

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on
Wednesday 9th December 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom Meetings**

Present

Chair

Richard McCraith (RMC)

Councillors

Mr Nigel Neale (NN)

Mr John Buckley (JB)

Mr Sam Evans (SE)

Mr Seb Lawrence-Mills (SLM)

Councillor John Thomson (JT)

Parish Clerk

Dr Sheona Beaumont (SB)

1629. Apologies for Absence

Robert Simpkins (RS).

1630. Declaration of interests

RMC in regard to Luckington Children's Playground Committee (NN to Chair for item 1635d)).

1631. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

No members of the public had requested access to the meeting.

1632. Public Question Time

There were none.

1633. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th of November

The minutes were agreed and signed by RMC.

1634. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None to report.

1635. Correspondence Received

a) Letter of thanks (Alderton Village Pond). Duly noted with thanks.

b) Permission request for White Walls Way walking sign (Sue McKechnie). JB outlined the details of both the meeting with SMK and Judy Hible (08/12/20, SB in attendance), and his written response (circulated 08/12/20). These included the discussion of various options for placement of the sign, consideration of Wiltshire Highways policy and the location of subterranean services. JB recommended a location in the centre of the green opposite the school, next to the bench, with the condition that permission is first sought and work undertaken for

removing lower tree limbs from the two trees near the bench. A question was raised as to whether the LAPC could do the work, but as the green is a conservation area, permission needs to be sought. The Council thanked JB for the recommendation. The Council approved the permission request with the additional specification for the board's location, subject to tree work. SE to put application in for raising of the tree crowns. JB to communicate Council decision to SMK.

c) Variation of Premises License approval request for the Old Royal Ship (Wiltshire Council). JB explained the need to consolidate what were two separate licenses for the Ship and the Shop, in the light of their recent fabric changes and opening hours. Councillors gave their unanimous approval. SB to write to Wiltshire Council accordingly.

d) Grant application re. tree removal (LCPC). RMC stepped out from the meeting. A discussion was held in which the detrimental effect of the pandemic on fundraising efforts was acknowledged, previous LCPC applications were raised, as well as the need to be financially transparent and equitable going forward. A concern was voiced that no paperwork for the estimates was provided (though the application stated that these had been secured), while the amount requested was significant. The Council decided to offer a grant of £500, payable to LCPC on receipt of an invoice showing that the works had been carried out. It was felt that the amount is commensurable with previous grants made locally, and allows for other applications as they may arise in the future. JT also highlighted that further grant funding could be sought from the Malmesbury Area Board. NN proposed, SLM seconded. SB to draft letter for NN, before responding directly to LCPC.

RMC invited back in. Council decision relayed. A query was raised on LCPC accounts re. maintenance figure and put to RMC, who was unable to clarify.

1636. To review and comment on Planning Applications

There were none received.

1637. Update on Financial Issues

a) To agree payments as listed on the financial summary. The following payments were agreed:

- Catherine Keegan, salary and stationery £351.78
- Jack Derrick grass cutting for November - £168.00
- Sheona Beaumont Gradwell expenses - £4.91

Agreed by all, RMC and NN will sign the cheques.

b) To agree Direct Debit for ongoing payment of Clerk's phone via Gradwell. Agreed by all, RMC and NN will sign the Direct Debit authorisation form.

1638. Dates for Next Year's LAPC meetings

These were discussed and approved. SB to put on website.

1639. Update on Prescription Collection and Delivery for Residents in Luckington, Alderton, Badminton, Didmorton and Sopworth

No demand at present.

1640. Census

This will be discussed at length at next month's meeting. In the meantime, SB to share poster information on website, and email links to Community Matters. Councillors to read the circulated Councillor's Handbook.

1641. Update on Cemetery Issues

SB advised there were no updates regarding the cemetery. A question was raised as to the current condition. SE to check drain at bottom of slope and overall site.

1642. Grass Cutting Tender and Decision

SE summarised the circulated documentation: 4 quotations were considered. The Council voted unanimously to award the contract for 2021 and 2022 to Jack Derrick Estate & Garden Management. Due to consistently good performance, attention to detail and ease of management, the Council were pleased to offer this contract in support of a local, reliable, business. SE was thanked for his work in collating and circulating the information. SE to inform JD, and supply contract. SB to inform others.

1643. Budget Setting and Precept

After a short discussion, a 1% increase on the precept was approved by the Council: £9720. RMC proposed, SLM seconded. SB to fill in and return Precept Requirement Form.

1644. Update on Highways Issues and Emergency Preparedness

JB reported on 2-day 'Wiltshire Flood and Winter Preparedness' event. Rain and snow forecast to be no worse than expected. Noel Banks continues as our Flood & Snow Warden. JB main contact for Parish support in this area.

No further updates on the outstanding issues from last month: the verge near the school, the drain on Church Road and the interactive speed sign.

1645. Report from Outside Meetings

SLM wished to inform the Council about the planned outdoor Carol Service on 20th December in the playing field, Luckington. JB and SLM added information about Father Christmas appearances. SE confirmed the Christmas Eve event will not be using the trailer this year, instead there will be a static grotto on the green in order to allow for social distancing and keeping bubbles separate.

1646. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

Census to go on January's Agenda, prescription collections to be removed until March 2021.

RMC reported a complaint about the condition of the Northend verges (Luckington), with farmers frequently using them. As this is a Highways issue, JB confirmed they would need to be informed directly.

SB raised a request for alternative storage arrangements for the Clerk's filing cabinet (currently with Catherine Keegan). JT advised that the Swindon and Wiltshire History Centre may be able to take it. JB volunteered to assess the contents first and make the necessary arrangements.

SB also sought approval to seek training for her role, probably in the New Year with the Society for Local Council Clerks. The Council agreed and welcomed SB in her first meeting as Clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.