

Alderminster Parish Council

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Wednesday 27th September 2017
Alderminster Village Hall 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Geoff Smith (Chairman)
Cllr Mark Meadows (Vice Chairman)
Cllr James Dignan
Cllr Karen Jones
Cllr John Melville
Mrs M Norman (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Also present: Cllr Izzi Seccombe and 2 members of the public

1	Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sherry McGinn and Cllr Penny Anne O'Donnell and were accepted by the Council.
2	Declaration of interests There were no declarations of interest.
3	Questions from the public: A member of the public asked if consideration of item 19a) could be given prior to item 9 as he wanted to request that the speed visor on the A3400 should be put back in place as soon as possible. The Chairman agreed to this request.
4	Minutes of the previous meetings: The minutes of the meeting of the 19 th July 2017 and those of the extra ordinary meeting of the 15 th August 2017 were unanimously agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
5	Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting: There were no matters arising.
6	Report from the District Councillor or County Councillor: Cllr Seccombe reported that though unemployment figures in Warwickshire were very low, she had concerns about the 36,000 individuals in the county who were earning wages of £15,000 or less per year. Of these, 25,000 people were employed in the tourism industry. She also reported on the progress of the South Western Relief Road. CALA Homes were to contribute £120 million as part of the s106 agreement. Thirty million pounds was set aside for work on the SW Relief Road, a sum which Cllr Seccombe said would be insufficient. One million pounds was allocated for work on the B4362, though this too would be inadequate for the work that needed to be carried out. The remainder would make provision for schools within the new Garden Village at Long Marston.

	<p>The Chairman varied the order of the agenda in order to discuss item 9:</p>	
9	<p>S106 Traffic calming measures: Residents remain concerned about traffic problems within the village. The Council noted concerns about speeding; parking on the public highway and heavy goods vehicles travelling through the village, especially on New Road. Traffic noise was also a problem, caused by vehicles travelling over the cats' eyes and by the condition of the tarmac.</p> <p>A meeting had been arranged with the Highways Safety Officer to discuss the spending of the £10,000 allocated for traffic calming measures under the s106 agreement. It was agreed that the Chairman and Cllr Jones would attend this meeting and ask for advice about the issues raised by residents.</p> <p>The speed visor on the A3400 had been removed whilst work had been carried out on the site entrance to Barwood Homes. Now that this work was complete, a resident requested that the speed warning sign be reinstated as its absence was causing an increase in traffic noise and speeding. The Chairman agreed and requested the clerk to contact Highways to arrange for the visor to be reinstated.</p>	
7	<p>Chairman's updates: The Chairman had attended a meeting on the Community Speed watch Programme. Volunteers using the speed guns in Ettington and Pillington Priors were becoming disheartened by the ineffectual nature of the police response to drivers caught speeding through the village. There was concern that the programme might lapse. Cllr Seccombe commented that the Police Commissioner was looking into the police response and was very mindful of the contributions made by volunteers. She suggested that any particular issues should be sent directly to the Police Commissioner.</p>	
8	<p>S106 bus stop enhancement works: After discussion it was resolved to request the following, budgetary constraints permitting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A bus shelter to be provided at the bus stop on the Shipston side beside the lay by opposite the church. ii) A bus shelter to be provided at the stop opposite Tithe Barns. iii) Refurbishment of the existing bus shelter. <p>The Council believed there were sufficient bus stops in the village, though some essential signage was missing from the stop outside Thorpe's Garage.</p> <p>The clerk was asked to submit these requests to Warwickshire County Council.</p>	
10	<p>Village Hall Committee request: Cllr Meadows made a request on behalf of the Village Hall Committee for a contribution towards the cost of a new cooker for use in the Village Hall. After discussion, it was agreed to defer this matter to the next Parish Council meeting, when Cllr Meadows would be able to provide details of the Committee's finances.</p>	
11	<p>Village Voices request: It was resolved to contribute the sum of £100 towards the production costs of Village Voices.</p>	
12	<p>Overhanging hedges: Cllr Melville had already undertaken a survey of the hedgerows that needed attention. He</p>	

	<p>would liaise with Cllr Meadows to ascertain ownership of the hedges. The Council would then inform the landowners of their responsibility to ensure that the hedges did not encroach on the footpaths or the highway.</p>	
13	<p>Maintenance issues:</p> <p>The clerk had been in touch with the Highways Department concerning the scheduled cutting of the hedgerow along the old tramway. Highways had been unable to confirm the date set as such work was contracted out, and Highways had no control over their schedule. Emails had been sent to Open Reach concerning the overgrown hedges surrounding the BT substation, but to date no response had been received. Alscot Estate had agreed to cut back the hedges around the Village Hall in September. The telephone kiosk on New Road would now remain as a public telephone box. BT had asked that photographs of the kiosk should be sent to enable them to see what repairs needed to be made.</p>	
14	<p>HSBC accounts:</p> <p>The Chairman and clerk had now opened a community account with HSBC which was free of bank charges. Once the precept had been received, the clerk would close the existing account and transfer the sum to the community account.</p>	
15	<p>Wheelchairs in Village Hall:</p> <p>It was agreed that the clerk would obtain an estimate of the insurance and associated liability costs of servicing and maintaining the wheelchairs. If the estimate were acceptable, the Council would write to the Parochial Church Council offering to assume responsibility for the wheelchairs, should this prove to be viable.</p>	
16	<p>Annual Return:</p> <p>The Council received the Annual Return and noted that except for the matters reported below, in the opinion of the auditors the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements had not been met.</p> <p>In the opinion of the auditors, the Council had commenced the period of public rights before it approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting statements in June 2016. The Council had therefore been unable to demonstrate that it made proper provision for the exercise of public rights in 2015/2016. This fact should have been acknowledged in the 2017 return.</p> <p>The auditors' opinion was noted by the Council.</p>	
17	<p>Planning applications</p> <p>Responses to planning applications were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) 17/02493/COUQ Barton Farm, Alderminster: prior approval for proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to No. 2 dwelling houses (including associated building operations) under Part Q (a) and (b). No comment was made in respect of this application. ii) 17/02285/FUL 70 Shipston Road, Alderminster: Retrospective amendment to planning application 13/01769/FUL (demolition of existing garage. Erection of a detached garage and two storey side and rear extensions) for alteration to 2x rear gable roofs, alterations to ground floor level fenestration at rear and replacement of rear bay window with enlarged lounge extension. No representation was made in respect of this application. 	

- iii) 17/02343/FUL 13 Shipston Road, Alderminster: proposed extensions and a new driveway access. It was resolved to **support** this application.

To receive any results of planning applications:

The Council noted the following results:

- i) 17/00993/FUL Mulberry House, Alderminster: amendment to planning application 16/01197/FUL to increase length of garage, width of log store with additional windows to side and rear elevations and repositioning of one window to rear elevation. Application **withdrawn**.
- ii) 17/01958/FUL Portman House, Goldicote: permission **granted** for insertion of 3 no. rooflights on west elevation and replacement of window with door on south elevation.

18 **Accounts for payments and finance matters:**

The clerk presented the budget sheet and financial statements.

The following payments were approved and authorised:

- i) Digital Image Bureau (website) - £1,392.00
- ii) B. Gerrard (grass cutting) - £360.00
- iii) Clerk's salary July - £**
- iv) HMRC (income tax on clerk's salary) - £**
- v) WALC (publications) - £5.00
- vi) Clerk's salary August - £**
- vii) Grant Thornton (external audit) - £120.00

The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the supporting documents.

19 **Correspondence:**

- a) Letter Gordon Forster re removal of automated speed sign on Shipston Road. Dealt with under item 9.
- b) Warwickshire County Council: consultation re proposed changes to Home to School Transport Police.

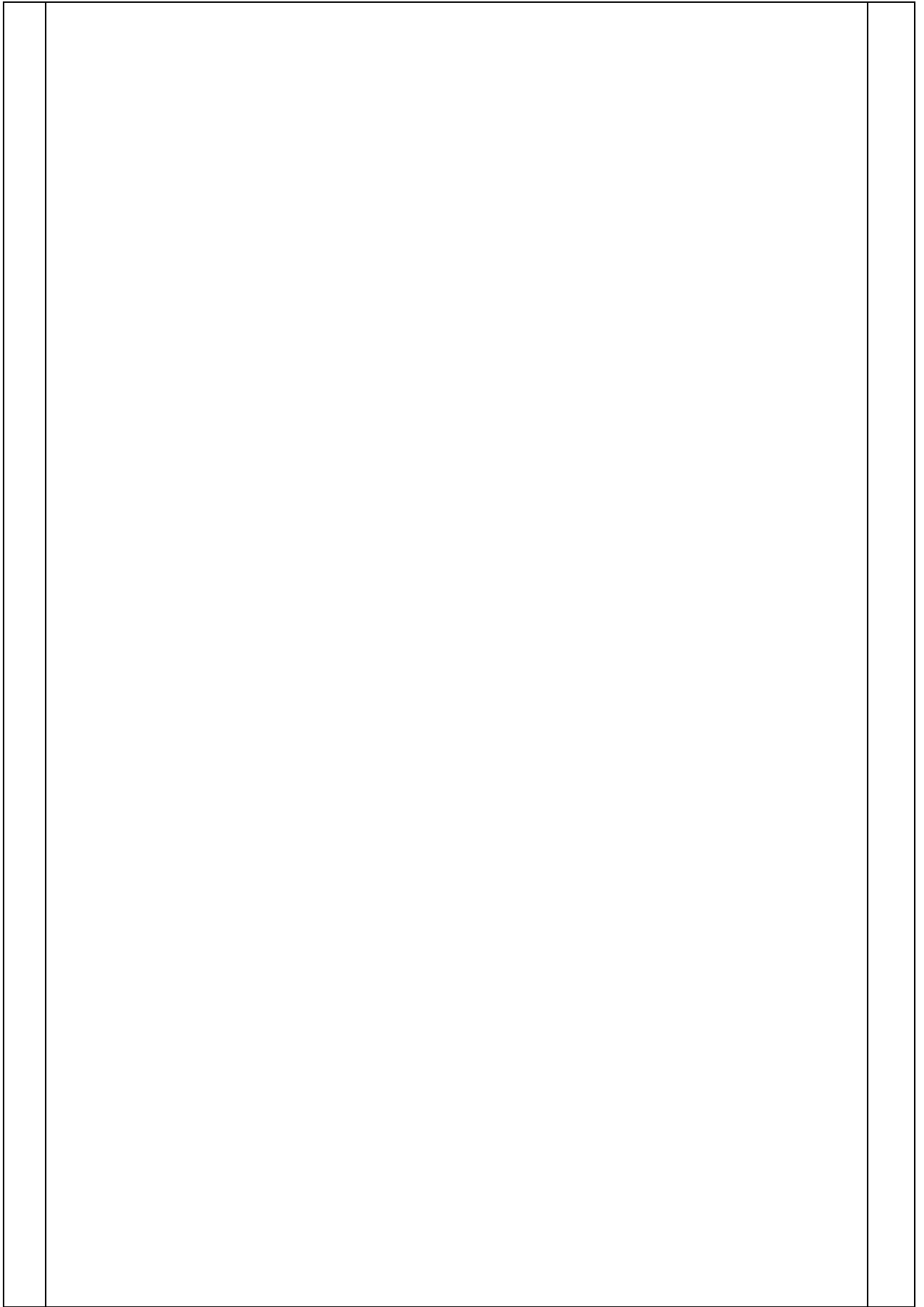
20 **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:**

Automated flood lighting of the church clock.

Close of meeting:

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 15th November 2017



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