

LUCKINGTON & ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF LUCKINGTON AND ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
12th September at 7.30pm IN ALDERTON VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Chair Mr R McCraith (RM)

Councillors

Ms S Godwin (SG)

Mr J Buckley (JB)

Mr S Lawrence-Mills (SLM)

Mr S Evans (SE)

Mr N Neale (NN)

Robert Simpkins (RS)

Parish Council Clerk

Mrs Z Meaden (ZM)

Mrs V Avery (VA)

Mr John Harris was present.

1182 Apologies

County Councillor – Mr J Thompson (JT)

1183 Declaration of interests

(RS) declared an interest in correspondence received regarding the donation to Luckington Village hall as he is the Chairman.

(SE) declared an interest in Planning Application Ref 18/07360/FUL as he is involved in the works.

1184 Members of the public are invited to address the Council on agenda items.

John Harris wanted to voice his opinions about the grass cutting (item 12) and the cemetery (item 14) and, also the finances (item 9). He is concerned about the presentation of the budget figures.

He felt that the grass cutting service is not regular around the village and in the cemetery and that the grass is not being blown away, also low hanging branches in the cemetery have not been lopped. He asked how often the contractor is supposed to cut the grass (JB) said every ten days. Mr There was a general discussion around this and the councillors decided to monitor the current situation but also need to draft a tender document for review at the next meeting with a view to contacting new suppliers for the next grass cutting agreement. He also felt cemetery was looking uncared for and asked the council for action on this point.

John Harris also commented on the finances (item 9) he stated that the budget analysis sheet does not balance, (RM) agreed and said that is was an administrative error that had happened during the handover to the new Parish Clerk, NN asked John if he wanted to help the new Clerk to rectify the issue but he declined. John also asked if we should apply for a lower precept (JB) said that the money is in the bank account for unexpected expenditure, we have assets such as the lock up which could have financial liabilities,also money is put aside for Grants each year which are not always claimed for by the village charities . (RM) said that he would consider all of this when preparing the budget for next year.

1185. Confirmation of the last meetings minutes

The minutes from the meeting in July were agreed by the PC and signed by the Chair

1186. Matters Arising from Last Meeting

(RM) asked (JB) for an update on the grass area in front of the small playground for parking, (JB) said that he had previously spoken to Matt Perrott of Wiltshire Highways and had already reported the outcome of that discussion at the previous parish council meeting in July. Councillor Thomson undertook to discuss the issue with Wiltshire Highways, but no further update has yet been received. There is no Wiltshire Council budget to directly fund the area being converted to a hardstanding, but funding could possibly be accessed via application to the Area Board.

The path on the village green was discussed, (SE) said there was no update from the previous meeting. (JB) said that he has been asking people what they want to do with it but there has been no definitive answer., just a wide variety of opinions expressed. The local community needs to be asked via community matters. (JB) suggested that it may need to go out to tender, and in the meantime SG will put rubber mats down by the bus stop. (JB) suggested that (SE) check with the grass cutting contractor that these would not be a problem.

1187. Planning

Application Ref: 18/07097/TCA

Application for Work to Trees in a Cons Area

Proposal:- Fell 1 Pear Tree

At: North End House, Sopworth Lane, Luckington, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 6PL

No objections

Application Ref: 18/07360/FUL

Application for Full Planning

Proposal:- Resubmission of 18/04030/FUL (granted permission) with revision of scheme (Second Floor Rear Extension, Infill Extension and Garage / Workshop)

At: Ruby Cottage, The Street, Alderton, SN14 6NL

No objections

1188. Finance

<u>Luckington and Alderton Parish Council Financial Data as at 4th September 2018</u>	-	
-	-	
<u>August payments made</u>	Z Meaden Clerks salary	-293.40
	V Avery Clerks salary	-218.50
<u>Bank account balances at the report date:</u>		
	Barclays Current Account	17,880.38
	Barclays Deposit Account	2,844.48
		20,724.86
<u>Payments to be made:</u>		
-	Luckington Village Hall Hire	-80.00
-	Parochial Church Council	-200.00
-	V Avery	-9.77
-	Z Meaden	-45.00
<u>Clerk's Salary paid by Standing Order</u>		
-	Z Meaden September	-315.90
-	V Avery September	-196.00
	Balance carried forward	<u>19,878.19</u>

1189. Filming of Agatha Raisin in Alderton

Richard Lindsey was advised by (RM) that he would have to get permission from the Alderton duck pond charity (George Lynham) to film in that area, which he duly did. Filming went ahead on 10th September and will happen again on 24th.

1190. To Discuss the appeal letter from Citizens Advice

(JB) suggested a donation of £50, all were in agreement.

1191. Discuss the request from (RS) for a donation to Luckington Village Hall renovations

(RS) left the room. A discussion was had and the PC was in agreement that £200 would be donated.

1192. Risk Register, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

All documents have been reviewed, the risk register has no changes. (RM) asked that the financial regulations and standing orders are added to the October agenda for further discussion.

1193. Update on churchyard project

(SL) has managed to raise £1300 so far for the cemetery which is excellent. 7 graves need to be repaired. He has organised a dedication of service event on 23rd September to help raise the profile. His team has also applied for a heritage lottery fund donation.

1194. Update on cemetery issues

The councillors discussed the allocation of spaces for cremated remains. (VA) showed the map to the councillors. It was suggested that the avenue down the centre of the cemetery is allocated. This will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting. (NN) offered to paint the bench and SG offered to look at the gate and see if it needs revarnishing. The councillors are organising a clean-up day on 20th October and members of the public are invited to come along and help.

(JB) mentioned that the paddock that has been rented for years is now available and (SG) has offered to maintain it, all agreed.

(RM) has taken over the administration of the cemetery so all documents relating to the cemetery can be kept within the parish.

There was a general conversation about the maintenance of the cemetery (JB) said that it must be managed by a contractor with Public Indemnity Insurance. (JB) asked (SE) to confirm which dates on the contract that the contractor has fulfilled, he said he would advise (JB) then explained the tender process to the council and SE offered to prepare a draft tender document for review at the next meeting. RS suggested that the contract is split in to two halves, one for the village and one for the cemetery which needs extra care and attention, and a contract for the whole village

1195. Update on Highways

The finance has been approved for the repairs to the Sopworth Road flooding but no date has been decided yet. (RS) said that this needs to be moved forward as the roads in the Winter are awful. (RM) agreed to write to Highways as a matter of urgency before the season changes. (ZM) will email WCC to encourage a response.

1196. Report from Outside Meetings

The village hall committee asked for confirmation on who has a key to the village hall (JB) and (RM) have a set each.

1197. Any Other Business

(SG) asked about the annual Christmas Lunch usually organised by the Village Hall Committee (RS) said that they were not going ahead this year due to low numbers. (SG) offered to take over the organisation of it, all agreed. RM thanked Vicky Avery for her work over the last three years

1180. Items for next month's agenda

Review draft budget for 2019-2020 take out discussion in November

Grass cutting contract

Village Green path

Cemetery

Highways

Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

1181. Time and Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th October at 7.30pm in Luckington Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm. The minutes were taken by Zoe Meaden, Clerk to Luckington and Alderton Parish Council.