

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF ALDERMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, ALDERMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY 21ST
SEPTEMBER, 2011 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: MR M. MEADOWS (CHAIRMAN), MRS.M.MOODY, MRS.G.HUDSPITH, MR.J.HUTCHINGS, MR.J.MELVILLE, MR.A.JENKINS AND 3 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

1. Apologies for absence.

Dr. M. Edwards, County/District Councillor I. Seccombe

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

Mr. J. Harper raised the matter of private overgrown hedges. He produced photographs to support his complaint showing hedges overgrowing and obstructing the free passage of pedestrians, particularly in the 'Old Road'. He said that he had visited the County Council and that he had been told that it was the responsibility of the Parish Council to deal with the problem. The Clerk said it was his understanding that the County Council had the power to approach householders and if they failed to respond then the County Council could cut the offending hedge back and recover the costs from the householder. Mr. Harper said that the Parish Council should be more aggressive with the County Council and put pressure on them to get the work done.

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)

Mrs MOODY declared an interest in item 10(a)

4. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting (July 2011)

The Clerk had circulated the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted 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) Housing Needs Survey

The Clerk told members that the survey forms had been delivered to Mr.& Mrs. Tagg and would be delivered along with Village Voices in October. MRS.HUDSPITH was given a supply for distribution to local businesses.

(b) Milestones in the Parish

Mrs. HUDSPITH told members that the milestones in the Parish had been surveyed and a schedule of works had been prepared. The CHAIRMAN and Mr. Robert Howe from

Wimpstone had joined the small group along with Mr. David Jones from Alderminster. She suggested that the Parish Council join the Milestone Society during the period of the project. Members agreed to this suggestion.

(c) Overgrown hedges

Following on from the public complaint, it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the County Council to clarify the situation regarding responsibility and to ask what action they are prepared to take to have the hedges cut back.

(d) Drain problem in Old Road - it was agreed that this had now been resolved.

(e) Diamond Jubilee Celebration 2012 update

The Clerk advised members he had sent off the registration form on behalf of the Parish Council for the beacon. The CHAIRMAN reported that he was still looking for a site for the beacon. Members were told of tentative ideas for a celebration 'party' but these were in the very early stages. Also members would discuss later whether a commemorative gift should be made to children in the village.

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

The Clerk explained that the reason Councillor Seccombe was not present at the meeting was because she was attending a meeting in Shipston to discuss plans for a new medical facility. The Clerk read an email from Mrs Seccombe giving details of the plans.

Mr. JENKINS said he had wanted to speak to Mrs. Seccombe about a letter sent to elderly people who received care help from the County Council which was phrased in such terms that he found difficult to understand. He felt the letter could be in simpler language so that elderly people had a better chance of understanding what was a very difficult matter. In view of her absence he would contact her direct.

7. To receive any new planning applications

None received

8. To receive any results of planning applications

(a) 11/01115/FUL - Greenacres Cottage - new porch and replacement garage - granted

(b) 11/00971/FUL - Alderminster Kennels and Cattery - replacement kennels - granted

(c) 10/00263/FUL - Oak Tree Farm - cabin - refused

It was noted that this cabin had been erected and electricity had been installed. It was agreed that the Clerk should report this fact to the planning authority for any action they deemed necessary.

9. To receive any correspondence

(a) WALC AGM (27th October), nominations and Annual Report was noted.

(b) National Planning Policy Consultation

Members had been sent details prior to the meeting. It was agreed that a response to the consultation stating the Parish Council could not support the 'presumption of sustainable development' outlined in the policy should be sent.

(c) Briefing Sessions for Chairman 4th November and 3rd December 2011 noted.

(d) Parish Councillors' meeting in Stratford 4th October 2011 noted.

10. Passing of any accounts for payment

- (a) Clerk's Salary July and August £*** (Direct Payment)
- (b) HMRC Income Tax Payments £*** (Direct Payment)
- (c) Parish Council expenses incurred £44.35p (Direct Payment)
- (d) Grant to Church Clock lighting £100
- (e) Clement Keys - external audit fee - £144
- (f) Village Voices grant - £75
- (g) Milestone Society subscription - £15

11. Closure of meeting

Dates of Next Meetings

16th November 2011