

## **Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 19:30hrs on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Under the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, the meeting was held electronically using ZOOM software.

Councillors and members of the public were advised of access arrangements in advance.

*(The meeting was called for 19:30hrs but did not start until 19:55 due to a computer code malfunction on ZOOM software.)*

**Present:** Chair: Cllr B Martin

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

**Visitors:** Seven parishioners.

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

The visiting parishioners all raised the matter of the behaviour of four-wheel-drive vehicle enthusiasts on the un-maintained public road Sandy Lane. This has caused serious damage during the recent wet weather and the late night visits and associated noise are antisocial to say the least. Although the status and maintenance of this roadway is a matter for the county council it was agreed that this council would write to the county councillor with the portfolio for highways pressing the case strongly for traffic to be restricted on this roadway at least for a period of time to let the road surface recover and the repairs needed to be carried out.

Reports: County & District Councillors et al.

County Cllr, P Tuthill reported on the activities of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS, the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service, the progress on the Southern Link Road and answered questions on WCC activities.

District Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC during the epidemic emergency noting the delay on work for the next stage of the SWDP, progress in renovating the Splash Pool and the financial situation.

The Tree Warden had circulated his report; attached see appendix -a.

There were verbal reports from; Footpaths Warden, Community Shop and Knightwick Surgery Patient Participation Group.

### **The formal meeting commenced at 21.05**

1.

#### **Members' Apologies for absence;**

All members present.

2.

#### **Members' Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Declarations of Interest in agenda items.

3.

#### **Confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

The minutes which had been circulated in advance were agreed as true record

4.

#### **Financial Matters;**

a) Note the following payments made under the 'Delegated Actions' procedure since the last meeting.

25/11/20 Grimshaw – MUGA Survey, £498.00

25/11/20 MCB Landscapes P/Field Ditches, £1302.00

27/11/20 Suckley School – Donation, £535.00

11/12/20 R Wilks, Lengthsman, Oct. £201.60

11/01/21 R Wilks, Lengthsman, Oct. £230.40

11/01/21 Westcotec, VAS Batteries (Share with Suckley) £201.00

14/01/21 MCB Landscapes P/Field maint, £108.00

All noted.

b) Consider the budget and precept for 2021-22.

As Chair of the budget committee Cllr A Cooper reviewed the proposed budget (see appendix -b)

In the subsequent discussion it was noted that for several years expenditure had been budgeted to accumulate funds and we could allocate £10,000 from the general account towards the Children's Play Area Project.

Agreed.

It was agreed to keep the Precept at the same level to build up funds towards repairs and maintenance, inspections, etc with the planned new MUGA and Children's Play Area.

By asking for the same Precept, across more houses, there will be a small individual reduction this year.

The committee's proposal for a precept for 2021-22 of £13,000 was agreed.

- c) Note the banking assistance given to Lulsley Charities transferring £560.00 via BACS  
The clerk advised that to assist these charities without internet bank access he would use the council's account to distribute various amounts to agreed recipients. This was noted.  
**The council's bank balance is £30,985.58 at 20/01/21**

## 5.

### Planning and Environmental Matters; -

- a) Note Delegated Responses to:
- i) Application 20/01897/LB Church Cottage Lulsley Knightwick Worcester WR6 5QN  
Proposal; Repairs, refurbishment and minor alterations to the existing building  
*This council supports this application*
  - ii) Application 20/01838/HP Hop Pickers Cottage Lulsley Knightwick Worcester WR6 5QW  
Proposal; Conversion of garage to ancillary accommodation including external alterations  
*This council supports this application*
  - iii) Application 20/01928/FUL Clay Green Farm Folly Road Alfrick WR6 5HN  
Proposal; An all weather riding menage.  
*This council objects to this proposal – As for a previous application - This application is troublesome since it seems to relate to a built structure which does not have planning permission. Furthermore the access to the site will be via the road through the proposed development at Clay Green Farm, so far not commenced. It is doubtful that this will be adequate. Also there is no reference in the application to effluent run off which will surely result from commercial use of the hard standing. No ecological information has been provided.*

All noted.

- b) Review status – Clay Green Farm development. No new information at present as to a possible change of ownership.
- c) Cllr Ms C Bradley to report on the Alfrick Pound and Jubilee Spinney projects.  
Whilst Cllr Ms Bradley had nothing to report on the above projects she commented on the MHDC Zoom session on Monday evening on Community-led Housing and Carbon Reduction and asked the clerk to pass the notes from this on to members.

## 6.

### Committee on New Public Facilities.

The Committee Chair, Cllr A Cooper to report on the latest situation.

Since our last meeting the 106 committee have met 3 times.

On 15/12/20 it was agreed that we would:-

1. Accept the quote from Grimshaw's for the MUGA at £51944.00 and site it in the corner of the field where the cricket nets are.
2. Accept the quote from Grimshaw's for the footpath from the gate to the field by the VH down to the MUGA at a cost of £4088.00.
3. Both are plus VAT
4. Accept the quote from Active Garden for £14634.00 plus VAT and the play area to go onto the tennis court.

We would have a meeting in early January at which we would agree the application form and then get it submitted to MHDC in time for the January meeting. Copies would be issued by the clerk to various people to complete various sections, have them returned to him and he would collate all into the one application. This was done.

We then met on 12/1/21.

This was to consider the very kind offer from the Fox and Hounds to have the existing play equipment they have as they are going to remove it. A great deal of discussion took place about its suitability, and in the end Richard was asked to contact Active Gardens to see what they thought. We also had to call a halt to the application plans as the cricket nets became a discussion point. To allow us to continue, it was suggested that we alter the MUGA to incorporate a folding cricket net, or the existing one was moved to the other side of the field. Time was required to consult.

Also, some decided that the play area should really be on the playing field as well if we used any of the Fox and Hounds equipment.

I asked all to have a good hard look at the field and say if it really was suitable to take children onto for the play area.  
Meeting closed to consider.

The chair of the council then requested another meeting on the 19th January.

Re children's play equipment. Richard reported that Active Gardens did not recommend use of the Fox and Hounds equipment on the tennis court. Plus some design changes to it would be needed to make it compliant with regulations. We talked about it further, and decided to carry forward this aspect to a later meeting.

Regarding the MUGA, the cricket nets it was agreed could be removed and put on the other side of the field, thus allowing us to just submit the application to MHDC which had to be in by the lunchtime of the following day.

This was achieved.

Further meetings will be held to discuss the way forward on the play area and where it is sited.

7.

**Adopt a Parish Emergency Document** (circulated in advance)

Cllrs R Ashton and G Messervy-Whiting to introduce.

It was agreed to adopt this as a running document. Members were asked to submit information where missing and in conjunction with the clerk it would be published on the council's website and updated as and when new information was available.

8.

**Highways and Footpaths.** Clerk to report.

With the current high rainfall it was essential to keep roadway drains clear and he asked members to tell him where action was needed. He noted that there were a number of footpaths where signs and stiles were broken and asked members to provide information as they walked these paths. Although the WCC Rights-of-Way office was limited as to what could be done it was necessary to keep information on these issues available.

9.

**Clerk's Report -**

- a) Draft Newsletter proposal: This had been held back pending the s106 submission (6 above). He proposed to circulate a draft by the end of January and publish by 7<sup>th</sup> February.
- b) Actions from the previous meeting: These had all been completed.
- c) Correspondence received: A request had been received for the re-instatement of the Alfrick Bus Shelter of times past. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

10.

**Items for the next meeting.**

Alfrick Pound Bus Shelter, Street furniture repairs, Alfrick Bus Shelter.

11.

**Confirm the date of the next meeting;**

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 19:30 hrs. on ZOOM - confirmed.

The meeting closed at 21:55 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....

## Tree Warden's report to Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council meeting

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Since the last meeting there has been only one working party because of Covid restrictions. That was on 12<sup>th</sup> December when 14 folk turned out to continue work in the spinney and to complete the hedge planting around the playing field although there are some hedge plants that still require woodchip mulching of which we have a good supply.

On 15th December Geoffrey Brewin, Sarah Rouse and I met Chris Lewis Farley (Landscape Officer MHDC) at the spinney to discuss what work would be allowed there. We had already had guidance from the Natural Networks report and from the arboriculturalist as to how best to manage this small site. We appeared to come to an agreement as to which trees could be removed and I have submitted a planning application as all trees there have TPOs.

The large ash tree in the corner of the playing field by the container has had a reprieve. The Hall committee has been persuaded that it requires only the dead branches to be removed.

Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council  
Income and Expenditure Proposals 2021 – 2022.

<b>Income</b>	<b>2020 – 21</b>	<b>2021 – 22</b>
Precept	13000.00	13000.00
Sundry Inc	200.00	200.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>13200.00</b>	<b>13200.00</b>

**Account Payments**

Audit	50.00	75.00
Clerks Expenses	1400.00	1400.00
Clerks Salary	4250.00	4250.00
Education	500.00	500.00
Footpaths	250.00	250.00
Insurance	750.00	750.00
Jubilee Spinney	250.00	250.00
Meeting Expenses	250.00	250.00
Parish Lengthsman	1000.00	500.00
Parish Tree Warden	150.00	150.00
Playing Field Maintenance	2000.00	1500.00
Subscription	400.00	400.00
War Memorial	500.00	500.00
Litter and General Tidy Up	250.00	250.00
Alfrick Pound	250.00	250.00
MUGA/Play Area	0.00	1725.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>13700.00</b>	<b>13000.00</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-500.00</b>	<b>+200.00</b>

There is an eventual forecast Surplus for 2020 – 21 of £716 v Actual Spend.

It was agreed that we would at the very least try and keep the Precept at the same level, but also start to put in place a sum of money towards repairs and maintenance, inspections, etc with the hoped for new MUGA and Children's Play Area.

By asking for the same Precept, across more houses, everyone will actually end up with a small saving this year.

Thank you Geoffrey, for maintaining high standards with the book keeping.