

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 17th July 2024 at 7.30pm in Luckington Village Hall

Present:

Chair: Richard McCraith (RMC)

Vice Chair: Nigel Neale (NN)

Councillors:

John Buckley (JB)

Councillor Martin Smith (MS)

Sue Godwin (SG)

Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Parish Clerk: Dr Sheona Beaumont (SB) and Carol Rogers (shadowing)

Members of the Public:

Will Threlfall (Project Leader, Island Green Power for Lime Down Solar Park), William Barrett (Environment Lead, ACOM), and Beth Motley (Comms, Lime Down Solar Park)

Roz and John Thompson, Ralph Maxwell, Norbert Mak

2152. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

2153. Declaration of interests

There were none.

2154. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

This was moved to item 2158.

2155. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

2156. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2024

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by RMC.

2157. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

2158. Lime Down Solar Park update and discussion

Councillors confirmed that the Planning Inspectorate have sent the Scoping Report (including Environmental Impact Assessment) to LAPC as a statutory consultee, which can also now be made public, with 14th August as a deadline (**this can be consulted on the pages for the [Lime Down Solar Project at planninginspectorate.gov.uk](https://www.planninginspectorate.gov.uk)**). Beth Motley confirmed that Stage 1 feedback – 1,400 statements – will be published in a report to come out in September 2024. JB highlighted that feedback acknowledgements are felt to be owing across the community, prior to next stage.

Some details answered in response to RMC/JB questions: The Planning Inspectorate can check details and validate the report before acceptance for examination phase, the entire process being 2-year, with early next year as detailed and formal consultation & submission beginning by Christmas 2024 (to include competency and legality assessments); landowners have signed contracts and are committed to them; sightlines remain a

concern given possible panel size of 4.5m (max) 2.5m (min), effects such as these will be researched in fuller detail (specific locations etc.), previous mitigation schemes include planting, buffer/set-back distances; brown-field sites are reusable after decommissioning, and this will be upheld within the terms (60-year span); Wiltshire Highways, National Landscapes (formerly AONB), and Natural England, are all statutory consultees – so their views are taken into account in the environment assessment; there are no caps on number of projects in a given area; underground cables are confirmed; grazing of sheep desirable, but not a given; noise levels and fire risks (transformers, inverters and batteries) will be technically assessed with Fire Service being consulted; toxicity implications of run-off is limited (from previous solar farm research), drainage strategy is being developed, with Wessex Water and Environment Agency also consultees; battery market means supply and technology is changing all the time, as are regulations, and these will be kept abreast of.

JB raised concerns about local surface water run-off, being problematic across a wider area as far as Chippenham and Bath; also tunnelling/flooding impacting water table and aquifers. Requested expansion of impact area to cover upper Avon beyond current parameters. JB and William Barrett to confer.

MS reiterated that community questions and feedback at this stage cannot address specific proposals until the later consultation/examination is implemented.

2159. Correspondence received:

- a. Kara Arduş (9/07/24), with regard to dog poo bin collections (local resident). SB confirmed that IdVerde are collecting according to the timetable of every week. SB to reply with Council position.
- b. Ron Bailey (9/07/24), with regard to written support for lithium battery safety campaign (Parliamentary advisor). Ebikes disposal of batteries causing problems. SB to respond with LAPC support.

2160. The following planning applications were considered:

- a. PL/2024/05345: Hillside Cottage, Sherston Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6PH (Alterations and First Floor Extension to Existing Store/Garage to Provide Annex to Existing Dwelling). There were no objections.
- b. PL/2024/04734: Hillside Cottage, Sherston Road, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6PH (Detached building for storage of machinery and equipment). There were no objections.
- c. PL/2024/05778: PULENS, CHURCH ROAD, LUCKINGTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6PG (Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area). There were no objections.

2161. Update on Financial Issues

- a) To agree payments as follows:
Ryan Russell (grass cutting June): £380
Clerk expenses: £62.29

All approved, RMC & JB to sign.

2162. Meetings calendar

Following circulation of proposed meeting dates for next academic year, SB to add the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (May 2025), and publish.

2163. Clerk appointment

(Carol Rogers stepped out of the meeting for this item). RMC and NN confirmed 5 interviews, with the invited candidate being Carol Rogers. References have been received and considered satisfactory, JB proposed appointment and pay for this evening, all approved. CR and RMC signed contracts. SB to bring up payment for this month (minus office allowance).

2164. Lime Down Response

JB requested email responses to him by 31st July, to draw up report for Planning Inspectorate by 14th August. Council approved the means of drawing up and approving this report outside the need for a regular Parish Council meeting (the next one being September).

2165. Highways update

NJG reported poor surface repair by Cherry Orchard, Luckington. Reporting continues to be encouraged via the MyWilts app: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting.

2166. Report from Outside Meetings

JB went to Operational Flood Group meeting, confirmed Wessex Water dissatisfaction with Lime Down proposal, EA are being consulted nationally (especially re. River Thames crossover), and British Rail.

2167. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

NJG reported on his rejected planning application, is using a consultant to appeal.

Norbert Mak reported cemetery gates absorbing oil, requested another coat of oil (£200 ballpark). Council approved.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.