

Alderminster Parish Council

Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council

Wednesday 15th September 2021

Alderminster Village Hall 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Karen Jones (Chairman)

Cllr Mark Meadows

Cllr John Melville

Cllr Chris Mason-Bailey

Cllr Lesley Casley

Mrs M Norman (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: Cllr Izzi Seccombe, Cllr Penny-Anne O'Donnell and two members of the public.

1	Apologies: There were no apologies for absence.
2	Declaration of interests: There were no declarations of interest.
3	Questions from the public: A member of the public recounted a frightening experience she had had of an incident of dangerous driving in the village. She had posted an account on Next Door Alderminster and also informed the police. As no one was injured during the incident the police were unable to take any action. The Chairman thanked her for bringing it to the Council's attention.
4	Minutes of the previous meetings: The minutes of the meetings on the 21 st July 2021 were accepted as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman. The Chairman varied the agenda order in order to hear item 8.
8	District and County Councillors' reports: Cllr Seccombe said that unfortunately the Covid numbers were increasing which was very worrying. Workers in the Social care sector continued to be difficult to recruit. Although £2 million had been made available by the Government for social care provisions, the Council would still be in the red. Two schemes are in operation for resettlement of Afghan refugees and Afghan asylum seekers. Warwickshire has offered to take 100 families, 25 of whom are being settled in the Stratford area. There have been lots of offers of volunteer help and a great many very generous donations. Cllr Seccombe anticipated that improvements to the bus service should be in place by the end of next year. Cllr O'Donnell agreed that the local response to the Afghan refugees had been overwhelming.

	<p>Donations could be left at St. Peter's Church, Wellesbourne on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.15 and 4.00 pm.</p> <p>The proposed merger between Stratford and Warwick District Councils was now out for consultation and Cllr O'Donnell urged the Council to respond. The views and questions of Parish Councils and local residents need to be made known.</p> <p>Stratford District Council had suffered huge losses during Covid because of the loss of revenue from tourism. It was the 4th worst affected area in the country. The Mop Fair on October 12th will now feature a jobs and apprentice fair in the hope that businesses will be able to regenerate.</p> <p>Cllr O'Donnell has also spoken to the Head of Building Control at SDC regarding some of the issues at the Old Stour. She would keep the Parish Council updated.</p>	
5	<p>Signage for planters:</p> <p>It was resolved to purchase three speed awareness signs at a cost of £207 to be placed on the entrance planters to the village.</p>	
6	<p>Consultations:</p> <p>It was agreed that any responses to i) the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership, ii) the bus improvement survey and iii) the draft recommendations on ward boundaries in the district should be made independently by Councillors if they wished to participate. It was agreed to defer the Council's response to iv) the proposed South Warwickshire Council till the Council had an opportunity to explore it further.</p>	
7	<p>Queen's Green Canopy:</p> <p>The Council resolved to take part in the tree planting initiative to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. They proposed having a tree planted on the grass verge between the church and Alderminster Lodge. They would ask the advice of the Forestry Team for the best location and species of tree. The clerk was asked to action.</p>	
9	<p>Donation to Village Hall:</p> <p>It was resolved to donate the sum of £500 to the Village Hall as a contribution towards the running costs of the very successful village event.</p>	
10	<p>Hedge cutting:</p> <p>Cllr Melville was asked to compile a list of locations in the village which suffered from overhanging hedges. The Council would then ascertain whether these were landowners' responsibility or those of the County Council.</p>	
11	<p>Chairman's report:</p> <p>The Chairman said she was delighted to report that Janine Bluteau had offered to help maintain the planters and expressed her thanks to Janine for helping to manage and develop this community feature. The Village Event, though not a Parish Council initiative, attracted a great many residents, old and new and the feedback from it has been very positive. Through speaking to a number of residents the Chairman has become aware that social isolation may be an issue within the village, something which she would like to take the time to investigate further.</p> <p>After a personal injury last month, the Millenium Bridge has been repaired and is now open. A crossing has also been built at the next gate. It is hoped that this will mean that this section</p>	

	<p>of the footpath can be used when the ground is waterlogged. Sadly, there is still no step at the backwash bridge.</p> <p>Local press coverage reports that a large scale car rally will be hosted at Caffeine and Machine on Tuesday 28th September. This could cause traffic problems on the roads approaching Caffeine and Machine.</p> <p>A resident on The Old Stour has copied the Chairman in on emails to Barwood Homes raising concerns about the soakaway at the public open space outside plots 17 and 18. Barwood Homes emailed the Chairman earlier that day to report that the onsite storm drainage system had been inspected and had been found to be blocked. It has subsequently been cleaned and a CCTV report is pending. Barwood has also advised that the landscaping work is progressing well with constant maintenance, weeding and mulching to areas, as well as general tidying of the area. In the Chairman's opinion, however, a lot of weeding and plant replacement remains to be done. Barwoods have offered to meet the Parish Council again to have another walk round the Old Stour, an offer which the Chairman believes the Council should accept with an aim to improving the public open space.</p>	
12	<p>Clerk's updates:</p> <p>The clerk reported that i) HSBC were now charging £8.00 per month for use of the bank account. There would be further charges for writing and cashing cheques. She had investigated other banks – the Unity Bank charged £6.00 per month, whilst the free accounts at Lloyds Bank were no longer on offer to Parish Councils. ii) The Millenium bridge was now open again. The Footpaths team were aware that the bridge needed attention and would be monitoring it to ensure it remained open. iii) Warwickshire County Council did not agree to the request to create additional parking on the grass verge on Scrapper's Row.</p> <p>The new grit bin had been purchased and Cllr Meadows would move it on to New Road at a later date. There had been no call for an election, so the Council was now free to co-opt to fill the vacant seat on the Parish Council. The Mileposts Project had asked the Council to confirm that they were still willing to contribute to the project to restore an Alderminster milepost. The clerk had just heard that the Footpaths team would be having the step down from the backwash bridge built within the next month.</p>	
13	<p>Planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 21/02017/FUL Allersmead, Alderminster: proposed first floor side extension (rear of street view). No representation was made to this application. ii) 21/001946/FUL Land at Crimscote, Wimpstone: erection of a ground mounted solar farm, associated works and ancillary infrastructure, including battery storage containers, access tracks, inverter units, customer cabin underground cable and grit connection substation. No objection was made to this application. 	
14	<p>Accounts for payment and finance matters:</p> <p>The following payments were approved and authorised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Clerk's salary (July) - £** ii) HMRC (income tax) - £** iii) Bryan Gerrard (grass cutting) - £360.00 iv) Safety Inc (defibrillator rental and cabinet) - £1,216.74 v) Glasdon (grit bin) - £225.80 vi) Clerk's salary (August) - £** vii) Chris Mason-Bailey (defibrillator signs) - £14.40 viii) HMRC (income tax) - £**. 	

The Chairman signed the supporting documentation.

15 **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence other than that noted in previous items.

16 **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:**

None.

17 The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

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