

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, 27th January 2022 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

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

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. see appendix -a
District Cllr Ms S Rouse advised members of Cllr P Whatley's recent accident and the clerk was asked to send him the council's best wishes for a speedy recovery. She reported on the activities of the MHDC noting the progress of regeneration planning, the financial situation and other local matters.

The Tree Warden reported that in discussion with the landowner he would be arranging the planting of some eight fruit trees at Clay Green to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

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

The formal meeting commenced at 19:54hrs

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

The apologies from Cllrs. A Crockford and G Messervy-Whiting were accepted.

1. a)

Formal co-option to fill the vacancy on the council

Members had copies of the two applications. The two candidates gave brief personal presentations and answered questions. After the applicants had left the meeting the council discussed whom to co-opt.

On a proposal by the Chair it was agreed to co-opt Ms Barbara Prodger to fill the vacancy.

The clerk was asked to advise Ms Prodger and complete the formal procedure.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 25th November 2021 (circulated in advance)

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

4.

Financial Matters;

- a) Decide the precept for 2022-3 The Chair to present the proposals of the review committee.
Cllr Martin set out the points the committee had reviewed with reference to the budget proposals submitted to the November meeting. He proposed an increase in the precept to £13,500 (+£500) to meet increased costs in the year ahead. This was agreed.
- b) Note the following payments made under the 'Delegated Actions' procedure since the last meeting.
15/12/21 Stocksigns Ltd, New VAS, £2707.50 +vat - Noted
20/12/21 Worcester Containers, Storage container, remove old & install new, £200.00 +vat - Noted
21/12/21 Dr R Gasper. Storage container purchase, £1500.00 - Noted
24/12/21 P Salter War Memorial Maintenance, £175.00 - Noted
- c) Note - the council's bank balance is £88249.08 at 31/12/21 - Noted

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters;

- a) Clay Green Farm development. Cllrs A Crockford and B Martin to report.
Building work appeared to be in line with the planned completion of the first houses in the next month.

- b) Note the clerk's 'Delegated Actions' responses to the following planning applications.
- i Application No: 21/01896/FUL Location: The Old Bakery, Alfrick Pound, Alfrick, WR6 5EZ
Proposal: Demolish existing shelter to erect new hay barn and storage and new hardstanding via existing access track.
'This council has no objection to this application.' - Noted
 - ii Application No: 21/02081/RM Location: Land at (OS 7489 5333) Folly Road Alfrick
Proposal: Erection of 2no. dwelling houses (amendments to 14/00950/OUT and 17/00188) variation of Condition 2
'This council has no objection to this application.' - Noted

6.

New Public Facilities; Children's Play Area.

Cllr Ashton reported that Kompan expected to be on-site on 14th March. Fencing of the ditch was in hand.

7.

Parish Boundaries Review. (Information circulated in advance)

The Boundary Commission has now published its draft proposals for new wards, to be used in elections from 2023 onwards. A key item is Alfrick to be separated from Lulsley for voting and representation purposes.

The Chair proposed that the alternative proposal made by our independent district councillors for an extended two-councillor ward combining today's Alfrick & Leigh ward with Rushwick, ensuring that no single settlement predominates and all current parish council arrangements are respected, is agreed and presented to the Boundaries Commission. The clerk was asked to draw up a formal response for the next meeting on 24th February.

9.

Approve the council's Winter Newsletter (circulated in advance)

With an amendment to the allocation of future costs, this was agreed. The clerk indicated that he would distribute it during the first weekend in February

10.

Shared Facilities – Cll G Messervy-Whiting to report

In sending his apology for absence Cllr Messervy-Whiting included a brief report – see appendix b

11.

Clerk's Report -

- a) Correspondence received. None outstanding.
- b) Actions from the previous meeting.
 - i) War Memorial cleaning, An order had been placed with the preferred contractor for the work to be done after the Winter.
 - ii) New VAS unit, This has been on trial at Lulsley with promising results but some reliability issues remain to be resolved with the supplier.
 - iii) New Bus Shelter. Confirmation that planning approval is not requires has been received. Local manufacturers will be asked for quotations to supply a traditional wooden shelter. Details available at the next meeting.

12.

Items for the next meeting

- a) The future of the Jubilee Plantation and Alfrick Pound.
- b) Proposed Bus Shelter on The Green
- c) Outstanding issues with Suckley PC on the future use of the 'old' VAS.

13.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: February 24th 2022 - Agreed.

The meeting closed at 21:25 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....

24/02/2022

Worcestershire County Councillor Karen Hanks Report to Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council 25 January 2022

Draft Budget 2022/23:

The draft budget was presented the Cabinet Meeting on 6th January 2022. The recommendation to go to full Council Meeting on 17th February is that there will be a 1% Adult Social Care Levy, a 2% Adult Social Care Levy that was carried forward from 2021/22 and an increase in the Council Tax Precept of 0.94%. So, a total increase of 3.94% and with Council Tax in the lowest quartile of similar councils nationally.

Feedback re. concerns from resident surveys have resulted in the following:

Uplift in the funding for Parish Lengthsman

Increase in the number of Highway Liaison Officers

Extending Highways and Transport Control Response contact hours to 7am-7pm on weekdays.

Investment of £6,000,000 in completing the full transition to LED street lighting in Worcestershire.

The Budget will be presented at Full Council Meeting on 17th February 2022.

The full draft budget can be accessed on the Worcestershire County Council Website under Cabinet Meetings Section.

Highways:

I have submitted a formal application for a new "Public Right of Way" in the form of a 'Restricted Byway' for the centre section of Sandy Lane.

We received letters of support from all of the surrounding residents, and we are very grateful to Peter Whatley and Geoffrey Brewin for providing support on behalf of the District and Parish Councils.

I am extremely supportive of this cause and sympathetic to the long-term issues suffered by residents .

Broadband:

Residents can check the status of the current provision in the Alfrick and Lulsley Parish on our website:

<https://www.superfastworcestershire.com/#where-when> Since the last update, the Lulsley Community project has gone live and the residents can now benefit from an improved service there.

I understand the first part of the Crews Hill is progressing (where residents pledged their Universal Service Obligation vouchers). The 2nd part of that scheme is still being finalised with Openreach.

Mobile signal problems:

With regard to the mobile signal problems – we have checked the planning portals and the mobile mast database, and there are proposed improvement works planned for Alfrick and the surrounding area.

The mobile phone signal is dependent on the infrastructure of the provider – any feedback from residents on their customer experience would be useful.

WCC are trying to find a way to enter dialogue with a provider/s who may be able to arrange a mast. In order to progress this, it would be useful to agree a few site options for masts, taking into consideration the need for the defibrillator.

Members Discretionary Budget:

It has been agreed to fund the VAS from my discretionary funds with final payment expected in April.

Karen Hanks 25 January 2022

appendix -b

Please accept my apologies but I now have be absent this evening for personal reasons.

Defibrillator- Recommend that the Alfrick stakeholders arrange for the unit to be modified to be unlocked and alarmed, as per the Suckley unit (connect with Anne Lewis' input dated 11 Jan 22)

HM's Platinum Jubilee

Lighting of the Beacon Chain- recommend no action by our Parish- Suckley is now registered on the official beacon website as the local private beacon (i.e. no government insurance, participants at own risk). Lighting to be at 9.15pm at the Hammonds' farm on Thursday 2nd June

Big Street Party- not aware of any proposals as yet

Improving local wifi and mobile signals- I understand that Village Hall Committee member Norman MacLeod is looking into this; I have contacted him.

Graham Messervy Whiting.