

Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th November 2023 at the Village Hall.

Present:

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

Richard Reed – Clerk

There were no residents present

23/129 Public Open Time

There were no residents present

23/130 Apologies

Cllr. Watts, NNC Cllr. Shacklock

23/131 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interest: None

To declare any other interests: None

To consider any requests for dispensations: None

23/132 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16.10.23

It was proposed by Cllr. Williams and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Cook that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th October 2023, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously.

23/133 Matters arising.

Nothing at this time.

23/134 Village Hall

Cllr. Lowe reported that one of the heaters had failed and £750 has been quoted for its repair. The hall is to be re-decorated in mid-March and an audio system is to be fitted after this work. The Christmas Carols event is scheduled for 16th December.

The PC has organised 2 framed copies of photographs taken by Rachel Barnes when the village shop closed, one was presented to Pat and Trevor Watts at the Quiz night and the other will be part of the permanent community display in the Village Hall.

23/135 Risk Assessments

Cllr. Mrs Cook reported on the latest round of assessments. The Village Hall PAT testing is to take place after the re-decoration work. The fire extinguishers are to be checked. The tree surgeon's report is to be checked in respect of the School Village green trees and others in the village. Cllr. Lawrence said that there had been some reg-growth of vegetation in the churchyard walls but this can be addressed next year.

Cllr. Williams asked about the need to carry out a risk assessment of the various seats around the village. This was agreed and Cllr. Blakeman said he would check the seats and record the outcome. The Pocket Park sign would also be inspected with a view to its removal. **Action: BB**

23/136 Play Area

Cllr. Mrs Cook said that there was nothing to report at the moment. Cllr. Blakeman said he would repaint the exposed tree routes.

23/137 Highways

Cllr. Williams had circulated his and this was discussed by councillors along with the outstanding highway work.

23/138 Maintenance Issues: Grass cutting, VAS

Cllr. Blakeman has spoken to Ben Emery and accepted the current year's rates for 2024. A walk round will be arranged before the start of the new season. It was noted that a pile of stone remains at the bottom of Baulk's Lane and ideally this should be removed.

The VAS post was installed on 17th October and the sign is now operating. Some data has been downloaded and Cllr. Blakeman will give a report at the next meeting. **Action: BB**

Cllr. Hankins will fix the Christmas tree lights this coming weekend. **Action: TH**

23/139 Street Lighting

Cllr. Mrs Cook was unaware of any outages.

Chairman

Date

23/140 Trinity School Liaison

There was nothing to report on this item.

23/141 Correspondence

As list previously circulated to councillors. Cllr. Blakeman mentioned the e-mail from Northamptonshire VCSE Assembly Ltd.

23/142 Planning

- a) The following application was considered;
NE/22/00151/FUL: The Clerk is to check the situation over the previous response to this application as it doesn't seem to be on NNC's website. **Action: Clerk**
- b) No applications had been considered since the last meeting.
- c) There were no other planning matters.

23/143 Finance

- (i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts and the bank reconciliation statement. There had been no receipts since the last meeting.
- (ii) The Clerk presented the Budget Monitoring report.
- (iii) Budget 2024/25. The initial draft budget had been circulated by the Clerk. Some amendments were discussed and the revised draft would be circulated to councillors prior to the January meeting. **Action: Clerk**
It was proposed by Cllr Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Williams that the order for the replacement roundabout item be placed now. **Action: BB**
- (iv) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Williams.

YU Energy £135.96 D/D

YU Energy £15.09 D/D

Picture Frames £38.08 (*Reimburse Cllr. Blakeman*)

- (v) (i) Cllr. Blakeman is to look at creating an account with Unity Trust Bank to move to online banking. **Action: BB**
- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Williams to approve the increase to the Clerk's salary following the national pay award.

23/144 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

Cllr Mrs Cook has booked the annual playground inspection with Wicksteed for December. 2024/25 Budget and precept to be approved.

23/145 Date of Next Meeting

8th January 2024 to be held in the Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:10pm.

Chairman

Date