

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, Thursday, 24th February 2022 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present: Cllr B Martin, Chair,

Cllrs: Ms B Proddger, R Ashton, N Catlow, T Clarke, A Crockford, G Lowe, G Messervy-Whiting, E Mutter.

C.Cllr Ms K Hanks, D.Cllr Ms S Rouse, D.Cllr P Whatley, G M Brewin (Clerk),

Visitors: Three Parishioners

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

A parishioner gave a presentation on the use of unclassified roads by motorcyclists and the problems of managing damage and anti social behavior relating to Sandy Lane. The clerk was asked discuss this with our County Councillor and District Councillors to see if a new approach could be made.

Another parishioner questioned the council on its approach to the Boundary Commission's proposals for splitting Lulsley from Alfrick for District Council representation..

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

C.Cllr Ms K Hanks reported on the County Council budget, the Jubilee Celebrations planned and opportunities for young people.

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

The formal meeting commenced at 20:28hrs

In opening the meeting the Chair Cllr B Martin welcomed Ms B Proddger to her first meeting following her co-ption on Jan 27th.

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

All members were 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 27th January 2022 (circulated in advance)

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

4.

Financial Matters;

- a) Note – the order for the fencing of the ditch by the play area on the playing field has been placed with Knightwick Fencing for £2026. This expense is part of the council's commitment to spend £6500 as part of the S106 funding agreement for the children's play area. - Noted
- b) Confirm the council's external auditor for the year 2021/22 as Duffy Regan Accountants - Confirmed
- c) Note - the council's bank balance is £87054.28 at 31/1/22 - Noted

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters;

- a) Clay Green Farm development. Cllrs A Crockford and B Martin to report.
A new site manager had been appointed. There were problems associated with the parking of contractors' vehicles at the Village Hall and more could occur during the forthcoming road closure for water main work.
- b) Discuss and respond to: Application Number: 21/01291/HP, Location Address; Mandalay, Stocks Road, Alfrick, WR6 5HD Proposal; Erection of two-storey extension.
After a discussion it was agreed that the council had no objection to this application.
- c) Discuss and respond to: Application Number : M22/00212/FUL Location: Millham Farm, Millham Lane, Alfrick, WR6 5HS, Proposal: Conversion of a renovated barn/outbuilding into ancillary living accommodation for the host dwelling Millham Farm
After a discussion it was agreed that the council had no objection to this application.

6.

New Public Facilities; Children's Play Area.

Cllr R Ashton to report: The fencing of the ditch and road boundary was underway. The remaining concrete from the cricket nets area would be removed by the end of the month. A site meeting with the contractor was planned for the fourth of March and construction would begin ten days later.

7.

Parish Boundaries Review.

Confirm the Chair's proposal that the Boundaries Commission is asked to revise its draft proposal and maintain the integrity of the joint parish of Alfrick and Lulsley. (The full text of the response has been circulated in advance, see appendix -a).

This was agreed unanimously.

8.

The future of the Jubilee Plantation and Alfrick Pound.

Cllr T Clarke to propose points for discussion and review. There was a wide-ranging discussion on the future of the plantation particularly in this jubilee year. It was agreed to continue this at the next meeting and in the meanwhile the clerk was asked to write to the owners of properties that bordered the plantation asking for their views. On the matter of the Pound the clerk noted that reference to the 1904 OS Map showed that what the council had been maintaining for many years was not in fact the Pound but extended highway verge. It was thought that the actual Pound was a small walled area shown in Field 265 on the map. (see appendix -b) The clerk was asked to investigate the titles to this area and report to the next meeting.

9.

New Bus Shelter.

Clerk to report on costs etc. The best quotation so far was for £5450 with an installation cost of £2300. This would be guaranteed against fire and vandalism for five years. Unfortunately it could not be paid for from S106 funds. The clerk was asked to continue the search with a view to consulting the parish in the next Newsletter.

10.

Clerk's Report -

- a) Correspondence received. A letter had been received regarding access to the Jubilee Plantation. No action was required.
- b) Actions from the previous meeting. All completed.
- c) Winter Newsletter responses to;
 - i) New Tree Warden, - The council felt it would be inappropriate for the Tree Warden to extend his tenure probably into the next year and he should be able to hand over the Jubilee Project of tree planting to his successor. The clerk was asked to continue with the arrangements to appoint a new Tree Warden.
 - ii) Boundary Commission Report, This had been covered in item 7 above.
 - iii) Mobile phone coverage. Only four residents had contacted the clerk on this. He proposed to keep a 'watching brief' only.
 - iv) New VAS unit. This had been returned to the manufacturer to resolve an inherent fault. It was expected to be returned in a few days and would be checked again at the Lulsley location. He had proposed to Suckley PC – (the joint owners with Alfrick and Lulsley) that the residual value of the present unit was c£500. If Suckley PC decided to retain it they could buy-out this council's share. Alternatively he would offer it for sale to WCALC members.

11.

Items for the next meeting

see 6, 8,9 and 10 c) i)

12.

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

The meeting closed at 21:28 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....

24/03/2022

appendix -a

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Response to Boundary Commission proposals 2022

Current Situation at February 2022

Electorate: Alfrick 467, Lulsley 117, Properties: Alfrick 256, Lulsley 66.

Civil Parish: 1st Parish Meetings, 1893 Parishes Councils combined, 1974

Ecclesiastical Parish: Lulsley Church closed 1968 - The parish of St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick and Lulsley established 1968. Following several reorganisations the Parishes of Alfrick with Lulsley, Leigh and Bransford, Leigh Sinton and Suckley, exist as joint parish in the Church of England

Discussion

Representation and Administration

For nearly half a century the civil affairs of Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council have been indistinguishably linked.

Under the draft proposals, how is communication with the next administrative tier, MHDC, to be accomplished?

Lulsley items – very few completely relating to Lulsley would be passed to the District Councillor for the new Martley ward. Others to the District Councillor for the new Leigh ward. Who will deal with 'joint' issues?

Geographical Situation

Although a cursory glance at a map shows Lulsley with a boundary onto Doddenham and Broadwas parishes there is no direct connection as the boundary is the river Teme. (The only crossing is via the C2065 to Knightwick, and A44 to Doddenham, 2 miles.) There is no other physical link to Martley District.

Seven properties in Lulsley (Green Street) are effectively in Alfrick as they have no road connection to Lulsley and residents have to travel 2 miles via Alfrick to reach the Fox and Hounds, the only public house in the parish, in Lulsley.

Social

Lulsley residents' activities are focused towards Alfrick, (1 mile), with a Community-run Village Shop, Playing Field and Community Hall (Alfrick and Lulsley Village Hall) and further on via Leigh to Malvern or to Worcester. Links to Martley, Doddenham, Broadwas and Broadheath can be made only over the two river Teme bridges at Knightwick (see above) and, at a distance, Bransford.

Summary

From the above it can be seen that Lulsley and its electors are more closely linked to Alfrick and Leigh than to Martley. The whole of Lulsley (Green Street) post-code WR6 5QR – 12 electors, 7 properties will be effectively disenfranchised by the draft proposals (Unless the old parish boundaries are redrawn this enclave in Alfrick will have to refer to the Martley District Councillor on district council matters.) A further 105 electors, 59 properties in Lulsley will have their ability to influence district council (MHDC) matters reduced by a clumsy split from what is currently an effective communication path.

Proposal:

Regardless of any wider reorganisation, the parishes of Alfrick and Lulsley should continue to be an entity and not divided to achieve a numerical balance which would have a damaging effect out of all proportion considering the very small electorate involved.

This was agreed unanimously at the council's monthly meeting on 24th February 2022 viz-

Minute 7.

Parish Boundaries Review.

Confirm the Chair's proposal that the Boundaries Commission is asked to revise its draft proposal and maintain the integrity of the joint parish of Alfrick and Lulsley. (The full text of the response has been circulated in advance, see appendix -a).

This was agreed unanimously.



Clerk to the Council

