

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

**PRESENT:** MRS. M. MOODY (CHAIRMAN), MR. J. HUTCHINGS (VICE CHAIRMAN), DR. M. EDWARDS, MR. A. JENKINS, MR. M. MEADOWS, MR .J. MELVILLE AND 6 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Before the start of business the CHAIRMAN introduced Trudie Lobban representing Arrhythmia Alliance who gave a short presentation on providing an Automated External Defibrillator in the Parish.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Mrs. G. Hudspith, County Councillor I.Seccombe

**2. Declarations of Interests.**

*(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)*

Mr.A. JENKINS declared an interest in items 5(a), 5(g), 13(c)

The CHAIRMAN declared an interest in items 12, 13(a), 13(b)

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

THE CHAIRMAN invited members of the public to address the meeting.

Mr.Styring, representing the Alderminster Farm Management Committee, spoke about the Flood Relief Grants an item on the Agenda. He advised members that since submitting the previous estimates for the proposed bund to protect the properties at the site, costs had risen due to one householder not wishing to be involved financially in the project and an extra area of protection that had been considered necessary. Mr. Tibbles spoke of his concerns over the way in which the Parish Council had handled the matter of the Flood Relief Grants and the fact that he had not carried out any remedial work as he had been advised that claims for retrospective work would not have been entertained.

Mr. Holland, speaking on the same subject, gave further information of the work he needed to carry out at his premises due to water table problems. He did say that he supported the objectives of the bund project.

**4. Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting (September 2008)**

The Clerk had circulated the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted by the members 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:**

The CHAIRMAN said that as information about to be discussed in the next item could be of a personal nature and therefore exempt information, she proposed that the members should discuss the item in closed session (under the Provisions of Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act). MR.HUTCHINGS, seconded this proposal and the CHAIRMAN closed the meeting to the public at 8.20pm. The members of the Public left the room. Mr. JENKINS also left the room.

(a) Flood Defence Grants update

After discussion in closed session the CHAIRMAN reopened the meeting at 9.00pm and the Clerk read the following resolution agreed by the members present:

In order to maximise the benefit and to protect the ten (10) properties from future flooding the following grants will be made: Alderminster Farm Management Committee, £2560; The Haven, £320; Nut Tree Barn, £320; and payment of the grant will be made on evidence of the first interim invoice for work carried out from each project - and on completion of each scheme the Parish Council must be informed.

(b) Bridge over the River Stour

Dr. EDWARDS advised the meeting that the footings for the new bridge were completed and the small bridge over the backwash was in situ. It was hoped that the new bridge over the river would be completed and in use by the end of 2008. The AGM of the Alderminster and Whitchurch Parish Paths Partnership was to be held on 2nd December in the Village Hall at 8pm when it was hoped that a photographic presentation was to be given by Mr. Martin Fry of the work to date.

(c) Community Forum

The next meeting of the Community Forum is to be held in the Millennium Hall at Preston on Stour from 6pm. Mr. MELVILLE did not think he was able to attend due to other commitments. Unfortunately it clashed with the AGM of the Footpaths committee and therefore no other member was able to attend the Forum on this occasion. Mr. MELVILLE felt it was a good opportunity to address the Authorities directly with items of concern and a representative ought to attend each meeting when possible.

(d) Parish Survey/Pro-active Parish Council

Mr. MELVILLE linked this to item 5(f) and said that he did feel that the village needed tidying and he cited the poor standard of grass cutting, the weeds in front of the church wall and the lack of flower boxes as some examples. Mr. JENKINS agreed that a Parish Survey was overdue and some thought ought to be given to producing another Survey but pointed out it needed volunteers to become involved in its production. It was agreed that this matter should be kept on the agenda for further discussion.

(e) Bus stop at Wimpstone Turn

Mr. MELVILLE raised concerns about the bus stop pull in at the Wimpstone turn. He felt that it was a danger to motorists who used it to pass by vehicles waiting to turn right into Wimpstone Lane and found that they 'ran out of road' when doing this manoeuvre. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the County Council Highways Dept to have the area looked at on safety grounds.

(f) Tidy Village

See item 5(d)

(g) Grant to Lighting of Church Clock, Alderminster

The Clerk advised members that no payment had been made to the PCC this current financial year.

**6. Freedom of Information - Council Policy**

The Clerk gave details of the Freedom of Information procedures for Parish Councils. He said that he would be arranging for The Guide to Proactively Published Information to be put on the Parish Council web site. Members resolved to adopt the Model Publication Scheme as outlined by the Information Commissioner without change and agreed that charges for hard copies of information held by the Parish Council would be 10p per copied sheet.

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

A written report was given on behalf of County Councillor Seccombe.

‘WCC have started the Budget analysis process and it is proving to be very very harsh this year. Credit crunch is finding us with increased pressure in the area of vulnerable people, ie. Elderly people, vulnerable children (increased numbers as families find themselves in debt pressures, loosing their homes etc.) We shall have some difficult decisions to make which will be hard on services.

This Sunday (23rd Nov.) the Government DCLG, are holding a Public Consultation meeting at the Library in Stratford on the Eco Town. They have kept it secret until last Saturday as did not want BARD to know. I have to ask what value the consultation can be on a secret meeting! However, it is from 11.00 am till 5.00 pm and we want as many people as possible to drop in and tell them what we think about an ECO Town. Please spread the word and come along. This fight is very far from over, it is amazing what the Government are doing at the moment to avoid having to shelve plans. We are in another period of consultation and need to send responses in against the new PPS Planning report which is a 6 weeks response. I think the date is 9th December for response to the proposed housing being put forward in the Nathaniel Litchfied Report. My thoughts are that the report gives no identification of need for these increased housing figures and so therefore, I cannot determine how they can have come to the figure of 4,500 houses and Wychavon's supposed need of 1,500 surprising noone is achieving the exact same number of the Eco Town.’

**8. To receive any new planning applications**

The following application had been received and the delegated officer had replied as indicated.

(a) 08/02588/FUL - Farriers, Goldicote Court, erection of timber framed garden shed/workshop/studio

Some concerns raised by members over the size of the proposed building and its use as a workshop.

**9. To receive any results of planning applications**

The following results of planning applications were noted:

(a) 08/02308/FUL - Boundary Cottage, Goldicote - Extension - GRANTED

(b) S4798/08CC025 - SD61 - Footbridge over River Stour - GRANTED

**10. To receive any correspondence**

(a) 'Green Issues' letter re New ECO town Middle Quinton Forum

Members agreed that joining the Forum as proposed by the consultants for the developers would not be beneficial.

(b) Consultation - Codes of Conduct for Members and Employees

Members considered the consultation document. They considered that the code should extend into their non-official capacity and agreed with the definition of criminal offence as outlined in the consultation document. The addition to the General Principles was supported and that there should be a Code of Conduct for Local Government Employees, to include Parish Clerks.

(c) Consultation - The making and enforcement of bye laws

Members considered the consultation document and the suggestions and agreed with the suggestions in the document that local authorities should be able to make bye laws without resorting to approval from the Secretary of State, although this procedure was very unlikely to be used in this Parish.

(d) Letter from Medical Centre Shipston on Stour re Proposed Changes to Prescription Procedures

Members agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to the Government Department objecting to the withdrawal of pharmacy services from Doctors' surgeries.

**11. Village Hall Improvements - Maureen Moody**

The CHAIRMAN, declaring that she is a member of the Management Trustees, gave details of proposed improvements to the paved footpath on the front drive of the Village Hall which the Village Hall Committee are currently considering.

**12. To Approve Increase in Clerk's Annual Salary in Accordance with NALC/SLCC Interim Agreement**

Members noted that there had been an agreement between NALC and the SLCC for an Interim Award to employees of Local Government. It was resolved to increase the Parish Clerk's Annual Salary in accordance with this agreement. The Clerk would now be paid in accordance with SCP 23 at an hourly rate of £10.364p for 4 hours work per week.

**13. Passing of any accounts for payment**

Members resolved to make the following payments from Parish funds:

(a) Clerk's Salary October and November and back pay from 1/4/208 - £385.09p

(b) Clerk's expenses incurred £17.27p

(c) Grant to Village Voices production - £50

(d) Bryan Gerrard - grass cutting at side of Church - £329

(e) SLCC - annual membership 2009 (part share) - £35

**14. Closure of meeting**

Date of Next Meeting

21st January 2009 (Precept Meeting)

18th March 2009 (6.45pm PC meeting 8.00pm Annual Assembly)

20th May 2009 (AGM)

15th July 2009  
16th September 2009  
18th November 2009