

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on
Wednesday 17th of April 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)

Parish Clerk

Mrs Catherine Keegan (CK)

County Councillor

Mr John Thomson (JT)

1302. Apologies for Absence

Mr Sam Evans (SE)

Mr Sebastian Lawrence-Mills (SLM)

1303. Declaration of interests

Robert Simpkins – village hall donation request.

1304. 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 the devastation caused at the Alderton duck pond. Over 40 exotic ducks have been lost. Evidence now shows that an otter is responsible. There are issues over protection laws and George is now talking to an ecologist to work out how to deal with the issue and protect the ducks going forward. The cost to replace the lost ducks and improve security is between £1500 and £2000. Donations received so far amount to almost £1,000. £250 has already been spent on improving the security around the pond.

1305. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

1306. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th of March, the ELAPC meeting held on the 27th of March and to sign the minutes from the meeting held on the 13th of February

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

1307. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none arising.

1308. Correspondence Received

a) Village Hall Donation Request

RS left the room. It was agreed, proposed by JB and seconded by SG. £200 donation. RS returned. CK to raise cheque.

b) Phone Box

It was agreed that Sue Thomas and the book club members should be allowed to refurbish the phone box, in keeping with the current colour and to keep it maintained, and it is to be used as a book exchange. SG proposed, JB seconded. CK to communicate with Sue Thomas.

c) Alderton Duck Pond Donation request

This was unanimously agreed, proposed by JB, seconded by SG. £200 donation. CK to raise cheque.

1309. To review and comment on Planning Applications

A late planning application was received from Wiltshire Council Planning Department regarding an application by Kara Arduş to remove a fir tree from the front of their garden. 19/03675/TCA. There were no objections.

1310. To agree payments in accordance with the budget, as listed in the attached financial summary

Both payments were agreed, and the cheques duly signed. JB commented that the new simplified Receipts and Payments layout works very well.

1311. Office Allowance Review

There may potentially be issues in relation to tax and also with working from home in relation to the property being used. CK to check these and report back at the meeting in May. WALC may be able to assist.

1312. Alderton Notice Board

One side of the notice board opens, the other does not. JB will check and update at the next meeting.

1313. Wiltshire Council Boundary Review and Response

JB gave an update on the work he had done preparing a document to object strongly to the Boundary Review Draft Recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. A review currently being carried out in relation to potential electoral boundary changes within Wiltshire.

This review could mean Luckington and Alderton Parish moving from the Sherston Electoral Division to the Chippenham Electoral Division. JB also updated councillors on phone conversations he had had with the Boundary Commission (BC). There have been issues regarding the way in which the

consultation with the LAPC has been carried out. As a result JB had secured a 48 hour extension from the LAPC meeting to allow the LAPC response to be submitted.

CK to send the LAPC response through to the BC and also send to Richard Clewer, Cabinet Minister to Corporate Services – as per JT suggestion – and JT.

The response had the unanimous backing of the LAPC. RMC commended JB for his excellent work on this matter.

1314. Update on Cemetery Issues

RS said a review had been undertaken of the cemetery and formally proposed that the 26 new spaces, from 230-256, be incorporated under The Cemetery Plan 019. NN seconded. All agreed. JB to send CK a copy of the updated map.

It was also noted that the Scroll needs updating. The Cemetery Book has been kept up to date.

1315. Update on Highways Issues

The work has been carried out on the Sopworth Road, with a new drain being installed. It has not yet dried out, but it is not felt that this work will resolve the problem of drainage on this road. JB to ask Matt Perrett to attend site and discuss further.

There is a drain on the Luckington to Alderton Road, via Ashbridge House, which has sunk. This is the responsibility of Wessex Water and JB met their representative to discuss. This road will be closed on the 23rd of April to fix the problem.

Fly tipping on the Fosse Way, ref 1295 in the March minutes. This rubbish has been removed. There was no indication within the rubbish as to who was responsible.

JT advised that if evidence is found of either who's rubbish it is that is dumped or who dumped the rubbish, that they can both be prosecuted. It is a legal requirement that whoever deals with the removal of waste should have a license.

1316. Tombstone Project Update

RMC read the update received from SLM. The application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been submitted, with thanks to the LAPC for its support, and a decision should be received in eight weeks.

1317. Update on Village Entry Picket Fences

JB had circulated a response from the Highways Engineer Martin Rose (MR). It appears fine to put up two gates near to Hebden Leaze Farm and one near the cemetery, subject to an on-site survey. There are three options on the gates - light oak, dark oak or white. JB pointed out that the gates would need to be kept clean, so the viability of the locations needs to be carefully considered. There are potential issues with the colour and more so the maintenance of the picket fences when in place. NN asked that MR carry out the survey and a decision can then be made based on the results. JB to liaise with MR to arrange an on-site survey.

1318. Report from Outside Meetings

There were none.

1319. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

Grass cutting to be added to the agenda for next and every month.

SG said that Jo Jenkinson had asked whether it would be possible for her to plant cherry trees on the back green. RMC advised Jo should contact the clerk directly with the request and it could then be discussed fully next month.

JT handed out copies of the Annual Town and Parish Council Report 2018-19 for Councillors information.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.