

# 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> November 2023 at 7.30pm in Alderton Village Hall

### Present

#### Chair

Richard McCraith (RMC)

#### Vice Chair

Nigel Neale (NN)

#### Councillors

Mr John Buckley (JB)

Ms Sue Godwin (SG)

Mr Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

**Parish Clerk:** Dr Sheona Beaumont (SB)

Christopher and Melissa Powell, Norbert Mak

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### 2051. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Martin Smith (MS)

### 2052. Declaration of interests

There were none.

### 2053. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

Christopher & Melissa Powell gave some comments and answered Councillor questions in regards to 2058a (planning application): Councillors asked if the application was different to the previous application in 2022 (Council objection then had noted that the planning area was outside Alderton village boundary and also that there were concerns in regards to overlooking). Powells confirmed there were no changes, and wanted to express their opinion that overlooking was more of a potential issue for them being overlooked as their property is on lower ground, rather than neighbours being overlooked (also due to the position of a hedge&wall). They also wished to communicate that without intervention, the existing listed building will fall in soon. Councillors were invited to view the property in person. JB clarified that the Council position considers representation from all sides, whether written or communicated in person, as well as to establish whether previously raised applications have had their considerations answered. JB also clarified that respecting the village boundary line has decided the Parish Council position on previous applications, whilst emphasising that any planning application decision is ultimately made by Wiltshire Council.

Norbert reported on looking at the cemetery gates, following his resupplied quotation for repairing them (detailing materials): it is possible a hinge will need replacing, Norbert will seek advice from ironmongers. Council approved the initial quotation of £450, with the provision for an additional £50 should it be needed for the hinge.

### 2054. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

### 2055. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by RMC.

## 2056. Matters arising from the Minutes

JB confirmed return of consultation in regards to possible closure of Alderton polling station, Council's position is to object.

## 2057. Correspondence received

- a) Hannah Hasted (26/10/23), Loxley Solicitors re. adjoining cemetery land. Previously circulated communication from HH requests a conversation in regards to pursuing registration of the triangle section of land to the west of the cemetery. This would be by argument of 'adverse possession', and statements of support would need to be solicited. JB to phone HH to pursue the subject, fill in with information and get some idea of costs.
- b) Jack Derrick (01/11/23), re. grass cutting contract request. Following Council request to JD for adding the Luckington Village Hall area to the contract, JD has advised that the contract is no longer viable for him in 2024, due to increasing costs and VAT registration. Council considered this a breach of contract, but understand the reasons and appreciate that JD has recommended another local contractor. SB to approach and discuss.

## 2058. The following planning applications were discussed:

- a) [PL/2022/07660](#): FORGE HOUSE, THE STREET, ALDERTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6NL (Conversion of rural building to create a single dwelling – Resubmission), and [PL/2022/07970](#) (listed building consent for the same property). Objection, on the basis that nothing has changed from previous application. SB to respond as on previous occasion. SB to also ask MS to raise it for consideration at the Northern Area Planning Meeting.
- b) [PL/2023/09412](#): 1 The Street, Luckington, Chippenham, SN14 6NR (Two storey side and rear extension. Alteration to vehicular access). No objections.
- c) [PL/2023/09381](#): BROOK HOUSE, CHURCH ROAD, LUCKINGTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6PG (Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area). No objections.

## 2059. Update on Financial Issues

- a) To agree payments as follows:
  - £528.00 (JD Estate & Garden Management – Oct grass cutting)
  - £14.52 (Brunel website domain fee)

The payments were approved. RMC/NN to complete online.

## 2060. Budget 24-5

RMC circulated the budget with 2%, 5% and 10% increases and highlighted that extra expenses on the cemetery this year will lead to a deficit budget by the end of the year (as including the ringfenced £14,000 for contingency/cemetery/lock-up). The 6.7% cpi was discussed, as well as the increased cost of living, and the retendering and insurance provider change next year. RMC proposed the 10% increase, JB seconded. 4 in favour, 1 against.

## 2061. Cemetery Gates

Action as agreed in item 2053.

## 2062. Highways update

JB reported on the following:

- JB escalated the filling in of the hole in the triangle piece of land adjoining the cemetery, where exposed high voltage wires have been left for a number of weeks (following SSE electrical repairs). Also noted that the gate hasn't been secured, SB to approach Robert Simpkins to help rectify it.
- Bad hole outside Old Vicarage, on the incoming B4040 into Luckington has been reported. All Councillors encouraged to report it too: MyWilts app: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting).
- A wall down on left going out on the B4040 from Luckington to Sherston, drivers should approach with care.
- Salt supplies are confirmed in the Lock-up, other refills should have been done. JB to check soon.

- The uneven and liable-to-flooding state of the Rathole lane (out of Luckington towards Alderton) is known to the Parish Steward, some local clearing will be done.

### **2063. Report from Outside Meetings**

It was noted that Sherston Parish Council had posted news re. Tolsey Surgery – the plans to close it will not be pursued.

### **2064. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only**

NN reported resident questions about the defunct speed/warning sign on the B4040 heading west out of Luckington. JB responded that the issue has been revisited in discussion a number of times: the position remains that it was put up on a post that is unsuitable, and is therefore not repairable by Highways. A new one would cost £3k/£4k to part-fund what would be a £16K Area Board application, which is not feasible at this time.

SG notified the Council of the Senior Drinks event, open to all at Luckington Village Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> December from 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.