

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 26th September 2019 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present: Chair; Cllr B Martin

Cllrs: Ms C Bradley, Ms B Brown, R Ashton, T Clarke, A G Cooper, G Lowe, E Mutter, C. Cllr P Tuthill, Dist. Cllr Ms S Rouse, Dist. Cllr P Whatley, D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden), G M Brewin (Clerk),

Apologies; Cllr A Crockford,

Visitors: one parishioner

Reports: County & District Councillors, Footpaths' Warden, Tree Warden, Village Hall, Community Shop.

C.Cllr P Tuthill noted the excellent report on the West Midlands Ambulance Service which was now also operating the NHS 111 service. He reviewed also the restructuring/re-staffing of the Fire Service which was still in progress.

Cllrs S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the ongoing update of the SWDP, an update on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and possible improvements in local bus services.

Dr D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden) presented a formal report which is attached. He requested approval for his attendance at a one-day Tree Assessment Course at the Royal Agricultural University (£140) which was agreed. His proposal to obtain hedging plants for the Playing Field was also agreed.

Cllr B Martin as vice-chair of the Village Shop Committee reported on the annual meeting of the shareholders of the community shop and the healthy trading position.

The formal meeting recommenced at 20.29 hrs

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

The apology for absence from Cllr A Crockford was accepted.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest in agenda items.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 25th July 2019

The minutes had been circulated in advance, were agreed as true record and signed by the Chair.

4.

Financial Matters;

- a) Approve Clerk's Expenses, July - Sept, £281.45 - Approved
- b) Approve payment, Lengthsman, July - August, £316.80 - Approved
- c) Approve payment, MCB Landscapes Playing Field Grass cutting July, £270.00 - Approved
- d) Approve payment, MCB Landscapes Playing Field maintenance Sept, £318.00 - Approved
- e) Approve payment, WCALC Cllr training, £60.00 and £40.00 - Approved
- f) Approve payment, MHDC Election Costs £72.00 - Approved

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters; -

- a) Note the Delegated Response to: Application Number 19/01011/HP
Location Address; Court Cottage, Lulsley, Knightwick, Worcester WR6 5QN
Proposal, Proposed rear extension - 'No Comment' returned - Noted
- b) Note the Delegated Response to: Application Number 19/01258/CLE
Location Address; Millham Lodge, Millham Lane, Alfrick, Worcester WR6 5HS
Proposal, Certificate of Lawfulness for an Existing use for decking, walkway and garage
'No Comment' returned. - Noted
- c) Review status - Clay Green Farm development and Chapel Meadow development.
Cllr A Cooper reported that several items had not been cleared at Chapel Meadow (now Churchfields) and the clerk was asked to press the developer to resolve these. The final details of the development at Clay Green Farm are still to be decided.
- d) Cllr Ms C Bradley to report on the Natural Networks and WCC/WWT project.
Cllr Ms C Bradley's report is attached. The Playing field proposals for wild-flower strips is on hold pending decisions on play areas etc. The Pound is to be reviewed in late Autumn. Further areas for wildlife enhancement are being considered together with the new MHDC Environment Policy Development Panel.

6.

Review Section 106 funding. Subsequent to the open meeting on 25th September

The clerk's notes on the meeting are attached.

It was agreed that this would best be handled by a separate committee of the council. It was agreed that this would hold an inaugural discussion on Thursday 10th October. It would be chaired by Cllr A Cooper and Cllrs Ms B Brown, R Ashton, T Clarke and B Martin would attend. All those who offered their services at the meeting the previous evening would be invited to attend. The committee would be constituted as a formal committee of the council.

7.

Highways and Footpaths

The clerk reported that working together with Cllr R Ashton the data processing software had been taken over and was operational. The first report would be on 4th November when the unit had completed a circuit of the six locations.

8.

Jubilee Spinney (was Plantation)

A working group, would meet on 3rd November The main problem at present is the need for access to clear debris and the clerk was asked to write to the landowner to secure access prior to the installation of a fence and gate to the adjoining field.

9.

Playing Field.

The clerk reported that he was waiting for a report on the condition of the cricket nets and subject to a reasonable cost would arrange for the repair/replacement of the netting. Following comments on drainage he would arrange for a contractor to dig out the ditches where necessary to ensure the best drainage possible.

10.

Clerk's Report -

- a) Actions from the previous meetings. Following discussions with Cllr T Clarke he proposed that Cllr Clarke take charge of the FaceBook Page maintenance and this was agreed.
- b) Correspondence received. All circulated to members.
- c) Items to be drawn to the council's attention -
He was still in the process of closing the 'old' bank account. The new internet access account was working and payments to regular suppliers were being paid by internet bank transfers.
With the retirement of Ms Linda Cotterill he was arranging for Duffy Regon & Co, who had taken over Ms Cotterill's business, to take over the council's annual accounts inspection subject to satisfactory arrangements being made.
He proposed an Autumn Litter Pick event similar to the one last Spring on Saturday 16th November with the council providing refreshments on completion. This was agreed.

11.

Items for the next meeting.

Refer to: 5)d, 6, above.

12.

Confirm the date of the next meeting;

Thursday 24th October 2019 at 19:30 hrs. in the Village Hall, Alfrick - Agreed.

The meeting closed at 21:35 hrs.

Minutes confirmed 24/10/2019

Tree Warden's report to Parish Council meeting 26th September 2019

I'm concerned about the recent felling of an ash tree at the village hall and the proposed felling of a copper beech in Alfrick churchyard. Advice about the condition of these trees has been given by the company that gets the business and which fells them. I suggest that assessment of tree safety and condition should be carried out by an independent third party.

Further to this, I am aware of a one day course at Cirencester run by the Royal Agricultural University which I would like permission to attend. It provides the knowledge to be able to identify a hazardous tree, determine the level of risk and decide on an appropriate course of action. This would not obviate the need to use an experienced arboriculturalist but would go part way to having the expertise "in house". Cost £140.

Following on from the Natural Networks (NN) report which you will all have seen, I intend to hold a working party at the Spinney on Sunday 3rd November. A notice should be in the October copy of The Sphere. The Spinney is very overgrown after tree felling a two or three years ago. Ground clearance should enable the PC and working group to plan further work based on the NN report.

The NN report recommended hedging around the playing field. I can obtain hedging plants free of charge from the Woodland Trust but there is a long delivery time. They are currently taking orders for March 2020 delivery but there will undoubtedly be another tranche for delivery in November 2020. One can get up to 420 plants which is sufficient for a double row hedge 85 – 100 m. A further application could be made at a later date. A decision on whether to plant a hedge needs to be made by the Parish Council in consultation with Martin Cooke. A hedge would provide a wildlife corridor and habitat, a shelter for meadow wildlife, a windbreak and a barrier to unofficial show entrants.

Report for PC meeting 26_09_19, biodiversity enhancement

1) Jubilee Spinney. A working party is being organised for Sunday November 3rd 2019, to be advertised in the 'Sphere', on parish notice boards etc. It is planned to make a start clearing scrub, nettles, brambles etc. to enable access into it to view the Spinney more easily. A small working group will then meet later in the month to decide what should be done, based on suggestions made in the recent WWT ecological assessment report. Because of the large amount of cuttings, brash etc that will need to be disposed of, it would be hugely beneficial to have a field gate in the fence on the meadow side of the Spinney. Carrying it all out by hand through the narrow access passageway, even with the use of a wheelbarrow, would be difficult, as would getting it all through the hole in the fence into the Scaiff's meadow. Derek or I will discuss with the Scaiffs the possibility of leaving the brash in a heap on the edge of the meadow, as a wildlife refuge, which will gradually rot down. The access passage needs some clearance of vegetation also; we suggest that the surface of paths throughout should be spread with a layer of wood chippings some of which can be obtained from 'chipping' woody brash, cleared saplings etc. Does anyone know of a chipper that can be borrowed or hired?

2) Playing field biodiversity/pollinator enhancement: wildflower strips, new hedgerows etc. On hold, to be reviewed after decisions have been made regarding the spending of s106 and other monies on projects involving the playing field. However if a hedge around it is to be planted, the whips need to be ordered from the Woodland Trust a.s.a.p.

3) Pound at Alfrick Pound. Continuing clearance and biodiversity enhancement. To be reviewed later in the autumn/winter when the vegetation has died down and any wildlife that clearance work might affect is in hibernation.

Correspondence

An e-mail was received from Claire Vaughan, MHDC. The MHDC's new Environment Policy Development Panel is currently looking at ways they can better support the district's native wildlife, including pollinators and beneficial insects. One of the schemes they are looking at is the development of a number of pollinator friendly spaces, such as wildflower meadows, flower rich hedgerows and formal planted areas.

To support this they're asking the PC to put forward any pieces of land that it may either own or be aware of, which might be suitable as a pollinator site, any size. The Panel will then use suggestions to identify potential sites and develop a programme to be rolled out across the district. They need suggestions by 9th October 2019. Included is a table to be completed.

- 1. Name/location of land:*
- 2. Size of land (approx.):*
- 3. Name of organisation which owns the land (if known):*
- 4. Existing land use (amenity grass/road verge/roundabout/churchyard/burial ground/village hall grounds/playing field/car park/rough ground etc):*
- 5. Your ideas for enhancing pollinator habitat on this site:*

As a start I have replied positively, asking for more details, type of support offered, and attaching the WWT Natural Networks report because this will provide all the information they need.

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Notes taken at the Open Meeting called by the Parish Council on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 19:00hrs in the Fox and Hounds Lulsley.

Some thirty five residents were present.

The meeting was chaired by the Chair of Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council, Cllr B Martin.

Opening the meeting the chair noted that this was not a formal parish council meeting but a consultation exercise for residents to identify possible uses for the 'section 106 funds' amounting to some £68,000 which were now available for local community use.

He asked the clerk to the council to set out the details of items for which these funds could be used. These are as follows.

The purchase, provision, improvement and/or maintenance (excluding maintenance which is simply the normal ongoing maintenance cost of existing facilities not attributable to the Development) of public open space, including sport and recreation facilities and/or equipment including equipped children's play, outdoor sports facilities, parks and gardens, semi/natural green space, amenity space, allotments, cemeteries and civic spaces within the Parish of Alfrick (whether for the avoidance of doubt, via the District council or otherwise) including fees and disbursements including those of any consultants commissioned in the design of any such facilities and/or equipment proposed (whether or not such facilities and equipment are thereafter installed or carried or out)

Following this members of the meeting gave comments on areas within the parish which could benefit from the use of these funds. These fall under the main headings below.

Tennis court. Upgrades, Enlargement, Incorporation of basketball court features.

Children's play area. Location to be defined but could be on the playing field or on land owned by the Village Hall committee to the rear of the Village Hall. It was noted that there is already a children's play area at the Fox and Hounds Lulsley which could be enhanced.

Outdoor exercise facilities which could be associated with the children's play area to allow the use by a wide age range.

Improvements to the playing field facilities. Better surface drainage. Permanent shelter.

Further improvements to the Village Hall to enhance its facilities.

More accessible toilet facilities at the playing field.

Bus shelter on the site of the old bus shelter.

Improvements to footpaths around the village.

Provision of Allotments.

The chair noted that in order to be effective it might be appropriate for a working group acting as a committee of the parish council to be established as was the case in the development of the Parish Plan some years ago. The parish council could then provide an oversight to the operation. He asked for volunteers who might be interested in joining such a group. (Subsequent to the close of the formal proceedings some eight residents offered their services) In closing the meeting the chair said that the parish council would discuss all of these suggestions at its meeting the following day.

It was suggested that a special newsletter could be used to keep residents informed of progress.

The meeting closed at 20:00 hrs.

G M Brewin - Clerk to the Parish Council.