

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

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 19:30hrs on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 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.

**Present:** Chair: Cllr B Martin

Cllrs: Ms C Bradley, R Ashton, T Clarke, 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).

Apologies; none. Visitors: none.

**Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;** None

### **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, and answered questions on WCC activities.

The Chair noted that this would be Cllr Tuthill's last meeting and on behalf of the Council he offered his appreciation for the work he had done for the parish and expressed the council's best wishes for the future.

District Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC during the epidemic emergency noting the progress of regeneration planning and the financial situation.

The Tree Warden's report is attached as appendix -a, The Community Shop report is attached as appendix -b

There was a verbal report from Knightwick Surgery Patient Participation Group. It was noted that Cradley Surgery was under a different grouping and could not be included.

The formal meeting commenced at 19:55hrs

## **AGENDA**

### **1.**

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

There were no apologies for absence.

### **1. a) Formal co-option to fill the vacancy on the council declared at the meeting on 25/2/21**

At 20:00 the first applicant, Mr N Catlow described his interests in joining the council and responded to members' questions. At 20:05 the second applicant Mr T Hinton, and at 20:10 the third applicant Ms B Prodder did likewise.

At 20:15 the applicants having left the meeting – the council discussed whom to co-opt. There was a substantial discussion before the Chair called for a vote and Mr N Catlow was confirmed unanimously as the successful candidate.

### **2.**

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

There were no declaration of interest in agenda items.

### **3.**

#### **Confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (circulated in advance)**

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

### **4.**

#### **Financial Matters;**

a) Approve the Council's Accounts 2020-21 - Circulated in advance. - Approved

b) Approve the Council's Exemption Certificate - (Page 3 Annual Return) Circulated in advance. - Approved

c) Approve the formal Annual Governance Statement - (Page 5 Annual Return) Circulated in advance. - Approved

d) Approve the formal Annual Statement of Accounts - (Page 6 Annual Return) Circulated in advance. - Approved

e) Approve payment to WCALC – Subscription 2021-2 £396.40+vat - £467.30 - Approved

f) Consider a donation to Alfrick & Lulsley Cricket Club – Cllr E Mutter to introduce.

Cllr Mutter described the re-establishment of the Alfrick & Lulsley Cricket Club including its formal sporting links to the cricketing scene. He outlined the start-up costs involved indicating that as the council was planning to relocate the existing cricket nets on the playing field the cost of this could be set against the club's costs.

As these had arrived too late for the agenda and with the possibility of S106 support it was agreed to discuss this at the NPFfA committee on 27<sup>th</sup> April before returning to it at the next meeting.

The Chair proposed that in principle the council would provide financial support to the Cricket Club, subject to detailed discussions; as it would do for any other local organisation seeking help. This was agreed.

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

31/03/21 R Wilks - Lengthsman £115.20 inc vat. - Noted

31/03/21 G M Brewin - Expenses – 6 months £544.74 – Noted

**5.**

**Planning and Environmental Matters;**

- a) Review status – Clay Green Farm development. There was no formal news but it was expected that matters were in hand to begin work in the near future.
- b) Cllr Ms C Bradley to report on the Alfrick Pound and Jubilee Spinney projects and environmental issues. Cllr Bradley requested that the summer mowing of the playing field retains a one-metre boundary as last year and this was agreed.

**6.**

**Committee on New Public Facilities and Community Engagement.**

Cllr R Ashton to report on the latest meeting.

The committee met on 30/3/21 and were informed that Dawn Ratcliffe had resigned. She was thanked for her contributions to the project.

Following the conclusion from the previous meeting that a MUGA was now not a viable proposition, we decided to investigate other options. A plan of the playing field showing cricket and football pitches and a small play area was reviewed. It was noted that to achieve even this required the removal of the 'skateboard' area and the old pavilion foundations at some cost. There was a lengthy discussion before it was agreed that this represented the best that could be achieved within the field limits. The matter of a young-children's play area by the Village Shop was raised. It was agreed that this should be reconsidered with the Village Hall committee. The lack of off-road cycling facilities in the area was noted. These could not be considered without additional land. It was agreed that a search would start to identify possible areas of land which could be used for this and other facilities.

It was agreed that the situation was too fluid to justify a full report to the parish. This would be considered at the next meeting.

Cllr. R Ashton will arrange discussions with the Village Hall committee on a young-children's play area by the Village Shop, Cllr E Mutter would co-ordinate a land search. Cllr E Mutter said the Cricket Club would present proposals for removable pitch and nets. Cllrs B Martin and R Ashton attended the Village Hall committee meeting on 12th April to propose a play area on the grass between the shop and the Village Hall. Subsequently this was rejected by the VHC. The next meeting of the committee would be on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**At 21:28hrs citing S.O.3(v) Cllr E Mutter proposed that the meeting be extended to complete agenda items. Agreed**

**7.**

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

The VAS was moved to Greswolde, Lulsley on 29/4 and remained there for three weeks. We will examine the resulting data to see if this is a more effective location.

The blockage of the footpath across the field behind Chapel Meadow has been reported to the landowner and a reply was expected by the month-end.

**8.**

**Clerk's Report -**

- a) Correspondence received. - All distributed via email
- b) Actions from the previous meeting. - All completed
- c) It was taking longer than expected to obtain competitive quotations for the work and he would report further at the May meeting.

**9.**

**Items for the next meeting**

- a) Committee on New Public Facilities and Community Engagement.
- b) War Memorial cleaning.

**10.**

**Confirm the date of the next meeting: May 27th 2021 - Confirmed.**

The clerk noted that as the government regulations relating to electronic meetings ran out on 6<sup>th</sup> May he had made arrangements for the council to use the main hall of the Village Hall with separate tables to meet the legal requirements for 'social distancing'

This will be the Annual Meeting of the Council and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 19:30. viz;

*1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council*

*2. Reports: a) County and District Councillors b) Chairman of the Parish Council*

*3. Annual Statement of Accounts of the Parish Council and Parish Charities.*

The meeting closed at 21:50 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....