

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF ALDERMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, NEW ROAD ON WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH 2008 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: MRS.G.HUDSPITH (CHAIRMAN), MRS.M.MOODY (VICE-CHAIRMAN), DR.M.EDWARDS, MR.G.WOOD, MR.A.JENKINS, MR.J.HUTCHINGS, MRS.F.LUTHER

1. Apologies for absence.

COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR I.SECCOMBE

2. 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 Council

Members are reminded that the code of conduct provides that should they have a prejudicial interest in any matter under discussion they should withdraw from the room and not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter.

Mrs MOODY declared a personal interest in items 10(a) & (b)

Mr JENKINS declared an interest as a near neighbour in items 7(a) & (b)

3. Matters from Public - including items on the current agenda

(Members of the public will be allowed 3 minutes to address the council on any matters on the agenda or of concern to themselves)

No members of the public were present

4. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

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) Bridge over the River Stour

Dr.M.Edwards gave details of a meeting held on 18th March with two representatives of the WCC Mr M.Fry and Mr.S.Ikeringill. Members of the public were present and it was apparent that nothing had been done since the Public Inquiry last year. It was now agreed that the committee were to be kept up to date with any developments or lack of developments, that the Compulsory Purchase Order required for the land where the bridge is to be sited would be issued before 30th April and that even if an alternative design was put forward by the Alscot Estate or the owners of the land, the CPO would still go forward although any new designs would be considered.

(b) Bus User Group

No new report

(c) Highway Matters

The Clerk reported on correspondence that the County Council had received from one resident concerning the siting of the camera point. Members thought that the comments were unfounded and agreed with the County Council that the site was not an obstruction to other traffic.

(d) Computer project

The Clerk reported that following the survey carried out to determine possible use of a computer with internet access if it was placed in the village hall it was obvious that there was no interest in providing such a facility as only two replies had been received and both of those had stated that they neither used the facilities in the public library nor would they use one if provided in the village hall. Members would discuss the matter further at the May meeting. Meanwhile it was noted that the website at www.alderminster-pc.gov.uk was now up and running.

(e) Overgrown hedge in Village

Councillor Seccombe and the Clerk had been in touch with the County Council to see if they could encourage the owners of the land, believed to be Alscot Park Estate, to tidy the land.

(f) Fouling by dogs

Mrs MOODY reported that many complaints are being received from residents that some dog owners are allowing their animals to foul the paths and verges and not removing the same to the bins provided. Members agreed that there was a growing problem and agreed that residents should be vigilant and be prepared to report offenders as there was now a substantial fine that could be imposed. The Parish Council would support anyone reporting an offender.

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

7. To receive any new planning applications

The following applications had been circulated and the delegated officer had sent replies to the District Council in response

(a) 08/00104/LBC - Nut Tree Barn, Alderminster Farm - alterations to raise existing roof to provide first floor accommodation etc

The Parish Councillors have studied the plans and read the supporting statements from the applicant's agent. They are in agreement that, whilst they have sympathy with people who suffer flooding, this is not a justification for over-ruling established planning policies regarding barn conversions.

(b) 08/00051/FUL - Nut Tree Barn, Alderminster Farm - alterations to raise existing roof to provide first floor accommodation etc.

The Parish Councillors are unanimously opposed to this proposal. This traditional barn is to be converted into a 6 bedroom house if this application is allowed to proceed. The removal of the cladding would put it out of cohesion with the other barn conversions at the Farm. A previous application to extend this barn was refused on Appeal (04/01984/FUL) as it was deemed to be contrary to policies ENV1, DEV1 and COM12 and also in contravention of the advice in the supplementary planning guidance for barn conversions. It is considered that an extension and conversion of this nature would be out of character and detrimental to the character of the existing group of former agricultural buildings. Planning guidance advice says that extensions will not normally be acceptable and that extension subsequent to the initial conversion are unlikely to be permitted. These reasons for refusal are still relevant.

8. To receive any results of planning applications

(a) None received to date of agenda notice

9. To receive any correspondence

(a) Lord Lieutenant Warwickshire letter re H.M. Queen's community awards was noted and considered.

(b) CPRE Midland Green Belt Study 2007 was noted

(c) Audit Commission letter re appointment of external auditors and fees was noted.

(d) Invite from CHAIR of WCC to an 'at home' drinks reception on Saturday 29th March at 6.30pm at Shire Hall for 3 councillors and partners was noted - no-one could attend

(e) St Georges Day Celebrations were noted.

(f) A letter regarding consultations by the Post Office re closures was noted.

10. Passing of any accounts for payment

The following payments were made on the proposal of Mr.Hutchings, seconded by Mr.Wood

(a) Clerk's Salary February and March - £350.69p

(b) Clerk's expenses incurred £41.65p

(c) Village Hall Hire for PC meetings 2007/8 - £60

11. Closure of meeting

Meeting dates for 2008

21st May (Annual General Meeting)

16th July

17th September

19th November