

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 26th April 2018 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.**

**Present:** Cllr B Martin, Chair

Cllrs: Ms L Randall, A Crockford, E Mutter, Dist. Cllr A Warburton, C Cllr P Tuthill, G M Brewin (Clerk), D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden),

**Apologies;** Cllrs: A G Cooper, Ms B Brown, B Fishwick, G Lowe, N Tudge, Dist. Cllr S Rouse,

**Visitors;** One parishioner.

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

**Reports:** County and District Councillors, Footpaths' Warden, Village Hall, Community Shop, et al.

There were verbal reports from: C. Cllr P Tuthill, Dist. Cllr A Warburton, and Cllr B Martin, Village Shop representative. The clerk read a report from Cllr B Fishwick Village Hall representative in his absence.

**The Tree Warden** Dr D Bradley gave an extended report on the Worcestershire County Council Pollinators' Conference on 27th March (This is attached as appendix - b). It was agreed to include a discussion on this at the June meeting of the council.

**The formal meeting commenced at 20:25hrs**

### **AGENDA.**

**1.**

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

The apologies from Cllrs Ms B Brown, A G Cooper, B Fishwick, G Lowe, and N Tudge were accepted.

**2.**

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

There were no Declarations of Interest in agenda items.

**3.**

#### **Confirm the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 22nd March 2018**

These had been circulated in advance. It was agreed that the minutes were a true record and were signed by the chair.

**4.**

#### **Financial Matters;**

- a) Approve the Council's Accounts 2017-8 - Circulated in advance. (see appendix -a) - Approved
- b) Approve the formal Annual Governance Statement 2017- 8 - Circulated in advance. - Approved
- c) Approve the formal Annual Statement of Accounts 2017-8 - Circulated in advance. - Approved
- d) Approve payment - Council's Membership Fee WCALC £421.42 inc vat. - Approved
- e) Approve payment - Council's Insurance, Came & Co (This was not available - transferred the next meeting)
- f) Approve payment - Alfrick and Lulsley Village Hall - for 2018-9 - £180. - Approved

**5.**

#### **Planning and Environmental Matters; -**

- a) Review status - Clay Green Farm development and Chapel Meadow development.  
It was noted that work had not yet started at Chapel Meadow.
- b) Respond to - Planning Ref: 17/00598/RM Approval of reserved matters, access, appearance, landscape, layout & scale following outline permission for the erection of 21 dwellings, comprising 6 affordable houses and associated infrastructure. (amended plans) - Circulated in advance.  
After a discussion it was agreed that the latest proposals did not address the concerns raised by the council over the cramped layout of the site. It was agreed that the Chair would draft a response together with the clerk.  
The Chair and Cllr Ms L Randall would seek an informal meeting with the planning officer concerned to review the situation.
- c) Comment on footpath changes through Clay Green Farm development. - Circulated in advance.  
There was no comment on this.

**6.**

#### **Lengthsman**

- a) The Clerk reported that Mr R Wilks was happy to continue in this role for the coming year. This was agreed.
- b) Approve arrangements for 2018-9 - The WCC Highways contribution of £2171.00 was the same as last year and this was accepted.

**7. Clerk's Report -**

- a) Actions from the previous meetings; all completed except the matter of Land Drainage where he was waiting for a response from the landowner concerned
- b) Correspondence received. All circulated via email.
- c) Items drawn to the council's attention. We are now in the last year of the current council - elections for a new council will be held next May.
- d) Note arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 8th May 2018  
The clerk noted that it is the responsibility of the Chair of the Parish Council to call this meeting and asked members to support the event.

**8.**

**Items for the next meeting.**

This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council; much of the agenda is prescribed, primarily the election of the Chairman for the succeeding year, and representatives on various bodies.

It is not usual to include Reports prior to the formal agenda,

In addition the appointment of the Data Protection Officer and associated declaration on data protection is required as is the acceptance of the new Standing Orders the draft of which has been circulated to members.

**9.**

**Confirm the date of the next meeting;**

Thursday 24th May 2018 at 19:30 hrs. in the Village Hall, Alfrick - agreed

The meeting closed at 21;10 hrs

*Minutes confirmed.....*

*24/05/2018*

**Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council**

For comparison

**Receipts and Payments for yr. 2017-8**

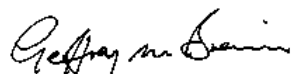
<b>Account</b>	<b>2017-8 Receipts</b>	<b>2016-7 Receipts</b>
Bank Interest	0.00	0.00
MHDC Precept	12840.00	13976.20
MHDC Council Tax Support Grant	0.00	323.80
Parish Lengthsman Income from WCC	1632.00	2170.00
Sundry Income	500.00	200.00
VAT Refund	2125.72	1470.42
Old Storrige Charity income	220.46	1661.34
Old Storrige Charity donations	0.00	-1000.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>17318.18</b>	<b>18801.76</b>

<b>Account</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Audit	150.00	150.00
Clerk Expenses	70.00	68.83
Office Costs	460.84	412.59
Clerk Salary	3843.00	3843.00
Donations	0.00	300.00
Election Fees	0.00	0.00
Footpaths	0.00	0.00
Insurance	525.61	503.80
Jubilee Plantation	0	460.00
Meeting Expenses	346.60	32.00
Other Expenses	1431.89	2698.36
Parish Lengthsman	1632.00	5260.00
Parish Tree Warden	0.00	78.60
Playing Field Maintenance	885.00	1272.27
Subscriptions	329.88	307.74
VAT	697.82	2125.72
War Memorial Mtce	265.40	215.00
Youth Projects	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>10638.04</b>	<b>17727.91</b>
<b>Surplus +/-Deficit -</b>	<b>6680.14</b>	<b>1073.85</b>
<b><u>Balance brought fwd</u></b>	<b>11317.04</b>	<b>10243.19</b>
<b><u>Balance at Yr-End</u></b>	<b>17997.18</b>	<b>11317.04</b>

<b><u>Outstanding Cheques at Yr-end</u></b>	
746	10.00
751	150.00
754	250.89
Clerk's Salary March	320.25
<b><u>Outstanding Invoices at Yr-end</u></b>	
WCC – L/Man acct	432.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>299.14</b>

**Bank account at Yr-end** **18296.32**

20/04/18



appendix -b

Report of attendance at a Pollinators Conference at WWT Lower Smite Farm on 27th March 2018.

I attended this Pollinators Conference organised by Worcestershire County Council. The National Pollinator Strategy 2014 - 2024 is a government programme run by Dept for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). In October 2015, WCC passed a motion at Cabinet making Worcestershire a pollinator friendly county and stated that WCC land and highway verges would be used to deliver this. This conference was a "cascade down" event intended for all Worcestershire parish representatives and community groups who wanted to be involved in promoting pollinator friendly practices within their community

The Government Pollinator Advisory Steering Group comprises the following organisations:

DEFRA, Natural England, Bee Farmers' Association, British Beekeepers' Association, Buglife, Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Campaign for the Farmed Environment, Country Land and Business Association, Friends of the Earth, National Farmers' Union, National Federation of Women's Institutes, , National Trust, Pesticide Action Network UK, Plantlife, Royal Horticultural Society, Soil Association, Waitrose, The Wildlife Trusts. Academic partners include the University of Cambridge, University of Bristol and the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

In my view the key speakers were Paul Evans from Buglife, a conservation charity and Rob Deri, manager WCC Highways Maintenance which manages 4000 km of roads in the county, that's 8000 km of verges. Paul stressed the importance of pollinators to our continued existence and Rob explained that Worcestershire is becoming a pollinator friendly county by introducing a number of initiatives and they want parishes to get involved too.

'If we and the rest of the back-boned animals were to disappear overnight, the rest of the world would get on pretty well. But if the invertebrates were to disappear, the world's ecosystems would collapse.' Sir David Attenborough.

There are 4000 pollinator species in Britain but many are in serious decline and this will have a knock on effect on other wildlife. Many pollinators are at the bottom of the food chain eg caterpillars which are predated by birds.

- 80% of British wild plants are pollinated by insects.
- 1 in 3 mouthfuls of food eaten in UK are pollinated by insects.
- Pollinators are worth £691M pa to the UK.(13% of UK agricultural revenue). £13B across EU.
- The Scottish raspberry crop alone is worth £20M pa.

WCC has historically flailed the verges back hard and this had a positive response from the public. However, over the last few years public perception has seen a swing towards protecting pollinator species. There is a need to overcome the public's insistence on tidiness. Currently WCC is running a verge management pilot programme aimed at increasing the number and diversity of wildflower and grass species growing on road verges and hence benefit pollinators. To achieve this plants will be allowed to flower and seed after first removing nutrients. This is a 3 year programme 2017 - 2020. To this end, in summer 2016 21 km of verges were surveyed in 9 locations to the SE of the Malverns to provide a baseline against which future work can be compared. In addition a new verge cutting regime has been introduced across Worcestershire in which:

- Some A & B routes are being flailed to 2m from carriageway edge
- C & U routes are being flailed 1m from carriageway edge.
- All visibility splays are being cut to ensure safety is maintained
- The first and second cuts are only to 1 or 2m.
- A later cut, after August, will see selected verges cut to the full extent to keep the scrub down. This will be

programmed over 3 years.

Parish councils are being encouraged to consider how they can increase the area for and diversity of pollinators in their parish. Alfrick and Lulsley already has some roadside verge nature reserves where mowing is minimised and this concept could be extended to other grassy or wooded areas such as the playing field and the pond. Welland village green was repeatedly held up as a good example of what parishes can achieve.

The advice from WCC to parishes is to:

- Identify areas that could be left uncut / cut less.
- Speak to WCC who can advise.
- Get the message out to the parishioners.
- Utilise Parish Newsletters, Facebook pages and village noticeboards.

My proposal would be to consider severely reducing the mowing at the top of the playing field where there are currently dandelions, daisies, buttercups, lady's smock, speedwell, cowslip, hawkbit, self-heal and bugle.

- Pollinators need areas for food, shelter and reproduction.

Dr Derek Bradley  
Tree Warden  
Alfrick & Lulsley