

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.luckington.org.uk

**Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on
Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 7.30pm in Luckington Village Hall**

Present:

Councillors

Mr John Buckley (JB)

Councillor Martin Smith (MS)

Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Parish Clerk: Dr Sheona Beaumont (SB)

Sue Godwin (SG)

John McCoy

2092. Apologies for Absence

Richard McCraith and Nigel Neale

2093. Declaration of interests

There were none.

2094. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

There was no discussion.

2095. Public Question Time

John McCoy (JMC) was invited to speak at item 2098.

2096. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2024

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by JB.

2097. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

2098. Correspondence received

Correspondence received:

Community Relations Team, Lime Down Solar Park (05/03/24) re. consultation.

JB summarised the communication so far received (see letter pdf attached), with a map of the outline area of a proposed new 500 megawatt solar farm (with cables to Melksham as nearest National Grid connection with capacity). Being one of other big farms nationally and nearby, eg. Minety. 14th March – 6 week consultation period. **First public drop in meeting 22nd March, Friday 3.30-7.30pm in Sherston, Village Hall.** There will be a formal document following consultation by end of 2024, with earliest start being 2027. Proposed Luckington meeting as part of 17th April Parish Council meeting, other local Councils also being engaged. Attendance and written & considered feedback is encouraged.

JB explained a different planning system, which allows this bigger proposal to go through the Secretary of State (not through Wiltshire Council Planning), and also that farm tenancies and land ownership concerns will be high. Other problems flagged up: visual impact on AONB, traffic & safety during construction, water drainage/tables (esp. River Avon as nationally significant watercourse), footpath access, reassigning of arable land.

JMC expressed concern about the priority of farming land, the impact of transmission lines possibly being above ground, and the cost-effectiveness of this alternative energy source, noting previous rejections of underground cables applications (in the US), and wanting wider educational and moral discussion about the viability of the project (and lobbying for environmental responsibility and/or compensation). JB concerned that the Parish Council will consider the planning terms, and consideration of these terms remain the priority (while inviting people to respond individually). **See www.limedownsolar.co.uk.**

2099. The following planning applications were considered:

1. Retrospective approval of the following planning applications, both previously considered with 'no objections':
 - a) PL/2024/00199: The Old Smithy, Church Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6PG (Change of use for of Annexe (known as "The Forge") from Ancillary Accommodation to Short Term Holiday Let).
 - b) PL/2024/00802: Land off Church Road, Luckington, SN14 6PD (Replacement of Commercial Outbuilding and Land (Class B8, with ancillary workshop) to Accommodate New Detached Dwelling and Car Port).
2. To review and comment on the following planning application:
 - a) PL/2024/01714: 5 Church Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6PG (Proposed Detached Double Garage). Noting previous developments along this road, there were no objections.
 - b) PL/2024/01811: CHURCH COTTAGE, THE STREET, ALDERTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6NL (Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area). No objections.
 - c) PL/2024/01739: SOUTH END COTTAGE, THE STREET, LUCKINGTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6NP (Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area). No objections.
 - d) PL/2024/01699: Luckington Court, Church Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6PG (Temporary agricultural workers dwelling). Concerning beef farming, no objections.

2100. Update on Financial Issues

- a) To agree payments as follows:

Norbert Mak (Working Wood): £500

The payment was approved, JB to set up and send out for authorisation for RMC when possible.

- c) To retrospectively approve the previous month's payment (£218.40 IdVerde annual collection fee).

Approved and signed by JB.

- d) To appoint the internal auditors for 23/24.

SB alerted the Council to Auditing Solutions confirmation of Stuart Pollard as available to conduct the Council Audit. The Council approved this appointment, and were informed of 30th April as the deadline for submission of documents, SB to follow up.

2101. Asset Register review (to adopt in advance of seeking new insurance quotes)

SB previously shared the existing register, JB advised an increase in the replacement values of 10% (this having not been done for 3 years). All approved, SB to action.

2102. Risk Assessment review (annual update/renewal)

SB previously shared the existing document, and Council approved it as renewed for this year.

2103. Clerk position advertising

Following her resignation as Clerk, SB requested a postponement of the recruitment process for a new Clerk (and her leaving date) due to the increased workload at this time of year. This was approved.

2104. Cemetery

It was reported that the cemetery gate repairs have been completed by Norbert Mak. The Council would like to express their thanks for a brilliant job. SB confirmed notice that Ryan Russell has started the grass cutting as per the Council contract.

2105. Highways update

JB reported ongoing attention to local potholes. Reporting continues to be encouraged via the MyWilts app: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting.

2106. Report from Outside Meetings

There were none.

2107. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

Items for next Agenda: insurance quotations, possible Lime Down presentation. SB informed the Council of her holiday 1st-10th April. NJG has received a commemorative bench request for back village green (for Michael Wood). JB and NJG to follow up.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.