

## Minutes of the Aldwincle Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 in the Village Hall.

### Present:

Bob Blakeman                      Chairman  
John Lawrence  
Bernard Lowe  
David Strode-Willis  
Tim Hankins  
Brian Penney

Richard Reed – Clerk

There were no residents in attendance.

### 16/099 Public Open Time

There were no issues raised at this time.

### 16/100 Apologies

Cllr. Watts; ENC Cllr. Geoff Shacklock

### 16/101 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary: None

Other interests: None

Requests for Dispensations: None

### 16/102 Minutes of the meeting held on 24.10.16

It was proposed by Cllr. David Strode Willis and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence that the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting.

### 16/103 Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

### 16/104 Reports from Other Bodies

Village Hall: Cllr. Lowe reported that the situation now seemed to be in order and the hall was functioning as normal and events were going ahead. The Chairman raised concerns over the condition of the windows at the rear of the hall and Cllr. Lowe said that this was in hand and applications for grants are to be submitted.

Police Liaison: Cllr. Hankins spoke of a number of recent incidents in surrounding villages.

### 16/105 Pocket Park

It was noted that garden rubbish in plastic bags was being dumped in the park. There had been no further correspondence from Savills over the condition of the trees and the Chairman said that he would contact the agents for an update. **Action: BB**

### 16/106 Highways

Cllr. Penney said that potholes around the village had been roughly filled in but it was felt that the winter conditions would soon result in them opening up again.

£1000 had been received from Cllr. Wendy Brackenbury's Member Empowerment Fund for the H-bar markings. Sarah Barnwell is to be contacted to see when the work would be implemented. Also, the "zig-zag" markings outside the school required refurbishment. **Action: Clerk.**

### 16/107 Street Lighting

Cllr. Penney said that following a recent break-in, Mrs George no longer had any objection to an additional street light near her property. It had previously been noted that a pole existed at this location, that power was available, and that this was a very dark area that needed to be improved bearing in mind its proximity to the Village Hall. It was agreed to consider this at the budget item later.

### 16/108 Play Area and Village Notice Board-Progress Report

The Chairman gave a report regarding the installation of the new equipment and was unhappy to sign the work off as the roundabout had been positioned in the wrong place and was too close to an inspection cover. The post-construction inspection commissioned by Hags-smp had identified this issue as well as the height of the swings being too low. The inspection commissioned by the Parish Council with Wicksteed Leisure also identified this issue and the Chairman had met the inspector on site. Hags-smp has been notified of the problems and the roundabout had been relocated. New matting and grass is to be provided over the next week. It was agreed to approve the invoice but hold the cheque until the works has been completed to the Parish Council's satisfaction. **Action: BB/Clerk**

The centre section of the existing train requires attention to improve its stability. Action: BB

Chairman

Date

The quotation for the notice board is held at £4257.66. The ARAPAC funds should be transferred in the next week or so. Cllr. Blakeman proposed that the notice board be purchased and this was seconded by Cllr. Penney. **Action: BB**

#### **16/109 To Consider Correspondence Received**

Various items were discussed. CPRE's design guide is to be circulated among Members.

#### **16/110 Planning**

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

#### **16/111 Finance**

- (i) The Clerk presented the monthly statement of accounts. £250 had been received from ENC and £1000 from NCC as contributions towards the notice board and H-bar markings respectively.
- (ii) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr. Blakeman and seconded by Cllr. Lawrence:
  - Anglian Water £13.88 Cheque no.100652
  - Hags-smp £11837.40 Cheque No.100653
  - Shoosmiths £345.00 Cheque no. 100654
  - Came & Co. £35.22 Cheque No. 100655
  - HMRC PAYE £68.80 Cheque No. 100656
  - R Reed Quarterly salary & expenses £404.59 Cheque No. 100657
  - Wicksteed Leisure Ltd. £54.00 Cheque No. 100658
  - HG Watts & Son £87.72 Cheque no. 100659
  - RH Blakeman Reimbursement for website fee £29.95 Cheque No. 100660

There were concerns over the size of the Christmas tree this year.

- (iii) Councillors considered the draft budget that had been circulated by the Clerk. It was felt that the additional street light discussed under item 16/107 could be funded during the current year. Cllr. Blakeman proposed that this should go ahead up to a maximum net cost of £500.00 and this was seconded by Cllr. Hankins. Cllr. Penney is to obtain a quote from E.ON. **Action: BP** Francis Hale had agreed to continue with the mowing under the current terms but had requested an increase for strimming the churchyard in view of the number of obstructions. An allocation of £500.00 was made from the balance of the defibrillator funds as a possible contribution towards the First Responder initiative. Consideration will be given for additional/replacement benches in due course. Cllr. Blakeman proposed that the budget as circulated, discussed and amended be approved and this was seconded by Cllr. Lawrence with all in agreement. Cllr Blakeman proposed that the precept for 2017/18 be set at £8,700 and this was seconded by Cllr. Hankins with all in agreement. The Clerk will update the draft budget accordingly and circulate it to all prior to submitting the precept request to ENC by the due date. **Action: Clerk**
- (iv) There was no further financial business,

#### **16/112 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda**

- (i) Cllr. Strode Willis spoke of the protocol in the event of the passing of an important person.
- (ii) The response from the insurers regarding any drinks holding at the Village Hall was discussed.

#### **16/113 Date of next meeting.**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:12pm.

Chairman

Date