

Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd February 2021 by means of video conferencing due to the lockdown restrictions associated with the coronavirus situation.

Present:

Bob Blakeman Chairman
John Lawrence
Tim Hankins
Bernard Lowe
Barry Watts

Richard Reed – Clerk

Mr Colin Gilder

There were no residents present

21/020 Public Open Time

There were no residents present

21/021 Apologies

Cllr Strode Willis (unwell); ENC Cllr. Geoff Shacklock;

21/022 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interest: None

To declare any other interests: None

To consider any requests for dispensations: None

21/023 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11.01.21

It was proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Lowe that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th January 2021, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously.

21/024 Matters arising.

Minute 21/009 (i): Green Lane. The barrier was now in place and a temporary closure order has been made prohibiting its use by pedestrians, equestrians, cyclists and motorists. The Clerk had contacted NCC regarding the definition of the route in part of the order and this would be corrected. The authority had also confirmed that the term “motorists” would lawfully cover motorcyclists.

Minute 21/009 (iv): 84 Main Street. The Clerk had contacted ENC over concerns about the condition of the boundary wall at this address. It was not considered to present an immediate threat to highway users but it would be monitored. It is understood that some repair work is programmed.

21/025 Corona Virus Update

Issues arising from The Prime Minister’s statement were discussed. It is considered that the playground is alright for the time being.

The Clerk spoke of NCALC’s advice to consider holding face to face meetings after the current regulations expire in early May.

21/026 Reports from other Bodies: Village Hall

It is hoped that the village Hall will reopen on 12th April. A further grant has been received via East Northants council to help with loss of income.

21/027 Play Area

Cllr. Blakeman had recently replaced the gatepost with the help of Graham Cook. Replacement posts are to be ordered for the fencing.

Following the recent playground inspection by Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. Cllr. Blakeman had circulated an annotated copy. Regarding the item recorded about the trees, Cllr. Watts said that he keeps them under observation and they are in good condition at the moment with no dead wood. The suckers at the base of the trees will be cleared.

Cllr. Blakeman said that the entrance needed road surface scalplings or wood chips to make it cleaner during wet weather.

21/028 Highways

The consultation from NCC highways regarding the future of the raised walkway between Aldwincle and Thorpe was discussed. Its existing use was questioned but there was anecdotal evidence that it was still used both during times of flood and in dry conditions. It was felt that the probable costs of decommissioning the walkway would be better spent on maintaining the facility and if retained then the maintenance work should be undertaken as soon as possible and certainly completed before next

Chairman

Date

winter. The maintenance costs were not expected to be too great and Cllr. Blakeman had already spent time clearing the vegetation that obstructed the walkway. Cllr. Hankins referred to the locking arrangements at the gateways that originally existed. It was noted that Lilford, Wigsthorpe and Thorpe Achurch Parish Council had sent in a strong objection to its removal. It was proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Lowe that the Parish Council object to the removal of the walkway and request urgent restoration to make the path safe. **Action: Clerk**

Following the report of the ditch blocked with horse manure at the corner of Lowick Road which had led to flooding, Cllr. Blakeman had sent photographs to NCC Highways but had been informed this was the land owner's responsibility. It was agreed to draft a letter to the tenant of the adjacent land asking for the ditch to be cleaned out. **Action: BB/Clerk**

Further reports have been made to The Street Doctor regarding the flooding at the Main Street/Lowick Lane junction.

Cllr. Lawrence spoke of the cutting back of vegetation along Baulks Lane. This had been done and the arisings left on site. It is not viable for them to be burnt on site and so they will have to be removed.

The replacement Village Sign was still outstanding and a reminder is to be sent to Highways. **Action: Clerk**

21/029 Street Lighting

Cllr. Hankins said that No.5 lamp at the top of Baulks Lane was now working.

The Clerk had contacted Havenpower by e-mail, the company is not contactable by telephone at the moment. Due to the relatively low consumption, they were unable to offer a lower price than that quoted in the renewal details. The Clerk is trying to get an alternative quote from E.ON. **Action: Clerk**

21/030 Waterville Lakes Access

The Chairman continues to circulate details regarding this issue. There is a meeting of the SMV Board this week and access to the lakes is on the agenda. An application has been made for a Definitive Map Modification Order which, if successful, would add the paths to the Definitive Map. However, the process is lengthy and there are other applications in the chain. It was noted that further obstructions had been placed on the paths. No further action is required of the Parish Council at this time.

21/031 Elections May 2021

The Clerk had contacted ENC and further details were awaited. The nomination packs are expected late February/early March and briefing meetings will be convened in due course.

21/032 Correspondence

As list previously circulated to councillors.

21/033 Planning

- a) There were no applications for consideration.
- b) No applications had been considered since the last meeting.
- c) The notice of the Residential Annexes SPD Consultation had been circulated by the Clerk.

21/034 Finance

- (i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts together with the budget monitoring report. There had been no receipts recorded on the bank statement since the last meeting.
- (ii) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Hankins.

Retrospective

15.01.21 HG Watts & Son £58.00 Cheque No. 200092

PDBF (Glebe A/C) £200.00 Cheque No. 200093

Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. £72.00 Cheque No. 200094

Lynda Nicholas £15.00 Cheque No. 200095

Havenpower £75.22 D/D

- (iii) HSBC had written about changes to T&Cs.

21/035 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

Cllr. Lawrence reminded all of the site meeting to discuss grass cutting at All Saints Church scheduled for 22nd March 2021 at 1pm.

Cllr Watts expressed concern over the tone of a resident's letter regarding Waterville Lakes.

21/036 Date of Next Meeting

29th March 2021. Meetings will continue to be held via the Zoom platform until further notice.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:07pm.

Chairman

Date