

Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th November 2022 at the Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm.

Present:

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

Richard Reed – Clerk

There were no residents present

22/122 Public Open Time

No members of the public were in attendance.

22/123 Apologies

NNC Cllr. Shacklock

22/124 Declarations of Interest

None declared on agenda items.

22/125 To Approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17.10.22

It was proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Williams that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th October 2022, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously.

22/126 Matters arising.

Cllr Blakeman had dealt with the sycamore saplings in All Saints Church graveyard.

22/127 Village Hall

(i) Lease and Trust Deed Report: Councillors discussed at length Cllr. Blakeman's report which had been circulated previously.

7:40pm Cllr. Watts arrived

Following the debate, Cllr. Blakeman proposed that Proposals 2-5 be approved and this was seconded by Cllr. Lawrence. In view of Cllr. Mrs Cook's concerns over legal advice, it was agreed that VSH, successors to the firm of solicitors who drew up the original lease, be approached for clarification over the coverage and conditions of the lease. **Action: VC**

The scope of the buildings insurance cover was discussed and it was agreed that a Fire and Electrical Test and inspection were required to satisfy the requirements of the insurers. These tests have been scheduled for 1st December 2022 and any work identified will need to be completed promptly. It was agreed that a schedule is to be drawn up and checked at each Council meeting to ensure all inspections and risk assessments had been carried out on time.

It was agreed that a meeting with the Village Hall Committee was required to discuss the respective risks and also future arrangements for dealing with the Village Hall insurance policy.

(ii) Fencing: Cllr Lowe had received one quotation to supply and erect a metal hooped fence to be funded by the Village Hall and a matching gate for the Play Area to be funded by the Parish Council. Two further quotes were awaited.

22/128 Insurance and Risk Assessment report

This was reported jointly by Cllrs Blakeman and Mrs Cook. Insurance issues had been largely covered under 22/127 (i) above.

Individual Risk Assessments had been identified as Pocket Park (until end of lease in March); All Saints Churchyard and War Memorial including stability of headstones; Old School Green; Village Green and Play Area. The requirements for these were discussed.

An item is required on the agenda for the next meeting to cover signage in general. **Action: Clerk**

To meet the requirements of the insurers, a suitably qualified tree surgeon should be brought in to inspect trees in the ownership of the Parish Council.

22/129 Play Area

Chairman

Date

Cllr Blakeman is going to contact Wicksteed Leisure tomorrow, 29.11.22, to arrange for the annual inspection. Cllr. Mrs Cook asked if the main inspection should be six-monthly as opposed to annually. Cllr. Blakeman will ask Wicksteed Leisure about this. **Action: BB**

22/130 Highways

Cllrs. Blakeman and Williams had met Steve Barber regarding the VAS and the site for the device agreed. The grant application is progressing and is waiting for a quote for the installation of the mounting post.

Cllr. Williams discussed his report and said he would be meeting Ben Wright at Lowick Lane the next day.

22/131 Street Lighting

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

Cllr. Hankins had replaced the bulb at the village sign. It was noted that the sign required some refurbishment and Cllr Hankins would look into this. **Action: TH**

22/132 Electrical Charges

The recent invoices from Drax were discussed and it was agreed that a new supplier would be required from mid-March when the present contract expires. The Clerk is to check with Danny Moody initially.

Action: Clerk

22/133 Grass Cutting Tender

Four tenders had been received and these were opened at the meeting. Emery Grounds and Garden Maintenance UK Ltd and Tim McLean trading as Kono Grounds Care were shortlisted pending the taking up of references. Cllr. Blakeman would be contacting these and the Clerk would notify the unsuccessful tenders. **Action: BB/Clerk**

22/134 Correspondence

As list previously circulated to councillors.

Cllr. Blakeman had attended a meeting held by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Cllr. Blakeman had attended a further meeting regarding the AONB. This is waiting for the Government to announce the new landscape criteria, etc.

Cllr. Lawrence would be attending the next meeting of the Strategic Town and Parish Forum.

22/135 Planning

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

22/136 Finance

- (i) The Clerk presented the statement of accounts together with the bank reconciliation to 31.10.22.
- (ii) The Clerk presented the Budget Monitoring Report.
- (iii) A first draft of the 2023/24 budget had been circulated for discussion. This would be refined at the January meeting at which time the precept would be determined.
- (iv) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence

Mr TW McLean £80.00 Cheque No.200164
Greenbarnes Ltd. £72.78 Cheque No. 200165
Northants CALC £18.40 Cheque No. 200166
HMRC £103.60 Cheque No. 200167
R Reed £537.42 Cheque No. 200168
Cllr T Hankins £45.00 Cheque No. 200169

- (v) It was proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Lowe to increase the Clerk's salary in line with the National pay award.

A further letter had been received from HMRC regarding the failure to file earlier in the year. The Clerk had been in touch with Phil Hector who has said to not do anything but councillors were unsure that this is correct and the Clerk is to contact Tom Pursglove MP to see if he can intervene. **Action: Clerk**

22/137 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

Next agenda: Parish Council signage; marking the Coronation.

22/138 Date of Next Meeting

9th January 2023 to be held in the Village Hall commencing at 7:30pm

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:00pm.

Chairman

Date