

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on
Wednesday 11th July 2019 at 7.30pm in Alderton Village Hall**

Present

Chair

Mr Richard McCraith (RMC)

Councillors

Mr Nigel Neale (NN)

Mr John Buckley (JB)

Ms Sue Godwin (SG)

Mr Robert Simpkins (RS)

Mr Sam Evans (SE)

Councillor John Thomson (JT)

Parish Clerk

Mrs Catherine Keegan (CK)

1361. Apologies for Absence

Mr Sebastian Lawrence-Mills (SLM)

1362. Declaration of interests – There were none.

1363. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

No members of the public attended the meeting.

1364. Public Question Time - There were no questions.

1365. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th of June

The minutes were agreed by the Parish Council and signed by the Chair.

1366. Matters Arising from the Minutes

RM - The phone box in Luckington – work continues well on this.

NN updated on his investigations into using the community service workers who work in Sherston in the cemetery. It would be possible to use the workers. What is asked for is a contribution of £75 per day for their costs, which include the minibus which carries 8 workers around. They would be available to carry out work after the end of August, which is when they finish their main grass cutting duties. It was agreed that this would be trialled to take place for a day near the end of October, to clear leaves etc when they have fallen. CK to liaise with Dale Birdy to arrange a time for him to come out and assess what needs to be done.

RS has found a post to replace the footpath post outside Slad Brook House. He will replace this when he is able.

1367. Correspondence Received

No correspondence has been received.

1368. To review and comment on Planning Applications

No planning applications have been received.

1369. To agree payments in accordance with the budget, as listed in the attached financial summary

All payments were agreed, and the cheques were signed, including the late cheque for £600 which is the contribution toward the defibrillator in Alderton, which will be provided by the British Heart Foundation. This money will be recovered in due course from Malmesbury League of Friends.

1370. Internal Audit Report and Bank Reconciliation

RM went through the list of issues which were raised by the auditors, many of which had been carried over from last year, 17/18. This is due to some tasks not being carried out in 17/18 and the changes in clerk during 18/19.

A question was raised by the auditor about the amount of reserves which are held by the LAPC and CK will put together more information on this, projecting the reserves figure at the year end (19/20) for further discussion at the September meeting. This will enable a full discussion of the reserves figure.

CK also advised that she had spoken with HMRC and that due to the values involved, determined that there was no PAYE or NI due for the previous or current financial years. In fact, there was no need for the Employer Reference to be set up at all, so this was now being removed by HMRC.

The bank reconciliation to the end of June was agreed and signed by RM.

1371. Review of the Risk Register

This had been reviewed by Councillors and was agreed to be correct. JB proposed and SG seconded re-adopting the Risk Register.

1372. Alderton Notice Board

CK confirmed this has now been fixed, including the new lock. Jim Greening's cheque was signed earlier in the meeting. It was agreed to be a substantial improvement.

1373. Defibrillator for Alderton

RM advised that after a long process, from getting agreement from Alderton Village Hall committee, due to the issues with a separate electricity supply, through to getting electricians to quote for such work, it had now been agreed by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) that they would provide a defibrillator for Alderton, with LAPC making a contribution of £600 towards the cost. BHF also provide a training kit as part of the package. The £600 shall be claimed back from the Malmesbury League of Friends, along with the cost of a cabinet for the defibrillator, which is not provided by the BHF. The cost for the LAPC to fund remains at the £420 for the electricity supply and installation. CK will continue sourcing and liaising regarding the defibrillator.

JB asked who would be providing the training and CK advised that George Lynham would be responsible for this. JB volunteered to help with this, as he has substantial previous experience in this area.

1374. Replacement of 30mph signs on entries to Luckington on the B4040

RM updated that the Highways department had agreed that these would now be changed, an update as to when this would happen was not yet available. The signs need to be specifically made, so it would be at least 2-3 months before this was done. JB advised that the signs had been cleaned on the 1st of July. However, since this had been done, one of the signs, on the Hebden Leaze Farm side of the road, had been hit and knocked down. This had been temporarily raised somewhat, but still needed to be fixed. This has been reported by various individuals to the Highways department and an update is yet to be received.

1375. Winter Weather Provisions

RM had spoken with Noel Banks (NB) about this and NB had agreed to continue being the main contact. It was noted that any orders for salt etc need to be completed by the end of August. It was agreed that 40 25kg bags of salt needed to be ordered – CK to do this – and that SG would collect from Royal Wootton Bassett on the 22nd of November. The salt will be stored in RS barn. CK will liaise with NB and SG.

1376. Luckington Facebook Site and Administration

This will be carried forward to the next meeting, as it was unclear who was going to be able to administer for the PC.

1377. Update on Cemetery Issues

The Cemetery Ledger has still to be updated. CK confirmed this would be worked on over the summer, with SG assisting where needed.

1378. Update on Highways Issues

JB updated that the issue with the drain in Church Road was still ongoing. Sopworth Lane had been patched throughout, but the previous issues were still also ongoing. An issue had been raised regarding the verge alongside the village hall, which has been an issue for several years. This will be raised with the Parish Steward, though he is not due back in Luckington until the 1st of September.

JT advised the LAPC that he had an ongoing concern regarding verges, when they were cut and how often. He feels that in many places they seem to be cut randomly and at times which is not conducive to the setting of seed and wildlife. JT is asking for a parish by parish plan as to when verges will be cut. This will allow a discussion within the parishes as to whether they are happy with the proposed cutting plan. JT will revert back to LAPC when he has this information, hopefully by the September meeting. JT also noted that a huge amount of velocity patching had been carried out locally in recent weeks.

1379. Update on Grass Cutting

RM said the grass was now being cut every 7 days and looked very good. No complaints had been received. SE advised that he was going to talk with the contractor about moving from every 7 days for a cut to either every 10 days or possibly every 14 days. This depended on the weather and currently the grass was not growing as quickly at all, so did not need cutting every 7 days.

1380. Report from Outside Meetings - There were none.

1381. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

JT advised that Fibre to Premise had been agreed through to Brookend. This is required to be completed by 2020.

SE wanted it noted that he felt CK was doing an excellent job. This was agreed by all and JT, who attends many similar meetings.

NN asked about the maintenance of the pathway from beside 1, Bristol Road through to Allengrove. Previously this had been cut back on an ad-hoc basis by a local resident, but this was now not the case. Would it be possible for the PC to include this in the grass cutting? It was agreed that there are 4-5 other pathways where this could also be the case. SE will get a quote from the grass cutting contractor and see whether it would be possible to do this. However, it may well require a rise in the Precept for 20/21 to enable this to happen. The Parish Council wished to thank the various residents who have helped maintain the pathways throughout the village to date.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.