

Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21st February 2022 at the Village Hall.

Present:

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

Richard Reed – Clerk

There were three members of the public in attendance.

Cllr. Blakeman welcomed all to the meeting.

22/019 Public Open Time

Mr & Mrs Brown had made a request to the Clerk to enable them to speak on agenda item 15(c) and in particular the proposed Manor Farm development. As no formal application had been submitted and item (15) was only to report on councillors' meeting with Savills, the Chairman moved the discussion to Public Open Time so that residents didn't have to sit through the other business of the meeting. Cllr. Blakeman spoke of the meeting with Savills when councillors had expressed their concern over some aspects of the proposal including the scale of some of the properties. Savills have said they will consider the proposals and come back to the Parish Council within a month. The residents in attendance expressed their concerns over the proposed development and there were suggestions for Conservation Area status for the village and the development of a Village Plan. Both points were addressed by Cllr. Blakeman.

22/020 Apologies

Apologies had been received from NNC Cllrs. Mrs Brackenbury and Mr Shacklock. The Clerk read out Mrs Brackenbury's e-mail regarding the unitary authority's budget approval.

22/021 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interest: None

To declare any other interests: None

To consider any requests for dispensations: None

22/022 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10.01.22

It was noted that Cllr. Williams' name was incorrect in minute 2022/14 but it was proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Lowe that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th January 2022, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously.

22/023 Matters arising.

Cllr. Lawrence said that he had now re-erected the Nene Way sign in Baulks Lane. Cllr. Blakeman thanked him for getting the repair done.

Minute 2022/008: Cllr. Blakeman had contacted highways regarding concerns over The Staunch Bridge and an engineer had inspected it and considered the bridge to be alright. (*See Highways Report below*).

Minute 2022/010: Cllrs. Blakeman and Williams had assessed the mini-orchard site and agreed that one seat should be installed at this time.

22/024 Village Hall

The Clerk had obtained a quote from the insurer's partners for a building assessment to ensure the building is adequately covered. There are two options, an on-site assessment at £700+VAT or a desktop assessment at £130+VAT. It was proposed by Cllr. Blakeman that a desktop assessment be commissioned and this was seconded by Cllr. Lawrence. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Lowe had checked the Village Hall Committee insurance cover and it was considered to be satisfactory and he had notified the insurers accordingly. It was noted that hirers of the hall for commercial purposes should have their own insurance cover.

A new water heating system had now been installed.

Cllr. Watts spoke of dogs being allowed in the hall during Sunday's "Pop-up breakfast." Notices stating that dogs should not be allowed in the hall, other than guide or assistance dogs, are to be obtained.

22/025 Play Area

Chairman

Date

Cllr. Blakeman had accompanied Wicksteed's inspector on the annual inspection this morning. The report will follow in due course but nothing significant was identified. Consideration is to be given to the display of a contact number at the play area and this will be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr. Williams spoke of his concern about slippery surfaces that had built up over the winter.

22/026 Highways

Cllr. Williams had previously circulated his report and update of highway issues and this was discussed. Work on the raised footway is due to start on 28th February and the road would be closed during weekdays. Cllr. Hankins raised the importance of securing the removable sections against theft and Cllr. Williams would draw this to the attention of Ben Wright. **Action: PW**

While the road is closed the opportunity will be taken to carry out carriageway repairs including the filling of the dip by The Staunch Bridge.

22/027 Street lighting

Cllr. Mrs Cook said that there were no reports of street lights being unserviceable.

22/028 The Queen's Jubilee: Proposal for Mini Orchard

Cllr. Blakeman had circulated the minutes of the last Platinum Jubilee Sub-committee meeting. The road closure had been applied for and the Village Hall has paid for Thrapston Town Band to attend all afternoon.

Glasdons had e-mailed to say the seat for the mini orchard was under construction and should be available shortly.

Cllr. Lowe suggested that if additional seats were required then offers of dedication could be invited.

22/029 Asset Mapping

Cllr. Blakeman had circulated a note on the project having attended a virtual meeting. Cllrs Blakeman and Lawrence and Clerk Richard Reed are to deal with the work for Aldwinckle and report at the next meeting. The Parish Council had now signed up to Parish Online for access to digital mapping.

22/030 Pocket Park Lease Renewal

Savills had issued a draft Heads of Terms for consideration. Councillors were generally happy with the draft subject to a re-assessment of the tree and fencing issues. It was preferred that the landlord would fence and maintain boundaries and take responsibility for the safety of the trees. Cllr. Blakeman is to speak to Savills and the Clerk will notify Lamb & Holmes that the document had been received. **Action: BB/Clerk**

22/031 Grass Cutting 2022

Cllr. Blakeman had met with Francis Hale and had discussed the revised prices for this year together with the additional work at the mini-orchard. These were approved.

Francis Hale is unlikely to be carrying out the work next year and it will be necessary to invite tenders.

22/032 Correspondence

As list previously circulated to councillors.

The school had approached Cllr. Blakeman over a Parish Council representative and it was agreed that Cllr Lowe would fulfil this role.

NNC has invited suggestions for levelling-up projects.

22/033 Planning

a) Cllrs. considered application NE/22/00088/FUL: Proposals at 110 Main St. Aldwinckle. The Parish Council had objected to the previous application at this site and the new proposals are to be checked against the original application before determining the Parish Council's response. **Action: BB**

b) NE/21/01812/TPO had been considered since the last meeting and a response of no objection had been submitted to NNC.

c) (i) The Manor Farm development proposal had been discussed at the start of the meeting.

(ii) NNC's Call for Sites was discussed and Cllr. Blakeman will circulate a plan of designated green spaces. **Action: BB**

Cllr. Williams suggested that this could be incorporated in the Neighbourhood Plan discussions at the next meeting. NNC Cllr. David Brackenbury is to be invited to attend. **Action: Clerk**

(iii) STAUNCH: Cllr. Blakeman discussed the current situation and progress with the campaign. The application for the Castle Manor Farm site had now been lodged and it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit an objection. Cllr. Blakeman will prepare a draft for consideration by all. **Action: BB**

(iv) It was noted that the application for 8 Lowick Lane was being considered by NNC this evening.

22/034 Finance

(i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts. There had been no receipts since the last meeting.

(ii) The Budget Monitoring Report was considered which indicates an underspend for this year.

Chairman

Date

- (iii) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr. Lowe and seconded by Cllr. Hankins
Cheque No. 200128 void
Glasdon UK Ltd £948.41 Cheque No.200129 (*Pending receipt of invoice*)
Thrapston Farm & Garden (Reimburse Cllr. Blakeman) £9.99 Cheque No. 200130
E.ON £56.84 Cheque No. 200131
PDBF (Glebe A/C) £100.00 Cheque No. 200132
- (iv) The Clerk had received a further letter from HSBC regarding the security review but having contacted the case officer he hoped that this was now resolved.

22/035 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

Cllr. Lawrence is to organise the annual litter pick for 10:00am start at the Village Hall on 26th March 2022. Equipment is to be booked with NNC. **Action: JL**

It was noted that the verge outside the Village Hall had been damaged by a vehicle. Possible deterrents were discussed.

22/036 Date of Next Meeting

28th March 2022 to be held in the Village Hall. If NNC Cllr. David Brackenbury is able to attend to discuss the development of a Neighbourhood Plan the meeting would start at 7:00pm. To be confirmed.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:48pm.

Chairman

Date