

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, 29th September 2022 at 1900hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present: Cllr B Martin, Chair,

Cllrs: Ms B Prodger, R Ashton, N Catlow, T Clarke, A Crockford, G Lowe

D. Cllrs Ms S Rouse, P Whatley, G M Brewin (Clerk).

Apologies: C.Cllr Ms K Hanks

Visitors: 4

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

The Chair welcomed Mr R Steele, Chair of the Alfrick and Lulsley Village Hall Committee who he had invited to contribute to the agenda item 6 (b).

A request was made for a seat at the bus stop by the War Memorial. (The Chair said the council would review this at the next meeting and in the meanwhile the clerk would obtain costs.)

The situation on Sandy Lane was reviewed and a delay in the application for a change to the definitive map noted.

There was a request for speed limits to be reviewed within the parish. In particular the road from Alfrick Pound to Alfrick and the Suckley Road past the Knapp Nature Reserve and on to Stichins Hill. (The clerk would raise this with C.Cllr Ms K Hanks and the WCC Highways dept.)

Reports:

District Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC noting the second Boundary Review proposals, the South Worcestershire Development Plan, the effects of the government's latest taxation proposals and the increase in fuel costs and staff pay on the district's budget.

The Parish Footpaths Warden noted the need for gates on the footpath from the Church car park to the Leigh Road.

(The Chair asked the clerk to resolve this with the Warden and WCC.)

The clerk reported that the Tree Warden had discussed the clearing of ground-level growth around the plantation and proposed professional action later in the autumn.

The Village Shop had embarked on a scheme to hold down costs of essential items and was also identifying where its costs were more than competitive with local supermarkets.

The formal meeting commenced at 20:50hrs

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

None

Note the resignation of Cllr E Mutter.

In noting his receipt of Cllr Mutter's resignation the Chair said he had made a considerable contribution to the council over past years and asked the clerk to write to him expressing the council's appreciation.

The clerk was asked to initiate the procedure to fill the vacancy.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 28th July 2022 (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 Action' procedure since the last meeting.

25/07/2022 M.C.B. Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	£510.00 inc vat
22/08/2022 Claire Davies	War Memorial Maint.	£53.46
24/08/2022 M.C.B. Landscapes	Playing Field Maintenance	£552.00 inc vat
24/08/2022 MS-Group Ltd	War Memorial Cleaning	£3427.56 inc vat
29/08/2022 Knightwick Fencing	Playing Field Maintenance	£487.36 inc vat
19/09/2022 R A Wilks	Parish Lengthsman exp	£216.00 inc vat
22/09/2022 A&L Village Hall	Meeting Expenses	£121.00
22/09/2022 Kompan	Play Area Quarterly inspection	£114.00 inc vat

All noted.

b) Note Bank Acc at 29/09/22 - £27655.11 Noted.

c) Approve a revised statement of income and expenditure for 2021-22 and revised Accounting Statement 2021-22 page 5 for the External Auditor. (*circulated in advance*)

The Clerk explained that the External Auditor required changes to the accounts to exclude £612 in outstanding invoices at the year-end. This did not affect the final year-end bank balance, only the way in which the amounts had been set out. This was agreed and signed by the Chair..

d) Approve a revised Asset Register at 31/3/22 (*circulated in advance*)

The Clerk said that although the Asset Register had been included in the accounts it had not been formally accepted by the council.

The register was approved and signed by the Chair.

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters;

Note the clerk's delegated response to:

M/22/01034/OUT Swan Cottage Alfrick Worcester WR6 5HY -

Outline application with some matters reserved for a proposed dwelling to land adjacent Swan Cottage

'This council has no objections in principle but the comments made on the previous application for this site should be considered again due to the similarities between the two applications.'

Noted

6.

New Play Area and future S106 funded projects.

a) Cllr R Ashton reported on the quarterly inspection and the small issues that had been raised with Kompan.

Five benches, covered by the S106 funds, would be installed in the next few weeks. A second Litter Bin was being considered with WHDC Environmental Services.

b) Consider the letter from the Alfrick and Village Hall Committee regarding a new tennis court on the hall's land. (*circulated in advance*)

At this point the Chair involved Mr R Steele, Chair of the Alfrick and Lulsley Village Hall Committee in discussion with members on how best to proceed to secure a new public tennis court from S106 funds. It was generally considered that the key issue was the ongoing cost of maintenance etc that the Village Hall and Tennis Club would be unable to meet given that the new facility should be free and open to all.

After a wide-ranging discussion the Chair proposed:

a) That the Council agreed in principle that it would be advantageous for it to take over the project subject to a resolution of outstanding details.

b) That the way to resolve these details would be to hold an informal meeting between councillors and representatives of the Village Hall Committee and the Tennis Club prior to a formal resolution in council.

c) That the clerk requests a formal definition from MHDC on how/what the S106 funds can be applied.

These were agreed. The clerk was asked to make suitable arrangements for item b) An informal meeting, and proceed with c).

7.

Review the arrangements for future Alfrick and Lulsley Horticultural Show use of the Council's Playing Field.

It was proposed to move this matter to the agenda of the next meeting.

Agreed

8.

Clerk's Report -

Correspondence received and Actions from the previous meeting.

Most outstanding issues had been covered by previous agenda issues. He read out correspondence on access to the Jubilee Plantation which did not require further action.

9.

Items for the next meeting

Items 6 and 7 above.

10.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: October 27th 2022 at 7pm.

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 20:50 hrs.