

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 19:30hrs on Thursday 24th September 2020.

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.

Present: Chair; Cllr B Martin

Cllrs: Ms C Bradley, R Ashton, T Clarke, A G Cooper, A Crockford, E Mutter.

C. Cllr P Tuthill, Dist. Cllrs Ms S Rouse, P Whatley, D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden), G M Brewin (Clerk)

Apologies; G Lowe.

Visitors: none

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting; None

Reports: County & District Councillors,

County Cllr, P Tuthill reported on the activities of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS, the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service 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 that in the area the rate of infection was considerably below the national average.

Verbal reports from; Tree Warden – report attached see appendix -a, and Community Shop.

The formal meeting commenced at 20.00

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

The apology for absence from Cllr G Lowe was accepted.

a) Formal co-option to fill the vacancy on the council declared at the last meeting on 23/7/20

At 20:00 the first applicant, Ms B Prodger joined the meeting, described her interests in joining the council and responded to members' questions. At 20:10 the second applicant Mr G Messervy-Whiting did likewise.

At 20:20 the applicants having left the meeting – the council discussed whom to co-opt. The general view was that both candidates offered interesting and useful contributions and there was a substantial discussion before the Chair called for a vote and Mr G Messervy-Whiting was confirmed as the successful candidate.

The council asked the clerk to complete the confirmation and to offer the council's thanks to Ms Prodger for her contribution to the co-option process.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest in agenda items.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the last monthly meeting held on 23/07/2020 (circulated in advance)

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

4.

Financial Matters;

a) The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has announced new pay scales for 2020-21 to be implemented from 1 April 2020.

Note – Clerk's salary changes to £13.51/hr = £351.26/month. - Agreed.

b) Approve the Clerk's expenses; April – September 2020 - £575.06 - Agreed.

d) Note the following payments made by the clerk under the 'Delegated Actions' procedure since the last meeting.

20/07/20 G M Brewin 'ZOOM' subscription - £143.58

20/07/20 G M Brewin 'S/Trent Search Costs - £157.20 inc vat

05/08/20 R Wilks, Lengthsman £201.60 inc vat

08/09/20 R Wilks, Lengthsman £216.00 inc vat

The council's bank balance is £31,084.04 at 16/9/2020

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters; -

- a) Consider a response to; Application Number 20/01203/FUL, Hop Pickers Cottage, Lulsley Knightwick Worcester WR6 5Q. Proposal, Construction of a double garage and stables with storage and removal of Condition 3 on granted Planning Permission 03/01228/FUL
It was agreed to support this application.
- b) Note the delegated response to Application Number; 20/00572/FUL Land At (Os 7504 5325) Clay Green Farm Folly Road Alfrick, Proposal for an all weather riding menage.
Response - *'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. Altogether concerning!'*
- e) Review status – Clay Green Farm development. It was noted that the site was being advertised for sale.
- f) Cllr Ms C Bradley to report on the Alfrick Pound and Jubilee Spinney projects and environmental issues.
Autumn working parties at both locations would start in October but would be with limited numbers to comply with the emergency regulations.

6.

Committee on New Public Facilities.

The Committee Chair, Cllr A Cooper reported on the committee's proposals;

For the full report see appendix – b Key points;

Phase 1 – The MUGA and a Toddler Play Area and – if funds allow the exercise footpath around the field.

We now have three quotations for the work on the MUGA

Creative play £61244, Wicksteed £61549, Grimshaw £50450 – subject to a survey

We propose that Grimshaw is given the contract subject to a final survey and some small additional costs.

Toddler area, we have four quotes;

Play Date £17481, Wicksteed £19988, Creative Play £12069 and Active Garden £15333.

We are leaning towards making Active Garden the contractor for this work.

Application to MHDC for funds -

Applications are reviewed every four months and the next review will be January. The total sum available is £68521

Exercise footpath round the playing field – costs should be available at the next meeting.

Phase 2 – The outdoor exercise equipment will require additional fundraising and help and advice will be appreciated.

We are preparing a letter and photographs to go to every resident in the parish.

7.

Highways and Footpaths. Clerk to report.

He would pass on a request for alluvial gravel to be cleared from road drains at Alfrick Pound.

The VAS radar traffic speed meter was now back in action with new batteries.

8.

Playing Field. Clerk to report.

Work on ditches and drainage would begin in the first days of October.

9.

Clerk's Report -

- a) Actions from the previous meeting. - Completed.
- b) Correspondence received. - all circulated via email.
- c) Lulsley Broadband Project – The increased funding from WCC should make this a viable project. However we are still waiting for Openreach to complete the costing of the project.

10.

Items for the next meeting.

5 -e) -f) and 6 above.

11.

Confirm the date of the next meeting;

Thursday 22nd October 2020 at 19:30 hrs. on ZOOM - confirmed.

The meeting closed at 21:51 hrs.

Minutes confirmed

appendix -a

Tree Warden's Report

I will be working with Jim Unwin certified arboriculturalist when he visits to assess the safety and health of the trees in the plantation on 13th October. I will also get him to survey the few trees around the playing field. There is an ash close to the tarmac triangle about which I have concerns. Thanks to the clerk for organising this.

I hope to hold working parties to plant the hedge around the playing field in November. Wade Muggleton at WCC has sent me the most recent risk assessments (RAs) for working parties which include Covid 19 aspects. When organising working parties we will be guided by these RAs. However, it is not planned to widely publicise these events as too many volunteers would be an embarrassment just now. The planting activity requires that the ditch maintenance be carried out first.

appendix -b

Public Facilities in Alfrick Committee Report

The Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

New Public Facilities in Alfrick (Section 106 funding)

We held zoom-based meeting on the 21st of September. At that meeting two members resigned but we have co-opted a new member Dawn Ratcliffe

*We now recommend to the council that we split the project into two phases
Phase 1 - The MUGA and a Toddler Play Area and – if funds allow the exercise path around the field. Phase 2 - The exercise equipment and anything else. We also recommend that we proceed with phase 1 as soon as possible.*

*We now have three quotations for the work on the MUGA
Creative play £61244, Wicksteed £61549, Grimshaw £50450 - subject to a survey
We propose that Grimshaw is given the contract subject to a final survey and some small additional costs.*

*Toddler area, we have four quotes;
Play Date £17481, Wicksteed £19988, Creative Play £1206 and Active Garden £15333.
We are leaning towards making Active Garden the contractor for this work. They look very appealing and are a local company. Richard Aston and Dawn Ratcliffe will be visiting some of their projects.*

We have today had contact from the Village Hall with their proposed lease. This has to be reviewed in detail before we can take the matter further.

Application to MHDC for funds -

Applications are reviewed every four months and the next review will be January. I have had a good conversation with Mark Hammond this afternoon and he has advised that provided we do the application online he will look at it in advance and resolve any conflicts before it is reviewed. The total sum available is £68521

Exercise path round the playing field

We are now looking for a local ground work contractor and have two who may be able to do this work. Costs should be available at the next meeting.

Phase 2

The outdoor equipment will require additional fundraising and help and advice will be appreciated.

We are preparing a letter and photographs to go to every resident in the parish. This is to replace the presentation that we hoped to have over the weekend of the 3rd of October which has now been cancelled because of the pandemic. We shall indicate in the letter that we are looking for confirmation and support for these projects.

A G Cooper 24/9/20