discussed the situation but felt that the tree could be left in its current state and it would not cause any immediate harm.

793. Confirmation of the last meetings minutes

The minutes from the February meeting were approved

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

Application Ref: 16/01424/FUL

Application for full planning of two storey rear and single storey side extensions and garden store.
At: Plemont, 5 Polar Gardens, The Street, Luckington, Wiltshire, SN14 6PZ

Councillors Supported the application

Application Ref: 16/01223/LBC

Application for Listed Building Consent for conversion of outbuildings to Form Annexe to House and Extension to West of House.

At: Northend House, Northend, Luckington, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6PN

Councillors Supported the application

795 . Correspondence received

Email from Neighbourhood Planning – Councillors noted the contents and if any member of the public wishes to express their opinion on the subject of the application to designate Hullavington Neighbourhood Plan Area then they are encouraged to do so.

Email from Auditing Solutions Re: yearly parish council audit. – (VA) will contact Katie Fielding of Wiltshire CC to inquire as to when the Council will supply an auditor rather than the PC finding their own. (RM) will contact Auditing Solutions to investigate their charges and requirements.

Notice of Temporary Road Closure – Ashbridge Pike Lane, Luckington. The Councillors believe this to be great news as it is to enable the connection of fibre optics to Alderton.

796. Finance

Luckington and Alderton Parish Council

Financial Data as at 9th March 2016

| | £ |
|---|------------------------|
| <u>Bank account balances at the report date:</u> | |
| Barclays Current Account | 6,898.84 |
| Barclays Deposit Account | 2,838.67 |
| | <hr/> |
| | <u>9,737.51</u> |
| <u>Payments for Approval</u> | |
| AW Services (grasscutting) | -450.00 |
| Mrs V Avery - Printer Ink | -23.93 |
| <u>Clerk's Salary paid by Standing Order</u> | |
| Mrs Victoria Avery | -157.50 |
| Balance carried forward | <u>9,106.08</u> |

(RM) showed an up to date Budget Summary to Councillors for the year. It was agreed LAPC was well within this year's budget.

797 Luckington Community Hub

Councillors support the development of the 'Hub' and welcome any initiatives developing from any further meetings.

798 Luckington Bus Shelter

(PB) is waiting for some frost free nights to come along and will start work on the bus shelter then.

799 Cemetery

(NB) likewise is waiting for some warmer, dryer weather to start on the fencing.

Following some digging around the Cemetery there is a large pile of earth. (VA) will ask the gravediggers to clear this away.

A date for the 'Cemetery Clean up' was discussed and Councillors agreed on 16th April. (VA) will ask AW services to cut the grass before that date.

800 Highways

As noted in previous Minutes and Community Matters there are a number of road closures during April. The Parish Steward scheme will begin in the next few months which will help in prioritising pot holes and road issues etc. (JB) now has the spreadsheet to fill in. The MyWiltshire app is also a place for members of the public to report any issues.

801 Outside Meetings

(NB) reported on the Village Hall Committee meeting. They are still waiting for quotes for the extension to the back of the hall. The Committee is also investigating the possibility of shortmat bowls in the hall. If any member of the public is interested, please let the Committee know. There is the possibility of a trial session at the hall to see how it goes.

(AS) reported from the Malmesbury Area Board meeting.

- Sherston Parish Council has applied and been rewarded £3,700 for a youth shelter at Pennymead which was encouraging.
- The Burnham House Extra Care Scheme is progressing and will consist of 41 two bedroomed homes and 8 one bedroom homes. They will be a mixture of private and rented properties. They are hoping to gain volunteers to run various activities. The development will produce 10-20 paid jobs. There will be a show flat to view around Christmas 2016 with the first properties available from April 2017.
- Toby Burgess of the Planning Department reported that they are considering an increase to the fees for planning applications.

- Regarding Neighbourhood Plans, small Councils as LAPC don't need one and are already protected from speculative developments.
- The MOD are bringing 8,000 army personnel back to Wiltshire and they will need to be housed.
- Sherston is holding an historic 'Battle of Sherston' by the 1016 Vikings organisation on 25th and 26th June and the Sherston PC has received funding of £2,800 in order to support this exciting opportunity.
- Mr Ollie Phipps reported that they have given out £34,000 in grants over the last year.

The next Area Board Meeting will be held in Sherston Village Hall on Thursday 4th May.

802. Items for next month's agenda and any other business for information only

- Bus Shelter
- Cemetery
- Highways
- Luckington Post Office

803. Time and Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 13th April at 7.30pm at Luckington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

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