

Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th March 2021 by means of video conferencing due to the lockdown restrictions associated with the coronavirus situation.

Present:

Bob Blakeman Chairman
John Lawrence
Tim Hankins
Barry Watts
Brian Penney

Richard Reed – Clerk

ENC Cllr. Geoff Shacklock
NCC Cllr. Mrs Wendy Brackenbury

There were no residents present

21/037 Public Open Time

There were no residents present

21/038 Apologies

Cllr Strode Willis (unwell); Cllr. Lowe (Recovering from surgery)

21/039 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interest: Cllr. Hankins in respect of agenda item 16(a)

To declare any other interests: None

To consider any requests for dispensations: None

21/040 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22.02.21

Cllr. Lawrence referred to the incorrect spelling of Mr Graeme Cooke's name under minute 21/027. Subject to this amendment, it was proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Penney that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 22nd February 2021, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously.

21/041 Matters arising.

Covered by agenda items.

21/042 Corona Virus Update

The Government has stated that there is no time to extend the regulations covering virtual meetings and these would come to an end on 7th May. However, it is understood that this ruling is being challenged. If there is no change then the May meetings will be held in the Village Hall. The Clerk will keep councillors updated on the situation. **Action: Clerk**

It was noted that all local playgrounds were open and the responsibility for Covid safety measures rests with parents.

21/043 Reports from other Bodies: Village Hall

There was no report regarding the Village Hall but the situation currently remains as previously. Polling Stations will be Covid safe.

21/044 Play Area

Cllr. Blakeman had recently repaired the fence. In respect of the lease, two years fees were paid at the last meeting and so payments were up to date.

The lease for the Pocket Park was still outstanding pending the question of fencing and tree safety being resolved. Savills to be pressed to resolve this issue. **Action: BB/Clerk**

21/045 Highways

Cllr. Penney spoke of the current state of repair. Cllr. Mrs Brackenbury recommended reporting all potholes even if they had yet to reach intervention levels. **Action: BP**

The flooding at the Main Street/Lowick Lane junction had been reported again but little action had been seen. The village sign on Thorpe Road had still not been replaced.

The problem with the blocked ditch at the Lowick Road bend had been resolved by the prompt action of the tenant of the adjacent land. Highways are to check the under-highway culvert which appears to be blocked or obstructed.

Councillors expressed their appreciation for the work carried out by Robin Owen in restoring the VE day memorial seat by the village sign.

Both Aldwincle and Lilford cum Wigsthorpe, Thorpe Achurch Parish Councils had requested that the raised walkway remain and that it be repaired. Details of the proposed works are awaited from Highways.

Chairman

Date

In view of the Covid restrictions and the approaching growing season, it was unlikely that a litter pick will be organised for this spring.

A parishioner had asked about an additional litter bin at the Oundle end of the village but litter was not considered to be a major issue in this area.

21/046 Street Lighting

Cllr. Penney said that he was unaware of any defective lights but would carry out an inspection. **Action: BP**

The Clerk had been unsuccessful in negotiating a new rate with Havenpower as the company was not taking calls at the moment as all staff were working from home and e-mail exchanges had not been too helpful. It was decided to stay with Haven Power as significant savings had been made last year. Costs would be monitored over the next 10-11 months and then reviewed.

21/047 Waterville Lakes Access

The Chairman understood that the matter had been discussed by the SMV at its quarterly meeting and that the agent was currently negotiating with the tenant about restoring access.

21/048 Elections May 2021

The Clerk had forwarded details to all and councillors were reminded of the critical dates. **Action: All**

21/049 Grass Cutting: All Saints Church

Following a site meeting with Francis Hale on 22nd March, it had been agreed to cut the grass at the church as last year. Mr Hale had submitted his rates for 2021 and it was proposed by Cllr. Watts and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence that these be approved.

21/050 Rural Co-ordination Group

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March had been circulated and Cllr Blakeman spoke of the aims of the group. In respect of traffic issues in Aldwinckle, an item would be included on the May agenda for these to be discussed. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr. Shacklock confirmed that fly tipping on the highway should continue to be reported to NNC.

21/051 Correspondence

As list previously circulated to councillors.

21/052 Planning

a) The following applications were considered: NE/21/00284 & NE/21/00290: Change of use of tearoom to hair and beauty salon. There were no objections. (Cllr. Hankins took no part in the discussions over these applications).

NE/21/00318/FUL: Single storey rear extension at 97 Main Street. Again, no objections.

The above decisions were proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Penney.

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.

21/053 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.

R Blakeman £7.80 Cheque No. 200096

St Monica Trust Landlord Account £10.00 Cheque No. 200097

HMRC £78.80 Cheque No. 200098

R Reed £351.98 Cheque No. 200099

R Blakeman £29.95 Cheque No. 200100

Havenpower £67.88 D/D

(iii) The Clerk had received the Annual Audit documents.

21/054 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

Cllr. Mrs Brackenbury and Cllr. Mr Shacklock had nothing further to add at this time.

21/055 Date of Next Meeting

17th May 2021 following the Annual Parish Meeting (start 7:15pm) and the Annual Meeting. Unless there is a change to the regulations the meetings will be held in the Village Hall.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:45pm.

Chairman

Date