

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at 7.30pm in Luckington Village Hall

Present:

Chair: Richard McCraith (RMC)

Councillors:

John Buckley (JB)

Sue Godwin (SG)

Parish Clerk: Dr Sheona Beaumont (SB)

Members of the Public:

(Steve Woodhead, Councillor, Kington St Michael)

2136. Apologies for Absence

Nic Johnson-Greening, Nigel Neale, Martin Smith

2137. Declaration of interests

There were none.

2138. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

Steve Woodhead reported his experience of 3 local solar farm applications (various stages of application), from the area around Kington St Michael. Detailed primary objections to the Red Barn Solar Park being local access (due to high-fatality accidents & surface-wear at key entry point and A350), and cumulative effect of industrialisation on the countryside. Requested that the Parish Council consider objecting to this proposal, which comes under Wiltshire Council planning. JB proposed supporting this objection, RMC seconded, all in favour. SB to respond online. (SW left the meeting).

2139. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

2140. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2024

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by RMC.

2141. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

2142. Correspondence received:

- a) Will Threlfall, Lime Down Solar Park (20/05/24), letter to Parish Council detailing closing of Stage 1 consultation, meeting invitation, and next steps. JB confirmed intention to take them up on the invitation.
- b) Steve Woodhead, Red Barn Solar Park (20/05/24), email requesting support and information in regards to planning application objection for Red Barn Solar Park. Discussed above. JB also recommended reading SW's provided documents in full (previously circulated), including the Wiltshire Council Landscape Officer on the planning website.

2143. The following planning applications were considered:

- a) PL/2024/04412: The Farm, The Street, Luckington, SN14 6NU (Removal of outbuilding). There were no objections.
- b) PL/2024/04544: 9 The Bell Field, Luckington, SN14 6GZ (Replace rear conservatory with single storey extension). There were no objections.

c) PL/2024/04198: Church of St Mary & St Ethelbert, Church Road, Luckington, SN14 6PH (Vestry toilet access and graveyard septic tank). This application was withdrawn in advance of the meeting – it is being resubmitted at a later date.

d) PL/2024/04258: Cairn Cottage, The Street, Alderton, SN14 6NL (Alteration of gates&walls, removal of porch, replacement of stables). There were no objections.

2144. Update on Financial Issues

a) To agree payments as follows:

Ryan Russell (grass cutting May): £380

Auditing Solutions: £300

All approved, RMC & JB to sign.

b) Audit Report and AGAR

There was a brief discussion of the previously circulated report recommendations:

- A correction of the Asset Value back to £76,878 (for the purposes of the AGAR form). This was initialled by SB and RMC. SB to introduce two columns on the Parish Council Asset Register to reflect values with and without increases (for insurance purposes).
- The Notice of Public Rights to reflect 30 working days accurately. SB to action for this year.
- The Parish Council are advised to review its Financial Regulations, and bring them into line with the latest NALC document. For RMC/agenda in October prior to budget setting.
- Clerk expenses claims (where relevant) and the phone bills should be itemised as incl. VAT, and this VAT should be included on the annual claim (made in Sept each year). Future Clerk to action.
- The basis of the Clerk pay (hours and rate according to the NALC salary points), and the gross payment pcm should be written up in an annual statement (and at any point when it changes), which should be signed off by the Chair at a meeting. This is a recommended action which more formally serves to protect the Clerk agreement, as opposed to just minuting the changes in pay. Clerk to action for Clerk Review in April.
- The Parish Council are advised to amend the Risk Register to include a 'low', 'medium', and 'high' likelihood of each risk actually occurring. SB to add.
- The Parish Council are advised to ensure that the General Reserve (a figure we call the contingency reserve) should be set at between 3 & 12 month's revenue. Parish Council agreed that the total of what we call the 'ring-fenced reserves' accommodates this, therefore no action needed.
- A general suggestion is made that a periodic check with HMRC is advisable with respect to the Clerk not registering for PAYE. Clerk to action for Clerk Review in April.

2145. Clerk Vacancy

SB confirmed that the Clerk Vacancy has been advertised on the Council website, public noticeboards, and on the WALC website. SB has also emailed all south Cotswolds village Parish Clerks and the Malmesbury Area Board Community Advisor Max Hirst. JB confirmed that it has been advertised on social media (Sherston and Luckington and Malmesbury Facebook groups), and with SLCC Wiltshire.

2146. Lime Down Solar Park

JB notified the Parish Council of changes at Wiltshire Council prior to the election, and highlighted independent technical expertise being built. JB confirmed Lime Down have had over 1300 replies to Stage 1 consultation, and the likely effect is a delayed progression to Stage 2. 2024/03 Wiltshire motion was passed expressing concern about industrialisation of rural communities, so there is a growing consolidation of objection and information, this can be found online. Flooding Group meeting was well-received with increased engagement, including from Malmesbury Town Council and engineer/developer/geographer expertise.

2147. Red Barn Solar Park

Discussed above.

2148. Cemetery

Nothing to report.

2149. Highways update

JB reported Parish Steward attention to local potholes this month, especially B4040 on way into Luckington from Sherston, and Shallowbrook. Rathole now has much improved drain improvement. Footpath by Luckington Playground has been cleared. Reporting continues to be encouraged via the MyWilts app: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting.

2150. Report from Outside Meetings

As above with JB's report for Lime Down & Red Barn.

2151. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

SB confirmed that the Parish Council name change has now been formally approved.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.