

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on
Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm in Luckington Village Hall**

Present

Vice Chair

Nigel Neale (NN)

Councillors

Mr John Buckley (JB)

Councillor Martin Smith (MS)

Ms Sue Godwin (SG)

Mr Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Parish Clerk: Dr Sheona Beaumont (SB)

Anne Marshall

2034. Apologies for Absence

Richard McCraith

2035. Declaration of interests

There were none.

2036. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

Anne Marshall reported a dangerous metal fence along a footpath between 'South Lea' and 1 Bristol Road. NN confirmed that he's contacted owner of land, the post will be replaced.

2037. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

2038. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2023

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by NN & JB.

2039. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

2040. Correspondence received

a) Virginia Watson (01/10/23), Clerk to Luckington Village Hall Committee re. grass-cutting.

JB reported from the Village Hall Committee meeting recently. Their in-house arrangement for cutting the grass around the hall has lapsed, they are asking if it can be part of our grass-cutting contract. Parish Council contractor has confirmed that he can't take it on this year. Council agreed in principle that if our contractor would take it on as extra within his 2024 contract, we would support this. Failing that, our next tender (2025/2026) could include it. SB to get costs from Jack Derrick.

2041. The following planning applications were discussed:

a) **PL/2023/07939:** NORTH END HOUSE, SOPWORTH LANE, LUCKINGTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6PL
Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. No objections.

2042. Update on Financial Issues

a) To agree payments as follows:

£352.00 (JD Estate & Garden Management – Sept grass cutting)

£180.30 (Clerk expenses: travel Apr-Sept, and Microsoft subscription)

£160.00 (Luckington Village Hall Hire)

The payments were approved. NN/JB to complete online.

b) SB requested decision for appropriate printer costs, given poor quality with existing cartridges. Council approved spending on Epson-brand cartridges.

2043. Cemetery Gates

SB confirmed difficulties getting more than one quote, following 3 declines, 2 no responders, and lack of response to web adverts. Norbert Mak quotation received and was considered. Parish Council requested written clarification re. materials and repairs (specialist tung oils for oak? Anything for the posts?). SB to action.

2044. Electrical works in Luckington (near Cemetery)

JB reported that information about the underground cables currently being repaired on the plot of land to the east of the cemetery suggests an extensive area is being used (maps obtained from SSE and Line Search Before You Dig). This is therefore a significant limit on potential burial space, which Council need to be aware of. SB reported no reply from Loxleys Solicitors about registration of land title. SB to chase.

2045. Luckington Village Hall grass cutting request

Discussed above (item 2040).

2046. Responding to Wiltshire Council consultation re. closing Alderton polling station

JB confirmed he has asked for Alderton consultation via resident Ashley Stopworth, with a request for response by 21st October. Parish Council considered that their response would be to object to it, given that postal votes present other challenges, loss of village hall use, and the fact that the village population is possibly due to increase with planning. JB to respond accordingly to Electoral Services by deadline of 31st October.

2047. Responding to Sherston Parish Council news re. Tolsey Surgery

MS reported from Sherston Village Hall public meeting about this (over 250 people attended, incl. RMC, NN and NJG). The new surgery plans originally part of a local development plan for Sherston (zero capital cost, to be leased to NHS) hadn't been taken up by the NHS prior to the report from the Integrated Care Board suggesting the closure (merging with Malmesbury Primary Care Centre). Distances involved and capacity are the big problems with this (Tolsey is 3,500 patients). Sherston Parish Council have raised public awareness, incl. with Mayor of Malmesbury and James Gray MP, and local Parish Councils. JB raised the need to support prescription services at the Tolsey, which also supports the surgery. MS recommended the passing of a resolution, as follows:

This Parish Council strongly objects to the proposal from the BANES, Swindon, and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) to merge the Tolsey GP Surgery in Sherston with the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre. This can only make it more difficult for patients to access good quality primary healthcare due to longer journeys to the other side of Malmesbury. This will particularly impact the elderly and vulnerable who may not own a car or be fit enough to drive one. The pressure on parking in Malmesbury, in an already overcrowded situation, will be extreme, and local transport links are inadequate to non-existent. There is a bus service from Sherston to Malmesbury every two hours during a weekday but that leaves you in Cross Hayes, not at the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre and means a 12-minute walk for a well person. The rest of the very large rural catchment area of the Tolsey Surgery has no bus service at all.

The ICB readily admit the 3,500 extra patients from Sherston and the 16% expected increase in population in Malmesbury will mean the Malmesbury Primary Care Centre (MPCC) will have to be extended to cope. The only available land in the vicinity of the MPCC is the current small car-park. This council believes this makes no sense financially or logistically and believes the ICB should use a new facility in Sherston village.

This Parish Council also notes that shutting the Sherston Tolsey Surgery and not agreeing to a new facility in Sherston, is completely contrary to the **ICB's own strategy of bringing 'joined up care closer to home'**.

This Parish Council agrees the Clerk to the Parish Council will inform the CEO of the ICB, the other board members of the ICB and Cllr Richard Clewer (Leader of Wiltshire Council and Chair of the Integrated Care Partnership) of this Parish Council's resolution, and requirement for a response.

JB proposed accepting the resolution, NN seconded. All in favour. SB to write accordingly. JB confirmed he will individually also be writing to the ICB, and expressed his thanks to MS for raising the profile for this issue. JB encouraged fellow Councillors to write to Tolsey Surgery expressing support and signing the petition in the Coop. MS confirmed an online petition will also be launched very soon, news to follow via Sherston Parish Council.

2048. Highways update

JB reported on the following:

- Shallowbrooks Lane scalplings imminently complete.
- Parish Steward continues in the area doing footpaths and potholes. MyWilts app can be used to report both of these, using the MyWilts app: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting.

2049. Report from Outside Meetings

There were none.

2050. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

Budget for next agenda to include 10%.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.