

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 25th November 2021 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present: Cllr B Martin, Chair, Cllrs: Ms C Bradley, R Ashton, T Clarke, A Crockford, G Lowe, D.Cllr Ms S Rouse. D.Cllr P Whatley, D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden), G M Brewin (Clerk), Apologies; C.Cllr Ms K Hanks, Cllrs N Catlow, G Messervy-Whiting, E Mutter, Visitors: One

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

The matter of the status of Sandy Lane was discussed. The clerk was asked to keep our County Councillor apprised of developments on this.

Reports: County & District Councillors, Footpaths' Warden, Tree Warden, Village Hall, Community Shop, Knightwick Surgery Patient Participation Group

In sending her apology for absence C.Cllr Ms K Hanks had sent her report to the clerk who read it to the council. see appendix -a

District Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC noting the progress of regeneration planning, the financial situation and other local matters.

Knightwick Surgery Patient Participation Group; In sending his apology for absence Cllr G Messervy-Whiting had sent his report to the clerk who read it to the council. see appendix -a

The Tree Warden reported that he had decided to resign after some fourteen years in the post.

There were verbal reports from the Footpaths' Warden, and the Community Shop.

The formal meeting commenced at 20:08

AGENDA

1.

Declaration of a vacancy on the council

The Chair advised that he had received the resignation of Cllr C Bradley. The council noted her resignation and asked the clerk to put in process the co-option of a replacement.

Members present expressed their thanks to her for her contribution to the life of the village.

The council now wishes to co-opt a parishioner to fill the vacancy left by Cllr Bradley's resignation.

It is hoped that a candidate for co-option will come forward by the next meeting on 28th January. Those interested in joining the council are asked to contact the clerk to the council for details.

Members' Apologies for absence;

The apologies from Cllrs. N Catlow, G Messervy-Whiting and E Mutter, were accepted.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

The clerk reminded members of the need to keep their Declarations of Interest up-to-date.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 28th October 2021 (circulated in advance)

These were agreed as a true record and signed by the chair.

4.

Financial Matters;

- a) Note the following payments made under the 'Delegated Actions' procedure since the last meeting.
3/11/21 - Alfrick Village Hall, Meeting exp.£115.50 - Noted
3/11/21 - R Wilks, Lengthsman, Sept & Oct, £518.40 inc vat. - Noted
- b) Note the Financial Statement of the year to end November. (circulated in advance) and establish a committee to consider the budget and precept for 2022-3 to report at the next meeting.
This was noted; the Chair would convene a committee after consulting those absent from the meeting.
- c) Note - the council's bank balance is £33,990.36 at 31/10/21 - Noted

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters;

- a) Clay Green Farm development. Cllrs A Crockford and B Martin to report.
There was considerable activity at the site but no outstanding matters requiring the council's attention.
- b) Cllr Ms C Bradley to report on Alfrick Pound and Jubilee Spinney and other environmental issues. No report.
- c) The Jubilee Spinney – consider a complaint from Mr Crook. (Chair to report)

The Chair had received a long letter from Mr R Crook of Rosewood, Knightwick Road, complaining of the actions of the council's environment working party in the unauthorised and inappropriate spreading of wood-chippings along his pathway from the Knightwick Road to the Jubilee Spinney.

It was agreed that this should not have happened and the council would unreservedly apologise for the actions of its environmental working party in not seeking prior permission for this. The clerk was asked to draft a suitable response to be agreed with the Chair.

It was also agreed that the gate between the Jubilee Spinney and adjacent field would be locked to discourage unauthorised use of the pathway which was for access to the Spinney only.

6.

New Public Facilities

- a) Note; the application for Section 106 Funds for the New Play Area project has been confirmed. - Noted
- b) Confirm the order with Kompan for £60,403.00 subject to the conclusion of legal details with MHDC.
It was agreed that in the absence of a formal meeting of the council in December the clerk in conjunction with Cllr R Ashton would place an order with Kompan once the legal formalities with MHDC were complete.

7.

The Platinum Jubilee – The Queen's Green Canopy

Consider a response to the Lord-Lieutenant of Worcestershire's letter. (carried over from the last meeting)

As Ms C Bradley was no longer a member of the council item 5 (c) from the previous meeting could not proceed.

However the clerk was asked to take up the suggestions from the previous meeting and investigate what could be done.

8.

Clerk's Report -

- a) Correspondence received. He had received an email asking if there are any plans to improve the mobile phone coverage in and around Alfrick and Alfrick Pound. It was pointed out that at the village hall, most mobile phones have no signal at all. This is very serious when it comes to using the defibrillator as one needs to call 999 to get the code to unlock it. Any delay to this process could, quite literally, be fatal.
He proposed that the council should take up the matter of poor mobile phone coverage and endeavour to have improvements made. Agreed
- b) Actions from the previous meeting.
 - i) War Memorial cleaning: He had that day received Listed Building Consent for this and would be working with the preferred contractor to get this done.
 - ii) New VAS unit: County Councillor Ms K Hanks has offered £1500 towards the cost of a new VAS device (c£3000) and he proposed to proceed towards the purchase of one for use within the parish. This was agreed subject to the financial limits being observed.
 - iii) New Bus Shelter: He was still waiting for a decision on the planning requirements for this.

9.

Items for the next meeting

Budget and precept for 2022-3, The future of the Jubilee Spinney, Decision on a Bus Shelter, Co-option to fill a vacancy on the council. Appoint a new Parish Tree Warden.

10.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: January 27th 2022.

Confirmed.

The meeting closed at 21:25 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....

28/01/2022