

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on
Wednesday 12th June 2019 at 7.30pm in Luckington 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)

Parish Clerk

Mrs Catherine Keegan (CK)

1342. Apologies for Absence

Mr Sebastian Lawrence-Mills (SLM)

Councillor John Thomson (JT)

1343. Declaration of interests

SE – Polar Gardens Planning Application.

1344. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

George Lynham, Trustee of Alderton Pond and Village Green Charity addressed the meeting with an update on Alderton Duck Pond following the devastation caused by an otter, which took place mid April. The donations now amount to £2,100, which is a fantastic response. Many thanks to all who have donated. 19 ducks who were taken to a 'safe haven', have now been returned to the pond and are doing well. A meeting of the trustees has been held to decide which birds to purchase to re-stock, with matching pairs being a priority. SE monitored an otter in the previous year, and it was around every 6 weeks that they returned to an area, so now we are beyond that it is hoped that he will not return to Alderton. The fencing is now much more secure.

1345. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

1346. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th May

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

1347. Matters Arising from the Minutes

RM - The phone box in Luckington – work is continuing well on this. Outside colour has been agreed and inside will be painted white and shelves will be installed.

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

1348. Correspondence Received

a) Cherry Trees on grass outside Glen Cottage

It was confirmed it is fine for Jo Jenkinson to go ahead and plant two cherry trees on the back green, near Glen Cottage. They need to be at least 1.5metres apart, to allow for mowing around them, and need to have guards around them, to protect them from animal attack and the lawnmower.

b) Thank you from the Trustees of Alderton Pond and Village Green – thank you.

c) Parking Obstruction on double bend in Luckington – from Noel Banks

It was agreed by the PC that unfortunately there was nothing that they could do regarding this. However, it should be noted that when parking in the villages drivers should not park on the pavement and cause obstruction for others within the villages. CK will respond back to Noel Banks that he needs to follow this up with the Police.

1349. To review and comment on Planning Applications

SE had previously declared an interest in this application. JB asked SE why similar previous applications had been refused. SE said it was because the previous application related to a two-storey building, close to the boundary, which would substantially overlook the properties in the vicinity.

A discussion was had amongst the Councillors. RM asked whether there were any comments or objections and there were not. The PC response would therefore be 'no comment'. CK to respond.

1350. To agree payments in accordance with the budget, as listed in the attached financial summary

All payments were agreed, and the cheques were signed. JB highlighted, following on from the circulation of the phased budget for 2019/20, that the LAPC needed to be careful when considering spend during the year, as the budgeted spend was higher than income for the year. The precept for 2020/21 would also have to be carefully considered in due course.

1351. Office Allowance Review

CK had been in touch with HMRC and had not been able to gain any proper guidance. It was therefore agreed that this would be left as it is. JB proposed that when it came to the new financial year it should be reviewed which pay point the parish clerk should be on. This was agreed.

1352. Alderton Notice Board

CK confirmed she had spoken with Jim Greening and he had been asked to carry out the work. In the previous week Jim had bought both the Perspex which needs replacing, as well as a replacement lock as the current one had disintegrated. They would be fitted soon. CK to follow up with Jim Greening again.

1353. Defibrillator for Alderton

RM advised that Hugo Armitage (HA) had agreed that the Village Hall was happy to have a defibrillator installed and that they would take on the ongoing electricity charges post installation. A quote had been received for installation of a separate electricity supply, due to concerns that the hall is not used very much and to ensure the defibrillator has a constant electricity supply, from the village hall and to install the defibrillator. This was for £420. RM proposed and JB seconded that the PC pay this cost. It was agreed. LAPC will also pay for the replacement of batteries and pads, when required. JB asked it to be confirmed that Alderton Village Hall would manage the defibrillator once installed. George Lynham (GL), who attended the meeting, confirmed this would be the case. JB also requested that the same model of defibrillator be installed as in Luckington. This would be done if the same model was still available – CK. CK to confirm to HA and GL about the approval of the PC and follow through with installation.

1354. Replacement of 30mph signs on entries to Luckington on the B4040

RS said he felt that one of the signs at the cemetery end needed cleaning and that one of the signs at Hebden Leaze Farm end was yellowed and that the responsibility for resolving this should be with the Highways Department. JB said that the Highways would not do this as they did not deem it a priority. NN asked whether it would be possible to use the Community Service people, like Sherston church do, to carry out the work. JB said they are not allowed to work on the highway. A discussion was had as to whether to replace the signs by Hebden Leaze Farm and it was decided, to follow up with the Highways Department to determine whether they would replace the signs at Hebden Leaze Farm end of the village. CK to write to the Highways Department to ask if they will fund the replacement of the two signs, and to include John Thomson. JB will ask the Parish Steward to clean the signs at the cemetery end.

1355. Winter Weather Provisions

RM November 2014 was the last meeting of the Winter Weather Emergency Planning Committee. Minutes have been found from this, but not the plan that was agreed. Noel Banks is still happy to be involved in this. RM and RS will liaise with Noel on this. RS – 50kg of salt left from last year. If a pallet of salt is available, RS will be able to store this. RS also has the flood signs. JB confirmed he was not able to be involved with this issue at the current time. It was noted that any orders for salt etc need to be completed by the end of August.

1356. Update on Cemetery Issues

Updated Fees and Charges had been agreed and these are now on the LAPC website. NN asked whether it would be possible to use the Community Service people to help maintain the cemetery. NN will liaise with the Sherston PCC. RS asked whether the Cemetery Ledger had been updated yet. CK confirmed this was still to be completed. SG volunteered to help if needed.

1357. Update on Highways Issues

JB confirmed that the Parish Steward dates have been notified for the next four months, but as normal, there will be no visit in August. There is a new gully clearance scheme, details of which had been circulated to Councillors. The blocked drain at the top of Church Road has been reported, and due to the nature of the issue, Wiltshire Highways has referred the matter to Wessex Water for action. A gully sucker will also be attending to clear the drain as soon as is practicable. JB will continue to monitor the issue.

The recommended remedial works in Sopworth Lane is still outstanding, there was no update, but JB would continue chasing Wiltshire Highways. Ashbridge House – gravel removed in record time from the junction outside – thanks to Wiltshire Council and JB for this response! Grass cutting had also taken place on the triangle outside Ashbridge House.

1358. Update on Grass Cutting

RM said the grass was now being cut once a week or so. It is looking much better. It is sometimes 10 days between cuts, this is related to how the Highways run their contracts. JB said he was not happy about the grass cutters initial response at the start of the season, but agreed the grass was now looking much better. SE said it is difficult to balance all the grass cutters other commitments. RS said the grass looked much better now compared to the last few years. A few niggles, but generally much better. It was confirmed that the PC had not received any external complaints regarding the grass cutting. Thanks to SE.

1359. Report from Outside Meetings

There were none.

1341. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

There were none. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.