

Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2023 at Trinity CE Primary School commencing at 7:30pm.

The changed venue was due to the Village Hall being unavailable as a result of water damage following a ruptured pipe.

Present:

Bob Blakeman Chairman
John Lawrence
Bernard Lowe
Paul Williams
Mrs Vicki Cook
Tim Hankins
Barry Watts

Richard Reed – Clerk

NNC Cllr. David Brackenbury

There were six residents present

23/001 Public Open Time

A lengthy discussion took place regarding traffic and parking issues in Main Street at the start and end of the school day with private accesses being obstructed and further restricting the width of the road for through traffic. The buses used to transport some children parked on the footway creating further issues. Cllr. Blakeman spoke of the Parish Council's action when the school's expansion proposals were released. A number of requests for H-bar markings were made and Cllr. Blakeman spoke of the introduction of these markings a few years ago. It was noted that some of the existing roadmarkings were in need of refurbishment. Cllr. Brackenbury felt that yellow lines would not be considered. Cllr. Mrs Cook is to meet with the Headmaster shortly to discuss traffic issues and Cllr. Williams would speak to Highways about white line work.

The Parish Council was asked if it had a Neighbourhood Plan and if not, was it going to produce one. Cllr. Brackenbury discussed the background to NHPs, the cost and the time it takes to get one completed and adopted.

In respect of the Halden's Parkway application, Cllr. Mr Brackenbury clarified the situation regarding the nature of the application.

23/002 Apologies

NNC Cllrs. Shacklock and Mrs Brackenbury

23/003 Declarations of Interest

None declared on agenda items.

23/004 To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 28.11.22

It was proposed by Cllr. Lowe and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28th November 2022, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously. Cllr. Lawrence queried whether "ownership" of trees should be "responsibility".

23/005 Matters arising.

Vincent Sykes had quoted £550 + VAT for consulting on the Village Hall Trust Deed. Councillors discussed the question of indemnification of the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Village Hall Committees' (VHC) governing document is the trust deed indemnifying the PC, and it was resolved that further legal advice would not be sought at this time. Cllr Blakeman would be meeting the VHC later this week.

23/006 Village Hall

Cllr. Blakeman gave an update on the burst pipe and the subsequent insurance claim. It was agreed that the PCC should be notified of repair work. Separate to the claim, the flat roof has to be replaced. The Village Hall Committee had received two quotes, one for £6948 and a second for £7740. The responsibility for the repair is with the VHC.

23/007 Risk Assessments

Cllr. Mrs Cook had circulated a schedule of risk assessments. It was agreed by a majority of five to one that the assessments previously labelled as monthly should be carried out 3 monthly.. The responsibilities for these were agreed as follows:

Chairman

Date

All Saints Churchyard and Memorial Cllr. Lawrence
Village Green Cllr. Williams
Village Green (School) Cllr Mrs Cook
Pocket Park (Until March) Cllr Mrs Cook (It was agreed that the gate should be locked)
Play Area (Weekly) Cllr Blakeman

Action: JL/PW/VC

23/008 Play Area

Wicksteed Leisure had carried out the annual inspection of the Play Area on 5th January and the report was awaited. The quotations for the replacement gate and fence have still to be received.

23/009 Highways

Cllr Blakeman had submitted the grant application to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner's Office. for the VAS and this had been approved. Questions over the Sec.50 licence and the installation of the mounting post needed to be resolved and Cllr Blakeman would contact Steve Barber again. **Action BB** Issues over school traffic had been covered under 23/001 above.

Cllr. Williams presented his highways report. There seems to be an issue over reporting problems to Fix My Street.

23/010 Street Lighting

Cllr. Mrs Cook said she was unaware of any issues at the moment.

23/011 Electrical Charges

The quotation from Clear Utility Solutions is considerably less than the rates supplied by Drax following the end of the contract in March. It was therefore proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Hankins to proceed with CUS. **Action: Clerk**

23/012 Grass Cutting Tender

Following consideration of the views of existing users of the two short listed tenders, it was agreed to award the contract to Emery Grounds Maintenance on the basis of cost and that there was more than one operative to cover for absences. Cllr. Blakeman would contact Mr McLean and the Clerk would notify Mr Emery with the request that he contacts Cllr. Blakeman to discuss arrangements. **Action: BB/Clerk**

BB/Clerk

23/013 Parish Council Signage

Councillors are to liaise over the requirements etc. Action: All

23/014 Marking the Coronation

Cllr. Williams had circulated a proposal and this was seconded by Cllr. Blakeman. It was agreed to include a sign acknowledging the commemoration. There are arrangements in hand for a street party.

23/015 Correspondence

As list previously circulated to councillors.

23/016 Planning

a) Applications NE/22/00151/FUL and NE/22/00698/OUT for Haldens Parkway hybrid application would be considered by councillors and a response developed in due course. **Action: All**

b) No applications had been considered since the last meeting.

c) There were no other planning matters. It was agreed to monitor the situation with the air source heat pump at the school which was causing noise problems for the neighbouring residents.

Action: All

23/017 Review of Standing Orders

It was agreed that the current standing orders were satisfactory.

23/018 Finance

(i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts.

(ii) The Clerk presented the Budget Monitoring Report.

(iii) It was proposed by Cllr. Watts and seconded by Cllr. Hankins that the 2023/24 budget be approved.

(iv) It was proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Lowe that the precept for 2023/24 be set at £10,000. **Action: Clerk**

(v) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr. Hankins and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence

Retrospective

07.12.22 Mr TW McLean £105.00 Cheque No.200170

E.ON Lamp repairs £24.00 Cheque No. 200171

E.ON Street light maintenance£56.84 Cheque No. 200172

Northants CALC £45.60 Cheque No. 200173

R Blakeman £44.09 Cheque No. 200174

R Blakeman (Calico) £24.00 Cheque No. 200175

- (vi) The Clerk confirmed that the penalty issue with HMRC had now been resolved and the penalty cancelled.

23/019 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

Cllr. Blakeman suggested moving the Annual Meeting to 30th or 31st May as he would be away on the scheduled date. This will be confirmed at a later date.

Cllr. Lawrence is to arrange the litter pick for the last Saturday in March. **Action: JL**

23/020 Date of Next Meeting

27th February 2023 Venue to be confirmed, commencing at 7:30pm

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:04pm.

Chairman

Date