

Alderminster Parish Council

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Wednesday 21st March 2018
Alderminster Village Hall 7.30 pm

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

Also present: three members of the public

1	Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Izzi Seccombe and Cllr Penny Anne O'Donnell.
2	Declaration of interests The Chairman declared an interest in respect of item 14 (i) of the agenda.
3	Questions from the public: A member of the public asked whether there was any news about the installation of the new bus shelters. The Council had not yet been informed of the expected date of installation.
4	Minutes of the previous meetings: The minutes of the meetings of the 17 th January and the 20 th February 2018 were 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: There were no reports to be made.
7	Alscot Estate Land: The Chairman had been contacted by Alscot Estate regarding the numbers of residents who were using the private land behind The Bell car park to exercise their dogs. The estate wished to make it clear that there was no public right of access across this field. They were willing to discuss possible alternative routes which could be made available to dog walkers. The Chairman agreed to contact the Alscot Estate Office to discuss possible options.

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Parish Council Review:

The Council discussed the review document submitted by Cllr Jones. The key areas identified by Cllr Jones as occupying the Council's attention were planning, environment and community safety and community interests. There was a general discussion on the Council's responses to planning applications and how these could be made more time efficient. Cllr Jones agreed to write a further report summarising the suggestions made by Council.

Environment and community safety also occupied a lot of Council's time. It was agreed that the Council was taking all available measures with regards to traffic calming. All villages were experiencing the same sense of frustration over this issue.

Maintenance issues, such as hedge cutting, footpaths and potholes were always on the agenda. These matters are the responsibility of either the District or the County Council. However, the budget restrictions imposed on these authorities now results in them only undertaking maintenance work which is essential for public safety. There was some discussion on the lengthsman scheme but the Council were agreed that they were not prepared to consider employing a lengthsman. The possibility that the Council might employ someone on a casual basis, as and when necessary, was left open for future discussion, as appropriate.

The issue of a Parish Plan was also discussed. The Council looked at examples of plans carried out by other villages, some of which were very detailed. There was general agreement that the Council had already carried out a significant amount of preparatory work which would serve as a useful basis if the Council decided to proceed. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed more formally at a future meeting.

Recent surveys indicated that residents would like improved community facilities. The possibility of establishing a community shop/community cafe was discussed. Cllr Jones and the clerk offered to explore the feasibility of this suggestion and report back to Council.

9

Grant award policy:

The Council resolved to adopt the grant award policy document previously circulated. This document would be posted on the website.

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Grit bin:

The clerk had, as requested, contacted the Highways Department to see if there was any objection to a grit bin being placed on the grass verge in front of the Give Way sign on the junction between New Road and the A422. Because of budget cuts, Highways could not undertake to replenish any more grit bins. It was resolved that, subject to Highways' agreement, the Council would buy a grit bin at an estimated cost of £150 and supply the salt itself. The estimated cost would be in the region of £40 a year.

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S106 Traffic Calming:

The Traffic and Safety Department had provided scheme drawings for the proposed traffic calming measures along the A3400. Establishing a 40 mph buffer zone on the approaches to Alderminster would result in a reduction of the existing 30 mph limit throughout the village. The Council did not consider this would be acceptable to residents. It was resolved that the Council would request that:

- a) The existing VAS on the Stratford side of the village be moved to the top of the hill, in front of the Alderminster sign.

	<p>b) Any spare funds to be put towards the purchase of a white wooden gate to be located on the grass verge at the top of the hill.</p>	
12	<p>Maintenance issues:</p> <p>i) Warwickshire County Council had confirmed that the drains running from Old Main Road down to the river were the responsibility of the landowner. Cllr Meadows had notified the landowner.</p> <p>ii) Some of the gardens in Campden Lawns had been affected by flooding for the first time. Cllr Melville had contacted Stratford District Council about this and had been informed that this was a civil matter and not within the remit of the District Council.</p> <p>iii) Concerns were expressed about an overhanging tree on the bend at the top of New Road which posed a danger to traffic.</p> <p>iv) The speed visor outside Barwood Homes was not functioning.</p>	
13	<p>Supplementary Planning Documents Consultation: The Council noted the supplementary planning documents.</p>	
14	<p>Planning applications: The Chairman, having previously declared an interest in relation to the following application, did not take part in the discussion or vote.</p> <p>i) 18/00616/FUL Farthings, New Road, Alderminster. Extensions and alterations to dwelling. It was resolved to make no representation in respect of this application.</p> <p>ii) 18/00825/TEL Goldicote. Installation of electronic communication equipment. Noted for information.</p> <p>The results of the following planning applications were received:</p> <p>i) 18/00258/FUL Land of Shipston Road, Alderminster. Erection of a two storey dwelling house, garage and other associated works (revised scheme of planning permission 16/02327/FUL – including the addition of a first floor extension to form one additional bedroom and en suite). Application withdrawn.</p> <p>ii) 17/03631/FUL Blue Lane, Goldicote. Permission granted for a steel framed farm building.</p> <p>iii) APP/J3720/D/17/3191210 Halfway House, Alderminster. Appeal allowed.</p>	
15	<p>Accounts for payments and finance matters: The following payments were approved and authorised:</p> <p>i) Clerk's salary (January) - £**</p> <p>ii) HMRC (income tax) - £**</p> <p>iii) MP Window Cleaners (cleaning of bus shelter) - £25.00</p> <p>iv) AED Locators (defibrillator pads) - £118.80</p> <p>v) Clerk's salary (February) - £**</p> <p>vi) HMRC (income tax) - £**</p> <p>vii) Cllr Karen Jones (printing expenses) - £79.50</p> <p>The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed the supporting documents.</p>	
16	<p>Correspondence: There was no correspondence to be noted.</p>	

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

The Annual Parish Meeting would take place at 6.30pm on the 16th May 2018.

18 **Close of meeting:**

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Date of next meeting Wednesday 16th May 2018

