

## Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in the Village Hall.

### Present:

Bob Blakeman                      Chairman  
John Lawrence  
Tim Hankins  
David Strode-Willis  
Bernard Lowe  
Barry Watts

Richard Reed – Clerk

There were no residents in attendance

### 17/091 Public Open Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

### 17/092 Apologies

Cllr. Penney; ENC Cllr Shacklock

### 17/093 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary: Cllr. Watts declared an interest with regard to agenda item 12 and in respect of being asked to quote for wall and fencing repairs.

Other interests: None

Requests for Dispensations: None

### 17/094 Minutes of the meeting held on 23.10.17

It was proposed by Cllr. Strode-Willis and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence that the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting. Agreed unanimously.

### 17/095 Matters arising.

The Clerk referred to the e-mail from Erik Drake regarding a site meeting with regard to the H-bar markings. Councillors agreed to furnish the Clerk with possible dates and times by the weekend so that the meeting can be scheduled. **Action: All/Clerk**

### 17/096 Reports from Other Bodies

Village Hall: Cllr. Lowe reported on recent and forthcoming events. Measurements for the replacement windows have been taken and work is due to start after Christmas.

### 17/097 Pocket Park

Nothing further has been heard from Savills but the draft lease is expected by Easter. Shoosmiths have quoted £750 to review the lease with £350 + VAT being quoted by Lamb & Holmes. It was proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence that the latter quote be accepted. **Action: Clerk**

### 17/098 Highways

Councillors discussed winter gritting following the weekend's snow fall and the future prospects in light of the proposed cuts by NCC.

It was noted that the potholes in Lowick Lane were opening up again.

### 17/099 Street Lighting

Further to the last meeting, nothing had been heard from E.ON in respect of the condition of certain lamps. However, as it was known that two lamps would need replacing provision would be made in the 2018/19 budget.

### 17/100 Vehicle Activated Sign

The Clerk had received an e-mail from Traffic Technology offering the short term loan of a speed indicator display as a trial. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the firm to arrange for the Parish Council to borrow a unit in the New Year. **Action: BB**

### 17/101 Refurbishment of War Memorial

Following the suggestion that the War Memorial be cleaned ready for the centenary of the end of WWI next year, the Clerk had obtained a quotation for the work. Cllr Watts said that a quote had been received some while back from the contractor who had carried out work on the Wadenhoe Memorial and he would request an updated quote. This work would be considered for the 2018/19 budget later in the meeting. **Action: BW**

Chairman

Date

### **17/102 To Determine 2018/19 Budget and Precept**

The Chairman opened discussions by saying that based on the latest budget monitoring report, the projected out turn would result in a budget surplus of £1890 at the financial year end and this would allow additional projects to be considered for 2018/19. There was concern about payment arrears for the rental of the playground and it was agreed that provision should be made for this but the agent would be contacted for confirmation of the situation. **Action: Clerk**

The need for wall repairs at the playground, together with repairs to the fence and chain at All Saints Church would be provided for and Cllr. Watts was asked to provide quotations. **Action: BW**

It was agreed to make a £2000 provision for the refurbishment of the War Memorial and the fencing at All Saints although the possibility of a grant towards the work would be investigated.

In view of the potential effect on community services due to NCC budget cuts, a £300 provision would be included. One possibility being the installation of Broadband at the Village Hall.

Taking into account the projected budget surplus for 2017/18, and the proposed works for 2018/19, it was proposed by Cllr Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence that the Precept be increased to £9500.

The budget and Precept would gain final approval at the January meeting of the Parish Council prior to submission to ENC.

### **17/103 To Consider Correspondence Received**

An enquiry had been received from Mr Graham Cook in respect of access to The Old School House. The Chairman had researched the Parish Council's files and gave the background to this matter, there having been considerable time spent in the 1980s establishing that there was no right of way across the area between Main Street and the Old School House which was registered Village Green. The Parish Council holds the freehold to the Village Green and is therefore responsible for it. Following discussion over the situation it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to Mr Cook setting out the status of the area of land in question and that no legal right of way exists across it. **Action: Clerk**

### **17/104 Planning**

- a) There were no applications for consideration.
- b) Application 17/02205/FUL had been considered since the last meeting and there were no objections to the proposed development.
- c) There were no other planning matters.

### **17/105 Finance**

- (i) The Clerk presented the monthly statement of accounts. There had been no receipts since the last meeting. The Clerk also presented the bank reconciliation statement to 31.10.17. It was proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Hankins that the latter be approved.
- (ii) The budget monitoring report had been circulated to councillors and was considered as part of item 17/102.
- (iii) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr. Strode-Willis and seconded by Cllr. Watts:

WEL Medical Ltd. £32.94 Cheque No. 100692  
Cllr. Blakeman £37.98 (Christmas lights) Cheque No.100693  
Francis Hale (2 x invoices) £65.00 Cheque No. 100694  
R Reed £413.20 Cheque No. 100695  
HMRC PAYE £70.40 Cheque No.100696  
Anglian Water Business £11.97 Cheque No. 100697  
Cllr Blakeman £18.00 (Website domain) Cheque No.100698

- (iv) The Clerk said that he would be attending a training course in February in respect of the new external audit arrangements.

### **17/106 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda**

Next agenda: Review of Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. **Action: Clerk**

### **17/107 Date of next meeting.**

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 commencing at **7:30pm** in the Village Hall.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

Chairman

Date