

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Held on
Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 7.30pm in Alderton Village Hall**

Present

Chair

Mr Richard McCraith (RMC)

Vice-Chair

Mr Nigel Neale (NN)

Councillors

Mr John Buckley (JB)

Councillor Martin Smith (MS)

Ms Sue Godwin (SG)

Mr Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)

Parish Clerk: Dr Sheona Beaumont (SB)

1898. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

1899. Declaration of interests

RMC (on PCC of Luckington Church) in respect of Correspondence item c).

1900. Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items

There were none.

1901. Public Question Time

There were no questions.

1902. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2022

The Minutes were approved by all and signed by JB.

1903. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

1904. Correspondence received:

a) Letter from Barclays (06/10/22) re. account information updating. RMC to follow up, having provided some of the required information.

b) Email from Katherine Bennett (19/10/22) re. donation request for tree memorial plaque in Luckington. RMC confirmed that Luckington Playground, PCC, and LAPC have each been approached for a three-way split of the cost: £55 each. Council approved the donation, all in favour.

c) Email from Seb Lawrence-Mills (27/10/22) re. donation request for Splash Out fund. RMC took no part in this discussion, NN chaired the item. JB queried the eligibility of the application letter itself as the mandatory elements of the LAPC Donation Policy were not covered in the application. The principle of payments by Parish Councils to the Church of England (PCCs), for any purpose, was raised by JB. He reminded Parish Councillors that the NALC 'Good Councillor Guide' stated that Councils can only act when they have a clear legal power to do so. The NALC Legal Briefing (L01-18) concludes that no such legal power can be identified. The 'Taylor Review' (Dec 2017-Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals) reached the same conclusion, but offered the possibility for Parish Councils to make such payments under the powers conferred by the 'General Power of Competence'

contained in the Localism Act 2011. Unfortunately, this is a conditional power, and LAPC does not qualify to use it. JB therefore concluded that there was no legal basis on which a payment could be made by LAPC to the PCC. SB clarified the position of the Society for Local Council Clerks on the subject, that Parish Councils cannot make payments towards building or fabric development by churches, but could contribute to specific events (with reference to the National Association of Local Council guides, and JB's previous research on the subject). MS confirmed that Malmesbury Area Board have turned down applications for fabric funding for churches. JB proposed rejecting SLM's application, not seconded, so not carried. NN proposed SB to approach NALC for clarification, NJG seconded. JB against, SG abstain, so carried. SB to draft letter to NALC. NN proposed deferring the Council's response to SLM's application until the next meeting, SG seconded. JB abstain, NJG for, so carried.

1905. To review and comment on the following planning applications:

- a) [PL/2022/07683](#) - PULENS, CHURCH ROAD, LUCKINGTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6PG. Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. There were no objections.
- b) [PL/2022/07660](#) - FORGE HOUSE, THE STREET, ALDERTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6NL. Full planning permission, conversion of rural building to create a single dwelling (resubmission).
- c) [PL/2022/07970](#) - FORGE HOUSE, THE STREET, ALDERTON, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6NL. Listed building consent, conversion of rural building to create a single dwelling (resubmission).

In regards to b) & c) JB reminded Councillors of previous Parish Council decisions in respect of prior applications for this property. He stated that the property is still 'outside of any defined settlement boundary in the open countryside' as per the previous Decision Notice. He also suggested that, whilst some changes had been made to address the other concerns in the previous Decision Notice, these were not sufficient to make the application acceptable and it should also be rejected on the grounds of intrusively overlooking the two neighbouring dwellings, and the potential damage to or loss of the bat roost. JB recommended that all three objection grounds contained in the earlier Decision Notice still applied and Councillors agreed unanimously. SB to respond accordingly. The Parish Council requested MS discuss the application with planners and take such action as he felt appropriate. MS agreed.

1906. Update on Financial Issues

- a) To agree payments as listed in the attached financial summary:
 - £504.00 J D Estate Management for September grass cutting.
 - £135.36 Clerk expenses (reimbursement for Microsoft 365 subscription).

Approved, RMC and JB to action.

1907. Budget

RMC presented the budget, with proposed increases of 2%, 5% and 10%. JB concerned with the need to account more specifically for inflation considerations (especially for the grass cutting budget, which has not yet been put out to tender for 23-24), and potential future maintenance costs (lock-up and cemetery expansion). RMC proposed deferring budget until grass cutting contract can be considered at the next meeting, all in favour. SB to draft invitation to tender, and approach 6 businesses subject to confirmed approval of document by email.

1908. Updating Councillor GDPR Agreements

SB issued forms for Councillors to sign confirming their agreement of the retention and use of their contact details in Council business. SB also asked Councillors if they were happy with only their names on the website, or if any would like additional contact details to be made available, RMC happy to put his phone number on website. SB to update records accordingly.

1909. Cemetery update

SB requested permission to paint the border of the cemetery noticeboard black prior to installing the printed plan, Council approved. NJG to provide. RMC raised possibility of access to cemetery from bridleway, bottom corner. Ground is unstable, but JB raised possibility of access from the triangle in the future. RMC requested help clearing entrance of leaves Tues 15th November 11am.

1910. Highways update

JB reported that Shallowbrook Lane scalplings have arrived, will be done in Spring 2023. Parish Stewards are going to be duos soon, thanks to new funding from Wiltshire Council. Fingerpost replacement request still outstanding (has now fallen over), RMC to copy in MS to next email to Rebecca Chivers at Wiltshire Council.

1911. Report from Outside Meetings

JB reported Luckington Fireworks a great success, RMC to feedback to Playground Committee. SG alerted Councillors to Luckington Christmas Party, 2nd December, Bridges Court. SG requested footpaths clarification advice, JB directed to Cotswolds Wardens. SG asked if there was interest in a Christmas lunch for the village elderly, Councillors considered there may be concerns about COVID still.

1912. Items for next meeting Agenda and any other business, for information only

SLM application, grass cutting contract, donations policy.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.