

Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2024 at the Village Hall.

Present:

Bob Blakeman Chairman
John Lawrence
Paul Williams
Tim Hankins
Bernard Lowe
Barry Watts (*Arrived 7:40pm*)

There were ten residents present

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mr Graham Dale, 114 Main Street, gave a short presentation on the operation of the VAS. Initial indications are that the sign is slowing traffic entering the village from the Oundle direction. However, the maximum speed recorded past the sign was 77mph.

24/001 Public Open Time

The resident of No. 87 Main Street had recently had their property flooded due to collapsed drains in the footway, etc. The Parish Council was asked for support in getting the problem remedied. Cllr. Williams is to contact highways. **Action: PW**

Several residents of properties near to the Manor Farm development spoke against the planning application.

24/002 Apologies

Cllr. Mrs Cook, Clerk Richard Reed, NNC Cllrs. Mrs Brackenbury and Mr Shacklock.

24/003 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interest: Cllr. Hankins declared an interest relating to the Manor Farm development as a tenant of the applicant.

To declare any other interests: None

To consider any requests for dispensations: None

24/003 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27.11.23

It was proposed by Cllr. Williams and seconded by Cllr. Lowe that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 27th November 2023, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously.

24/004 Matters arising.

Nothing at this time.

24/005 Village Hall

Cllr. Lowe reported that the heating had now been repaired and the new sound system, grant funded, had arrived and would be installed after the proposed redecoration. Bookings are adequate but could do with more. Another year's free broadband had been agreed with Gigaclear.

24/006 Risk Assessments

This item was deferred to the next meeting as Cllr. Mrs Cook was not present.

24/007 Play Area

The report of Wicksteed's annual inspection, carried out in December last year had been received. No significant items noted. The low and very low items are to be reviewed. **Action: BB/VC**

24/008 Highways

Cllr. Williams had circulated his monthly report. Four 20mph signs have been received and they will be erected either side of the school initially but can be moved later if required.

24/009 Maintenance Issues: Village benches; Parish Online subscription; VAS

Following an inspection, one bench in Oundle Road has been identified as needing attention. The others in the village are not in good condition but are considered to be safe. Cllr. Watts agreed to attend to this bench. **Action: BW**

It was proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr Lawrence to renew the Parish Online subscription at a cost of £48.00 + VAT **Action: Clerk**

VAS: Cllr. Blakeman has established that no new licence is required for an additional pole in Lowick Road. Whether to move the existing unit periodically or to apply for a grant for a new VAS and pole to be reviewed. **Action: BB**

24/010 Street Lighting

No issues have been reported.

Chairman

Date

24/011 Trinity School Liaison

The Chair of the Governors had written about NNC's decision to charge for school transport. There is concern over the impact of this in terms of increased traffic and also the possible reduction in school numbers. Cllr. Hankins said that not all children with bus passes regularly use the bus. It was agreed that Cllr. Blakeman would write to Wendy Brackenbury to clarify the situation. **Action: BB**

24/012 Correspondence

As list previously circulated to councillors.

24/013 Planning

- a) The following applications were considered;
- NE/22/00151/FUL: It was agreed that no further submission was needed by the Parish Council in respect of the latest amendments.
- NE/23/01054/FUL: Consultee comments from NNC Housing Strategy indicate that square meterage of the development site triggers affordable housing requirement. Savills had previously told the Parish Council this would not apply. Some comments in Savills' planning documents indicated the Parish Council supported the development which had never been the case. The Parish Council had always stated that it would deal with any formal application to develop the farmyard in the same way as any other planning application. Cllr. Blakeman is to draft a response.

Subsequent note: As there had been no formal proposal for the response, a further meeting is to be held on Thursday 18th January 2024 having received the approval of a time extension from NNC.

- b) No applications had been considered since the last meeting.
c) There were no other planning matters.

24/014 Finance

- (i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts. There had been no receipts since the last meeting.
- (ii) The Clerk presented the Budget Monitoring report. 2023/24 is likely to be within budget. An allocation of £1500 is in the 2024/25 budget for the roundabout but payment may be before 31.03.24
- (iii) Budget 2024/25. The previously circulated amendments were discussed and agreed. Proposed by Cllr. Williams and seconded by Cllr. Blakeman.
- (iv) Precept 2024/25. It was agreed that the precept be set at £11,000. Proposed by Cllr. Williams and seconded by Cllr. Blakeman. **Action: Clerk**
- (v) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr. Hankins.

Hostworld £24.00 Part Cheque No. 200212 (*Reimburse Cllr. Blakeman*)

E.ON £88.20 Cheque No. 200213

Wicksteed Leisure £158.40 Cheque No. 200214

YU Energy £155.24 D/D

YU Energy £15.12 D/D

Aldi £8.72 Part Cheque No. 200212 (*Reimburse Cllr. Blakeman*)

R Reed £485.24 Cheque No. 200215

HMRC £220.40 Cheque No. 200216

YU Energy £163.10 D/D

YU Energy £15.54 D/D

- (vi) Unity Bank – the mandate was signed by those present. Cllr Cook would need to sign and a cheque for an initial deposit of £500 will be required. **Action BB**

24/015 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

Cllr Lawrence agreed to make arrangements for the Village litter pick for late March/early April

24/016 Date of Next Meeting

19th February 2024 to be held in the Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:35pm.

Chairman

Date