

Luckington and Alderton Parish Council

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**Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th May 2023
at 7pm in Alderton Village Hall**

Present

Dr Sheona Beaumont – Parish Clerk (SB)
Mr Richard McCraith (RMC)
Mr John Buckley (JB)
Mr Nic Johnson-Greening (NJG)
Ms Sue Godwin (SG)

Mr Martin Smith – Wiltshire Councillor

1. Apologies

Mr Nigel Neale

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

RMC was willing to stand as Chair again for the year. RMC proposed and NJG seconded. This was voted for unanimously.

NN had previously communicated to the Council that he was willing to stand as Vice Chair again for the year. RMC proposed and JB seconded. This was voted for unanimously.

3. Clerk handed meeting over to Richard McCraith

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

RMC signed. SB to request NN's signature on his return.

5. Declarations of interest.

There were none.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th of May 2022

These minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.

7. Matters Brought Forward from the Meeting of 11th May 2022

There were no matters brought forward.

8. Annual Report by the 2022/2023 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 continue to look after grass cutting the cemetery and offer general village support. We did not have any major planning in the year. We have completed the ownership of the cemetery in a more formal way.

We have had an excellent Clerk throughout this year and she has once again done a lot of work with the cemetery to get all the bookwork correct. We have had a lot of issues with Barclays bank but are nearly at the end of this procedure.

We have had more expenditure during this year by introducing a new grass cutting contract and through the Clerk's payrise (nationally awarded). For next year we will be spending about what we get in, leaving £14,000 for reserves, which have been ringfenced as: 10% contingency, 60% burial ground extension, and 30% lock-up maintenance. Overall our finances have remained stable and we increased the precept by 5% for 23-24, which will bring in £10,510.

We have had only 5 Councillors this year which does suit the way things are run. We are allowed 7 people in total so we are always open to new blood. I would very much like to help the local community more and though we did not succeed to donate much this year (we have been unable to help Luckington Church due to an ancient law which has not changed), we are always open to requests.

I would like to thank Tim Guard for sending out communications. I would also like to thank Nigel for being Vice Chair and of course Sheona for all her hard work and support.

9. Other Parish Business

MS raised a query about the joining of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. SB understood that the present combined format of the meeting is permissible according to the SLCC guidance received by previous Clerks.

Meeting finished at 7.20pm

Sheona Beaumont - Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council