

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF ALDERMINSTER PARISH
COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, NEW ROAD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST
JULY 2010**

PRESENT: MR. J. MELVILLE (CHAIRMAN), MR. M. MEADOWS, DR. M. EDWARDS, MRS.G. HUDSPITH, MR. A. JENKINS AND ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.

1. Apologies for absence.

MR. J. HUTCHINGS, MRS. M. MOODY

2. Any items from Members of the Public present at the Meeting including those items on the agenda

(There is a time limit of 3 minutes allowed for each item)

Councillor Dr. Mary Edwards addressed the members as a member of the public.

She asked if enquiries could be made with the relevant authorities to see if a tree in a field off New Road could be listed. The Clerk would enquire.

The member of the public, who introduced himself as Mr. Smith from Merrilees, raised the subject of confidentiality regarding emails sent to the Parish Council. He wanted to know what the Parish Council policy was concerning the circulation of the information given in emails. It was explained that much of the information received by the Parish Council is open to the general public as the content of emails received by the Clerk would be circulated to members and would probably be discussed at a subsequent Parish Council meeting. If the message was marked confidential then this would not be discussed publicly at a Parish Council meeting but would still be circulated to Parish Councillors. It should be understood that when emails are received making suggestions, making complaints or other matters that needed further investigation, members may need to consult with other parishioners to obtain their views on those suggestions or complaints. However no personal details would be disclosed during those enquiries. Mr. Smith told the members that following an incident in New Road involving his wife and the driver of a vehicle he said it was obvious that information from an email she had sent to the Parish Council had been disclosed to that driver. The CHAIRMAN said that he had investigated this suggestion and with the information available found no evidence that the information in the email in question had been disclosed as suggested. Mr. Smith then spoke about the continuing problem of vehicles speeding in New Road, and that he thought the situation had improved since the police had carried out checks in the road. The CHAIRMAN said that he had attended Forum meetings and had obtained the agreement of the Forum for the checks to continue but as there were many requests for similar checks in other Parishes, it was unlikely that these would continue. The CHAIRMAN, through the Forum had asked Mr. Graham Fitton from the County Council to come up with a more permanent solution to the problem and this was still awaited. Mr. Smith then asked if the Parish Council would fund a permanent pole in New Road to house the 'Speed Aware' sign. The Clerk explained that at the May 2010 meeting the matter had been discussed and had been rejected by members on the grounds that it was to cost up to £400 and the Speed Aware sign would only visit the village once in 14 months, which in the opinion of the members was not value for money and did not benefit a majority of the Parish. A report by the Clerk giving the history of New Road for the last 20 years was available to members and the public at the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interests.

Members are asked to declare interests in items on the Agenda in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) Statutory Model Code of Conduct for Parish Councils

(Note: Members are reminded that the Code of Conduct provides that should they have a prejudicial interest in any matter under discussion, then providing the matter is considered in public session, they are entitled, with the consent of the Chairman, to make representations and answer questions if members of the public are granted the same entitlement. Members must leave the room before the ensuing debate and vote and must not attempt to improperly influence a decision about that matter)

No declarations were made at this point.

4. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting (May 2010)

The Clerk had circulated the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted by those present as a true record of what had taken place. The CHAIRMAN signed the minutes book.

5. Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting:

(a) Defibrillator update

The Clerk updated the members on behalf of Mrs MOODY. The Box containing the defibrillator was now in situ at the Bell Inn and was operational. The code number for opening the box had been relayed to the Ambulance Service. The Box which needs an electrical supply was fitted by the electricians who are employed by the Bell management and an invoice for payment was on the agenda. The owner of the Bell, Mrs. Emma Holman-West had kindly agreed to pay for the small amount of electricity that the box would use (there is a small heater and a light inside). It was now intended to hold open sessions to explain to Parishioners what the equipment is for and how to use it. Also instruction in CPR would be included. There is a need for the box and equipment to be checked on a fortnightly basis and Mrs MOODY and the Clerk would arrange for this to be carried out.

(b) Survey update

The CHAIRMAN said that there had been no further progress with arranging a survey and due to the lack of support received he would abandon the idea. He pointed out that he had not intended originally that the survey would be so intensive and detailed as members had suggested and was not able to give the time to such an extensive exercise but was willing to support others if they wished to take it on.

(c) C72/Forum Update

The CHAIRMAN said that this item had been covered under the Public items but that he would be attending the next Forum meeting to see if the County Officer had any permanent solution to the speeding problems in New Road. The Clerk was thanked for the report he had produced for the meeting.

(d) Grit Bin for the old road area

The Grit Bin had been delivered into the old road area and the Clerk had arranged for the County to fill it with grit on a regular basis.

(e) Flood bags

The Clerk said that 50 flood bags had been received in two packs of 25. One pack was recommended for one door protection. He had therefore given Mr. and Mrs. Tibbles the two packs. Mr. Tibbles told him that he had 3 doors to protect and would therefore need another pack of 25. Some members present agreed that Mr. and Mrs. Tibbles were not necessarily entitled to any further bags. The Clerk suggested that he should find out how many bags could be bought for the residue of the flood grant

monies and then the members could decide how these could be distributed. A lengthy discussion took place before it was agreed to take the course of action the Clerk had suggested.

(f) Bus Services

The Clerk had written to the appropriate authorities asking if a larger 'bus could be provided but had not received any replies. The CHAIRMAN said that Councillor Seccombe had raised the issue at the last Forum meeting and there should be an update at the next Forum.

6. Public Notice Board

The CHAIRMAN spoke about the public notice board in the Church grounds which had been bought by public funds to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. It was in a poor state. He suggested that quotations should be obtained to replace it with a new board and he wondered how members felt. Members agreed that quotations should be obtained and the matter discussed further at the next meeting in September.

7. Any matters from the District Councillor or County Councillor.

Councillor Seccombe was not present at the meeting.

8. To receive any new planning applications

(a) 10/01279/LBC Alderminster Farm - retrospective application for internal alterations.

There were no comments regarding this application.

9. To receive any results of planning applications

(a) None received

10. To receive any correspondence

There was no correspondence for the meeting.

11. Passing of any accounts for payment

(a) Clerk's Salary June and July - £***

(b) Clerk's expenses incurred £44.37p

(c) Grant to Alderminster Village Hall - £1394.61p

(d) Came and Co Insurance with Aviva - £384.47p

(e) Cupboards Direct - grit bin for the 'Old Road' £116.33p

(f) Bryan Gerrard - cutting grass side of Churchyard. - £337

(g) Came and Co Insurance for defibrillator - £25

(h) Lewis and King Ltd - electrics for defibrillator - £291.35p

(i) Clement Keys Auditors - £141

(j) AET - Sandbags - £218.56p

12. Closure of meeting

Meeting dates for 2010 -

15th September 2010

17th November 2010

The CHAIRMAN closed the meeting at 9.05pm