

# **LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL LUCKINGTON AT 7.00PM**

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**Present:** Victoria Avery, Parish Clerk.  
John Buckley  
Sue Godwin  
Richard McCraith  
Nigel Neale

Four members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

Sebastian Lawrence-Mills  
John Thompson

### **2. Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Parish Councillors, John Buckley, Sue Godwin, Nigel Neale and Richard McCraith signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and this was signed and witnessed by the Clerk. New Parish Councillor, Sebastian Lawrence-Mills, signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in the presence of Victoria Avery, Parish Clerk as he was unable to make the meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

### **3. Parish Councillors to choose and vote in a new Chair and Vice Chair.**

All Councillors present unanimously voted in favour of Richard McCraith becoming the new LAPC Chair. Again, all Councillors voted in favour of Nigel Neale continuing as Vice Chair. They both signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by Victoria Avery, Parish Clerk.

### **4. Clerk handed meeting over to Richard McCraith**

### **5. Approval of Convening Notice**

All members of the Council approved the Convening Notice.

### **6. Presentation to Outgoing Parish Councillors**

Richard McCraith presented Noel Banks, Paul Bamford and Ashley Stopforth with an engraved paperweight in thanks for all their hard work and contributions to Luckington Parish Council over the years. Very kindly, Noel Banks and Paul Bamford will continue to fill the salt bins and will be on the emergency snow team. The Parish Council is extremely grateful for their continued help.

### **7. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

These minutes were approved and signed by Chair.

### **8. Matters Brought Forward from the Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The cemetery repairs have all been completed over the last year and the bus stop shelter has been redecorated.

In relation to footpath maintenance, this is the responsibility of Wiltshire County Council.

In regards to a query about the water smell, there has been no update on this and no more complaints by any other member of the Parish.

#### **9. Annual Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Richard McCraith.**

The past year was the last of a 4-year term of office for the Parish Council which began in May 2013. As you are probably aware, this term has just ended and local council elections have just been held to appoint councillors for the next term of office.

Four of the existing parish councillors chose to stand for re-election while the remaining three others chose not to put their names forward for another term of office. These three were Noel Banks, Paul Bamford and Ashley Stopforth.

As it happened there were few names put forward for election than the maximum seven councillors required, so the election in our parish was uncontested and those seeing election have automatically become councillors.

Which means that we now have five councillors, four existing and one new: Sebastian Lawrence Mills. I'd like to welcome Seb to the Parish Council and thank him and the other councillors for volunteering to serve during the next 4-year term of office.

Over the last year, the parish council finances have remained healthy. Costs remained well below budget which resulted in an increase in reserves from approx. £7,500 at the end of March 2016 to c£9,000.

The only significant income the Parish Council receives is the precept, which is a portion of the council tax that is passed to us from Wiltshire council. The Parish Council increased the level of precept in the last year, April 2016 to March 2017 by 5% but because of the current healthy finances, have decided against an increase for the coming year April 2017 to March 2018.

The main reason for the increase in reserves over the last year is the lack of applications for grants and donations to local initiatives. Approximately £2,000 is budgeted each year for this purpose, so if there is no call on these funds, reserves inevitably grow.

Therefore, the Parish Council welcomes applications for funding in line with its grants or donations policies, both of which are available on the parish council website. The PC can also help and advise on sources of other grant funding and how best to approach an application for such funding.

On the planning front, the most significant issue that came to the Parish Council over the last year was that of the village shop closure which dominated meetings in the early part of last year. In these situations, the Parish Council comes to the fore and serves as a vehicle to enable community discussion and decision making on the occasions this is called for. Obviously the shop closing was a sad loss, but the new Shop and Moor at the pub is up and running and serving the community. I encourage you to use it as much as you can.

The Parish Council continue to manage grass cutting across much of Luckington. The contract for this work was renewed during the last year, being awarded to the incumbent supplier, mainly due to very competitive pricing. Many thanks to Councillor Buckley for running the tender process for that.

The Parish Council also manages the cemetery on the Bristol Road to Sherston (not the church cemetery). This includes dealing with burials as well as maintenance and grass cutting. Two Saturday-morning tidy-up sessions were run over the last year to keep the place tidy. Many

thanks to those that volunteered their time on these days. Part of the cemetery wall was heading for collapse and that has also been repaired in recent months.

Other items of note include repairs to the bus shelter and also to the bench on the village green. Many thanks to Councillor Bamford for carrying out these repairs.

Finally, thanks are due to:-

- Tim Guard for distributing our communications via 'community matters' email.
- Thanks to the charities in the villages, and indeed anyone that volunteers their time to contribute to life in the parish.
- Many thanks to all the councillors that have served over the last year for their entirely voluntary contribution of time and effort.
- Thanks to Nigel Neale, the Vice Chair for the continuity of meetings in the Chair's absence.
- Finally, thanks to our Parish Clerk, Vicky Avery for keeping us all organised and our affairs in good order.

Meeting finished at 7.20pm

Mrs Victoria Avery

Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council