

# LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.luckington.org.uk

## Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 7.30pm in Luckington Village Hall

### Present:

**Chair:** Richard McCraith (RMC)

**Vice Chair:** Nigel Neale (NN)

### Councillors:

John Buckley (JB)

Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Sue Godwin (SG)

**Parish Clerk:** Carol Rogers (CR)

**Members of the Public:** None

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### 1/2214. Apologies for absence

Councillor Martin Smith

### 2/2215. Declaration of interests

There were none.

### 3/2216. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### 4/2217. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

### 5/2218. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2024

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by RMC.

### 6/2219. Matters arising from the Minutes

1. *LAPC 2025/26 budget.* CR to complete Precept Form for approval by Council at December meeting. See item 2221b below. (November minutes item 2205b)
2. *LAPC 2025/26 elections.* CR to obtain indicative cost of 2025 elections, based on latest electorate figures, and enquire about payment options. See item 2221c below. (November minutes item 2205b)
3. *Clerk salary increase 2024/25.* RMC/NN to complete payment set-up online. **Complete.** (November minutes item 2205c)
4. *Barclays.* CR to take copies and return originals to Barclays branch to complete identity checks. See item 2221d below. (November minutes item 2205d)
5. *Barclays.* CR to identify Barclays procedures for changing banking signatories ahead of 2025 elections. See item 2221d below. (November minutes item 2205d)
6. *LAPC Councillor vacancies.* Action by all to pursue. See item 2222 below. (November minutes item 2207)
7. *Grass cutting contract 2025/26.* CR to draw up the new contract. See item 2228 below. (November minutes item 2210)
8. *Luckington notice board.* NJG and CR to explore options for fixing or replacing board. See item 2224 below. (November minutes item 2213)
9. *Use of land next to Luckington Cemetery.* NJG to follow up. See item 2225 below. (November minutes item 2213)

### **7/2220. The following planning applications were considered:**

- a. PL/2024/08145: Inglewood House, The Street, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6NP (rear conservatory). This application was originally submitted in September 2024 but has been restarted with a change in position of the red line. The neighbour's original objections, relating to access, potential damage and general disruption, have not been addressed and have been re-submitted.

**Action:** LAPC acknowledges the impact on neighbours and agreed to repeat its previous comments on the Wiltshire Council Planning Department website. CR to action.

- b. PL/2024/10926: Pulens, Church Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6PG (trimming of trees in conservation area). **There were no objections.**

### **8/2221. Update on financial issues**

- a. Discussion to agree payments as follows:

Ryan Russell (grass cutting November): £190.00

Clerk's phone: £8.57

These were **approved** and signed off by RMC & NN.

- b. **Precept 2025/26.** JB referred to the recent Local Government Finance Policy Statement 2025 – 2026, which stated that 'there is, again, no centrally imposed cap on the amount by which local council precepts in England may rise'. It was agreed that the precept level agreed at the November LAPC meeting is correct, but that the Council should keep this under review for the future. Precept form approved and signed.

**Action:** CR to return the signed Precept Requirement form to Wiltshire Council for processing.

- c. **Elections 2025.** Based on the up-to-date electorate figure of 546 and the 2021 cost of £1.70 per elector, the elections would cost LAPC around £920. Given increases in all areas, however, the cost of the 2025 election is expected to be substantially higher. The Electoral Commission Team has confirmed that re-payment can be deferred until 2027 and that payment options will be flexible. The Team also confirmed that a plan of action can be agreed once the actual cost is known, which is likely to be late summer 2025.

- d. **Barclays change of mandate and signatories.** CR has spent a great deal of time talking with Barclays to try and resolve this. A further set of forms has been sent to Barclays to update clerk particulars and authorisations. CR called the Mandate Team to check whether these have been received and has been told that the Business Services Team will reply by 13th December. Separately, the Barclays Mandate Team assures us that changing signatories should be a straightforward process. It was agreed by the Council that signatories should be changed ahead of the elections to NJG, SG and JB.

**Action:** CR to initiate the mandate change process.

### **9/2222. LAPC Councillor vacancies**

LAPC currently has vacancies for 2 councillors, and 2 further Councillors have indicated that they are unlikely to stand again for election at the Local Council Elections in May 2025. This could potentially leave the Parish Council with 4 Councillor vacancies. With elections in April 2025, it was agreed that there should be a continuing concerted effort to contact and encourage potential candidates, with a particular focus on improving demographic representation across the Parish. Despite best efforts no candidates have been identified to date.

**Action:** all Councillors to continue to pursue.

**Action:** CR to draft a communication regarding the WALC councillor recruitment online event for Facebook.

Note: Parish Councillors are vital to local democracy and without Parish Councils, many important local tasks would simply not be done. If any parish residents are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Parish Clerk (Carol Rogers) on 01666 800850 or [clerk@luckington.org.uk](mailto:clerk@luckington.org.uk), and she will arrange for one of the current serving Councillors to discuss the role and provide more details of the role.

**10/2223.** [Cotswolds National Landscape Management Plan Consultation](#). SG provided an update on this initiative to preserve the natural chalk and limestone Cotswold landscape. More information can be found online at [Big Chalk - Cotswolds National Landscape](#). This is ongoing and no action is currently required.

### **11/2224. Luckington Notice Board**

The Luckington notice board has a broken bolt and does not close tightly. As a result of this, water is entering and the contents are water-logged. The doors are warped and it is assumed that at some point in the future it will be necessary to replace the whole notice board, but an interim solution is now required. One estimate of £50-100 has been obtained and a second will be sought.

**Action:** NJG to obtain a second quote.

### **12/2225. Land next to Luckington Cemetery**

A request has been received from a local resident for use of the land next to the Luckington Cemetery to park a trailer and temporarily store garden waste. It was agreed that this could be acceptable as the land has been rented previously; however, the arrangement would need to be subject to a formal contract and rental agreement. This has been discussed with the applicant, on the basis of £5 per week and subject to contract.

**Action:** CR to follow up for confirmation.

### **13/2226. Lime Down update**

Discussions are currently continuing amongst the bigger statutory players. The next stage will include a range of statutory local consultation events, held in parishes affected by the proposed development; we hope that Luckington will be included as a separate event, which representatives of LAPC would wish to attend. These events are due to take place between the end of January 2025 and mid-March 2025. The detailed Planning Application documents are still estimated to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in Q3 2025.

### **14/2227. Cemetery update**

- The last grass cut of the season has now been completed.
- A request has been received about the possibility of holding a wake in the cemetery. This would potentially involve a temporary structure (e.g. an awning or marquee).

**Action:** CR to review cemetery regulations.

**Action:** CR to send the latest cemetery plan to NN

### **15/2228. Grass cutting 2025/26**

An invitation to tender has been issued for the LAPC grass cutting contract for the next two years. In accordance with the Council's 2024 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, the invitation to tender was published on the LAPC website; in addition, direct contact was made by email with 3 potential contractors. A single response has been received. This is from the existing contractor, Ryan Russell. Given the positive feedback and overall high level of satisfaction with the work carried out to date, plus the proposal to hold costs at the existing level, the Council were pleased to accept Ryan Russell's bid. The contract has been agreed, signed and posted on the LAPC website.

### **16/2229. Highways update**

- Some potholes are still being filled on an ad hoc basis.
- Flooding in the Rathole is still being investigated (this is possibly due to tree roots but has yet to be confirmed). RMC recently unblocked some drains here.
- The Operational Flood Group meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November confirmed that ground water levels are currently what would be expected in January/February. Continued rainfall at these levels will cause problems. The next meeting is scheduled for January.
- Reporting on issues should continue to be made to Wiltshire Highways via [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting).

### **17/2230. Report from Outside Meetings**

There were no updates.

### **18/2231. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only**

None identified.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.