

Luckington and Alderton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2019 in Luckington Village Hall at 7pm

Present

Mrs Catherine Keegan – Parish Clerk (CK)
Mr Richard McCraith (RM)
Mr Nigel Neale (NN)
Mr John Buckley (JB)
Mr Robert Simpkins (RS)
Ms Sue Godwin (SG) – arrived at 7.20pm
Mr Sam Evans (SE) – arrived at 7.25pm

Ellen Blacker – Health and Wellbeing Champion was also present

1. Apologies

Mr Sebastian Lawrence Mills (SLM)
Councillor John Thomson (JT)

2. Parish Councillors to choose and vote in a new Chair and Vice Chair

NN proposed that RM be Chair again for the year. RS seconded. This was voted for unanimously.

RM proposed that NN be Vice Chair again for the year. RS seconded. This was voted for unanimously

3. Chair and Vice Chair to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office

RM and NN both signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office Forms.

4. Clerk handed meeting over to Richard McCraith

5. Approval of Convening Notice

All members of the Council approved the Convening Notice.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th of May 2018

These minutes were approved and signed by Chair.

7. Matters Brought Forward from the Meeting of 9th May 2018

There were no matters brought forward.

8. Annual Report by the Chair of the Parish Council, Mr Richard McCraith

I would like to start by thanking all the Councillors for their support throughout the year and all the help they have given.

We did not have any major planning in the year.

We have had two changes of clerk in the year and increased the hours that the clerk works. Our first clerk started in June but was not local and decided that the job was not for her. We have a new clerk, Catherine, who started in April

and fortunately lives in the village and has already done a lot of work to get us back to a very strong and organised position.

We have taken on more expenditure during this year by introducing a new grass cutting contract and by increasing the clerk's hours. For next year we will be spending more than we receive.

Our finances have remained healthy and we have approximately £14,000 in our bank accounts at the year end. We increased the precept by 1% for 2019-2020, to £9,162.

I would very much like to help the local community and we did succeed in donating £1,800 to various projects from FOLS and others.

I would also like to thank Tim Guard for continuing to send out communications via the Community Matters email.

I would like to thank Nigel for being Vice Chair and of course Catherine for all her hard work and support, having just started a month ago.

9. Other Parish Business

Ellen Blacker asked if she could update on the work she carried out within the community. Ellen is now concentrating on the Malmesbury area.

Transport – a huge thanks to all the Link Schemes that continue within our community. They are a lifeline for many and the volunteer work carried out by the drivers and organisers is amazing and highly valued by all.

Finance – As ever this remains very important and for those who are older or vulnerable it can cause considerable worry. Scams continue and everyone is urged to be vigilant to these. Wiltshire Council still offers help to switch fuel suppliers and the Warm and Safe team can be contacted on 0300 003 4575 to help with this.

If pension credit is received by older members of the community, they can receive a 20% reduction in their water bills from Wessex Water. They can also receive up to £140 Winter Fuel Credit.

Phone bills can be very high for those older individuals who rarely use the phone, but need it for basic and emergency use. It is possible that BT can help them reduce the cost of the phone line and various of Ellen's clients have switched to this option this year.

The Surviving Winter Grant Scheme is open again and Ellen supported 28 grant applications (at £300 per award) across the area.

Dementia – Our community area is committed to being Dementia Friendly. 1 in 14 people over the age of 65 will be affected by Dementia, which adds up to a huge number of people. There is a whole day event planned for Friday 17th of May in Malmesbury Abbey. Various activities will take place and experts will be available to answer questions and concerns about forgetfulness. Pets as Therapy dogs will also be present.

Loneliness – This continues to cause major problems for many people who live alone. But there are options available for those who would like/are able to get out and join activities. Unfortunately the Age UK befriending service is no longer available. Over the coming months Ellen is going to be highlighting the 'Know your Neighbour' scheme to encourage neighbours to look out for each other.

New Website???? – Many of you know that Ellen fights against websites being the only method of information being available, so you may be rather surprised that Ellen is planning on setting one up! There is a lot of information available and it would be useful to be able to put this on a website for access to a wider audience. It will also allow information to be shared across parishes and details of clubs and activities will also be shared through Parish Councils, so those who cannot access the website can also be made aware of what is available.

Ellen's contact details remain as: phone 07557 922020 and email ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Meeting finished at 7.30pm

Catherine Keegan - Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council