

Minutes of Aldwincle Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2024 in the Village Hall commencing at 7:00pm

Present:

Cllr. Bob Blakeman
Cllr. Tim Hankins
Cllr. Bernard Lowe
Cllr. Paul Williams
Cllr. Barry Watts

Clerk: Mr R Reed

NNC Cllr. David Brackenbury
There were five residents in attendance.

APM 24/01 Apologies

Cllrs. John Lawrence and Mrs Vicki Cook. NNC Cllrs. Geoff Shacklock and Mrs Wendy Brackenbury

APM 24/02 Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk presented the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th May 2023 which had previously been circulated and were agreed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Lowe.

APM 24/03 Matters arising.

Cllr. Blakeman gave a report of the Parish Council's activities over the past twelve months. The VAS had at last been installed and data downloaded from it indicated that it was having an effect in reducing vehicle speeds. A second location is proposed on Lowick Road which may employ a second device or as an alternative site for the existing unit.

The damage to the Village Hall following the burst water pipe at the end of 2022 had prompted a review off the risk assessments for the Parish Council. As part of this process a tree survey had been commissioned and some works identified, the urgent items having been dealt with. Cllr. Blakeman thanked Cllr Mrs Cook for her work on this matter. A new grass cutting contract had been let for 2023 and as the resultant work met the required standard, the same contractor has been employed for 2024.

The Parish Council has now moved to online banking which will be more efficient when payments are required between meetings and will enable upto date access to the bank statements.

As a statutory consultee, the Parish Council has responded to planning applications relating to the village including the Manor Farm proposal for which it arranged an exhibition for residents to see the proposals and meet the applicant. It has also responded to major applications outside the parish boundary, working with STAUNCH in respect of the major warehouse proposals at Thrapston and Titchmarsh.

Additionally, the council liaises with NNC over highway issues, manages its street lighting system and maintains the play area.

The precept was held at £10,000 for 2023/24 but due to unexpected expenditure during that year for tree work and roundabout replacement in the play area, councillors have had to increase the precept to £11,000 for this financial year.

Cllr. Blakeman thanked Cllr. Lawrence for organising a very successful litter pick this year and Richard Reed for his work as Parish Clerk.

Finally, Cllr. Blakeman said that as several councillors will be standing down at the next parish and town elections in May 2025, there was a need for succession planning and he invited residents to consider standing for election as councillors next year. He suggested that those interested should attend the Parish Council meetings to understand how it goes about its business.

APM 24/04 Parishioners' Consultation.

It was confirmed that the VAS is having an effect on vehicle speeds although there are some who choose to ignore the speed limit. Cllr. Blakeman presented data downloaded from the sign.

Regarding the flooding issues in Main Street, a camera survey has been undertaken but to date no results have been received. Cllr Williams has been pursuing this matter to get a response. Cllr. Brackenbury responded and said he would take the matter up with officers.

Chairman

Date

Parking near the junction of Main Street and Lowick Road continues to give cause for concern but Cllr. Blakeman said that from previous discussions with Highways it appeared that it was not possible to get a solution. The ongoing concern over lack of signage at Lowick Road/Lowick Lane junction was discussed. A further run-off had occurred recently and environmental problems had arisen from the vehicle that was set on fire. Councillors are worried that before long an RTC will occur at the bend. Signage is proposed but there is no date for implementation at the moment.

APM 24/05 Any Other Business

Nothing at this time.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 7:43pm.

Chairman

Date