

## LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> of May 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)

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#### 1320. Apologies for Absence

Mr Sebastian Lawrence-Mills (SLM)

Councillor John Thomson (JT)

#### 1321. Declaration of interests

There were none.

#### 1322. 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. It is now over two weeks since the otter has been sighted around the pond. It may well have moved on, but it is not certain yet. Ducks are being returned to the pond, but not the most expensive ones yet. Replacement of the ducks lost will not take place until the Trustees are happy that the pond is as safe as it can possibly be. Donations now stand at £1,200, with monies due from the Area Board, the Parish Council and Beaufort Hunt. Around £250-300 has been spent on improving the security around the pond and not much more can realistically be done on this.

George also provided information on the history of the Duck Pond. The Neeld Estate gave the pond and village green to local Trustees to hold on behalf of the Alderton Villagers in 1970. In 2009 it was registered as a Charity (1094916) and the deeds invested in the name of the Official Custodian of Charities to hold on behalf of the villagers.

The pond has been cared for daily for more than 40 years by Tony Witt who lives in the village. He is assisted by the local residents when required. Under his stewardship he has cultivated the pond to be home to more than 20 different species of exotic ducks. Its reputation is known for miles around and many visitors come to see them, in addition to the pleasure it gives to the local residents.

Those assisting Tony are Melissa Powell, Andrew Vaulters, Jack Doyle, Ben Russell, Jonathan Vaughan and George Lynham. John and Jane Buckley also helped save the remaining ducks not killed by the otter.

### **1323. Public Question Time**

There were no questions.

### **1324. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> of April**

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

### **1325. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The phone box in Luckington. RM advised that the Luckington Book Club had been advised they could carry on and change the phone box into a book exchange, with the caveats that the phone box should be maintained and painted in the same colour and that the work should be completed within three months.

### **1326. Correspondence Received**

#### **a) Pathway at the end of Hollis Gardens**

This area belongs to Wiltshire Highways, not the Parish Council. CK to respond to Anne Marshall and advise this should be re-directed to the Wiltshire Council Contact Centre. CK will also forward this onto Wiltshire Highways.

#### **b) Cherry Trees on grass outside Glen Cottage**

LAPC own the land and they cut the grass. SE needs to talk to the grass cutters to ensure that planting of trees on the land will not cause issues. It will be re-assessed at next month's meeting.

### **1327. To review and comment on Planning Applications**

There are none.

### **1328. To agree payments in accordance with the budget, as listed in the attached financial summary**

All payments were agreed, and the cheques were signed. It was also agreed that a cheque which had been raised for the insurance for the year for £481.91 from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, should also be signed as this needed to be sent out urgently. This is the second year of a three-year agreement for insurance.

### **1329. Agree Certificate of Exemption for exemption from an external audit and Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statement for internal auditors**

All of these were agreed, including the amendment on fixed assets relating to the previous year. In due course these will all be available on the LAPC website. RM signed all documents.

### **1330. Agree Payment of Additional Hours for the Parish Clerk**

RM advised that a lot of additional hours had had to be worked by CK due to a lack of handover and also with regard to the year end. He proposed, and it was agreed, that an additional 10 hours be paid to CK. CK will raise the cheque for next month's meeting.

### **1331. Office Allowance Review**

There has not been time to gain advice on this, so will be moved to next month's meeting.

### **1332. Alderton Notice Board**

The notice board has been fixed, so now can be opened on both sides, JB reported. However, the Perspex is so badly sun damaged it is proving difficult to read what is on the notice board. RM and CK had spoken to Jim Greening and he believed it would cost around £75 to replace the Perspex. JB proposed this be approved and it was agreed. CK will advise Jim Greening.

### **1333. Defibrillator for Alderton**

RM said he would like to look at this again as it is a very important resource to have. CK had contacted Malmesbury League of Friends and there is funding available to buy a defibrillator, up to £1,500. It has been determined that there is a separate electricity supply available within Alderton Village Hall to allow the defibrillator to be installed. RM asked CK to investigate the Luckington defibrillator installation as it is important to install the same model, if possible. CK also to contact Alderton Village Hall (AVH) committee, Hugo Armitage and George Lynham, to determine whether AVH will agree the connection and cover the electricity cost going forward. It will be discussed further at the June meeting.

### **1334. Review of Fees and Charges for Luckington Parish Cemetery**

RM had looked at various costs for local parishes and further afield and Luckington Cemetery fees appear low in relation. Generally, there is very little data available. The Fees and Charges have not been reviewed for four years, so it is felt that they should be. RS believes it is mainly used by residents who have lived in the parish for many years and it should remain as a very local cemetery, fees should remain as they are. NN felt it should look at breaking even, with the costs incurred on upkeep to be offset by the monies received in relation to it. It was generally felt this would be very difficult to achieve. NN also felt strongly that residents should be able to have access to the cemetery and not be 'priced out of it'. JB raised the question about residents who then moved out of the parish to care homes, would they be deemed resident anymore? Again, this was deemed to be very difficult to monitor. SG asked whether it would be possible to use the length of time that people had been residents of Luckington and Alderton to determine how much the fees should be? It was agreed that would not be possible.

JB proposed that the Fees and Charges should be increased by 10% and reviewed again in two years. This was agreed, with one abstention.

### **1335. Update on Wiltshire Council Boundary Review**

JB advised that the document detailing the LAPC objections had been submitted and it was now a case of waiting for them to respond. This item should be removed from next month's agenda.

### **1336. Update on Cemetery Issues**

There are no updates this month.

### **1337. Update on Highways Issues**

JB advised that the manhole cover on Alderton Lane had been well repaired. Sopworth Lane was another matter. Matt Perrott had admitted that the recent drain installation had not adequately dealt with the excess water emanating from the Bristol Water pipeline trench. They will install a French Drain (land drain) and will be implementing resurfacing patching to repair the carriageway surface, hopefully over the summer and before the advent of winter. JB will continue to monitor the ongoing situation.

### **1338. Update on Grass Cutting**

There is an improvement on the grass cutting, compared to the previous contractor, but the cemetery is not looking good at all, after the most recent cut. RM also added that cuts had been carried out on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, which was not often enough in the growing season. Every 10 days was potentially required. JB said when the contractor tendered for the contract they stated that presentation was a priority. Not currently the case. SE will liaise with the contractor and report back. SE provided signed copies of the contract to CK.

### **1339. Update on Village Entry Picket Fences**

JB and RM met with Martin Rose (MR) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. At the meeting, a survey was carried out on the potential sites to locate the village gates at the entry points to Luckington.

Following the meeting MR (Principal Traffic Engineer, Wiltshire Council Highways) provided the following written advice to the Parish Council:

B4040 Bristol Road – On the ground checks confirm the proposed village gate for the terminal sign on the eastern side would impede the visibility for both vehicles emerging from the access of Hebden Leaze Farm and traffic heading south (to traffic emerging from the access). For this reason, we would not permit the use of a gate on this side. A gate is feasible on the western side, however the overall impact to drivers would be diminished with a single gate and visually the lack of symmetry could be considered unattractive.

B4040 Sherston Road – Unfortunately we have issues on both sides of the road. On the south east side (cemetery side) the verge width to the dry-stone wall is just under 1.1m wide. We require a setback of at least 350mm from the road, hence it would not be possible to locate a 1m wide gate on this side. This issue aside, a gate at this location would impede visibility to the right for traffic emerging from the cemetery access. On the north western side, the verge is a little wider, however there is a highway ditch approximately 1.2m from the road edge. A gate is technically feasible, however one of the posts would be located in the ditch which could impede flow and trap debris. This may lead to the ditch backing up during heavy rainfall and result in localised flooding. The lack of symmetry issue, as explained above, would also be an issue.

Councillors noted that, at the Hebden Leaze Farm end there were issues on the LHS on entry to the village, not wide enough and on the RHS there were issues for access from Hebden Leaze Farm. At the cemetery end of the village, on the LHS again it is not wide enough to site the gates and on the RHS the fence would need to be anchored in a ditch, which would potentially cause problems for drainage of the ditch. It was therefore agreed that village gates are not an option.

MR did suggest that the 30mph signs were not in a great state and it may be worth considering replacing these. This would be at a cost of £1,900, 25% of which would have to be funded by LAPC. RM proposed to move this forward to next month's agenda, to allow all councillors a chance to review. This was agreed.

#### **1340. Report from Outside Meetings**

There were none.

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

SG asked thanks to be passed on to the Ambulance Service, after her brother had a heart attack at Badminton Horse Trials the previous weekend. Their response was amazing.

SG also asked how wide a footpath was required to be, as she had put up fencing for her horses alongside a footpath running over her land. She was advised it should be at least 1 metre wide.

RS wanted to thank the Parish Council for their kind donation to Luckington Village Hall. RS also wanted to update on the footpath sign outside Slad Brook House. He has re-attached the sign to the pole, but the pole itself is unstable and really needs replacing. CK to investigate a replacement.

RS also wanted to advise that the number of people who were collecting their dog poo in bags and then leaving the bags throughout the village was anti-social and needed to be addressed.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.