

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, Thursday 28th April 2022 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present: Cllr B Martin, Chair,

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

C.Cllr Ms K Hanks, D. Cllr P Whatley, G M Brewin (Clerk), D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden).

Visitors: Four Parishioners Apologies: D. Cllr S Rouse, G Messervy-Whiting,

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

Two parishioners representing the Tennis Club requested help from the council to improve their facilities. Councillors gave information on where additional grants might be available pointing out the as the club was for members only the use of public funds could be a problem. The Chair said that the council was not averse to supporting such local activities and asked for a further review when possible grants had been investigated.

A parishioner reported on the situation at Sandy Lane noting that the lane was now open and some all-terrain vehicles had used it. The matter of permanent restrictions was still with Worcestershire CC.

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 activities and the county's support for Ukrainian refugees. (for her full report see appendix -a)

District Cllr P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC including a grant of £1m to Malvern Theatre and progress in renovating the local park and duck pond.

There were verbal reports from Footpaths' Warden, Tree Warden, Community Shop,

Interview an applicant for the post of Parish Tree Warden appointed by WCC. Details circulated in advance.

Mr Simon Warr described his long residency in Alfrick and local family connections. He is a passionate environmentalist and a member of several wildlife trusts. He felt that his local history and experience would enable him to contribute greatly to the arboreal environment. The Chair, backed by councillors, expressed his support for Mr Warr and asked the clerk to proceed with the recommendation to Worcestershire CC Environmental Services to appoint Mr Warr as the Parish Tree Warden.

The formal meeting commenced at 20:20hrs

In opening the meeting the Chair Cllr B Martin noted that this was the first meeting for two months following the cancellation of the March meeting due to health issues.

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

The apology from Cllr G Messervy-Whiting was accepted.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 24th February 2022 (circulated in advance)

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

4.

Financial Matters;

- a) Approve the Council's Accounts 2021-22 - Circulated in advance. Approved.
- b) Approve the formal Annual Governance Statement - (Page 4 Annual Return) Circulated in advance. Approved.
- c) Approve the formal Annual Statement of Accounts - (Page 5 Annual Return) Circulated in advance. Approved.
The following items are transferred from the agenda of the meeting on 24th March 2022 which was cancelled.
- d) Note the following payments made under the delegated actions procedure.–
- e) Knightwick Fencing £1901.57 + vat. Fencing for the children's play area. Noted
- f) Alfrick Village Hall – meeting fees – yr. £82.50 Noted
- g) MCB Landscapes – Clearing old cricket net and base for the new Play Area - £725.00 + vat Noted
- h) R Wilks – Lengthsman, January £156.00 + vat Noted
- i) R Wilks – Lengthsman, February £216.00 + vat Noted
- j) Clerk's expenses, 6 mths £376.90 Noted
- k) First payment on the Play Area – equipment delivered - £38,395.70 + vat Noted
- l) Note – Local Govt Services revised staff pay rates. Clerk's salary changes to £13.75/hr from 1/4/21 Noted

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters;

Review status – Clay Green Farm development. The first houses were being offered for sale.

Note delegated responses to:

- a) Application: M/22/00145/FUL Location: Kings Acre, Stitchins Hill, Leigh Sinton.
Proposal: Replacement outbuilding to provide single storey accommodation for dependent relatives.
This council has no objection to this application. Noted
- b) Application: M/22/00331/HP, Location : Meadowside Stocks Road Alfrick.
Proposal: Proposed outbuilding to provide stabling, tack, hay and garden storage. Freestanding Greenhouse.
This council has no objection to this application. Noted
- c) Application: M/22/00342/HP, Location : Coney Gore Old Storridge Alfrick Proposal: Erection of carport.
This council has no objection to this application. Noted

6.

New Play Area.

a) Cllr R Ashton reported; The installation is virtually complete except for some fall impact matting and turf in agreed areas. It can be used and actually in use by some children this evening. The council should erect a suitable sign concerning general behavior and also one to acknowledge the MHDC S106 support. A refuse bin would be useful if regular emptying could be arranged. (The clerk was asked to investigate a suitable procedure with MHDC if possible.)

b) Agree on a method of management for the Play Area (Information circulated in advance; see appendix -b) It was agreed that the clerk would use the forthcoming Summer Newsletter to advertise the council's desire to appoint a 'warden' for the equipment. In the meanwhile the regular maintenance team (MCB Landscapes) would be asked to cut the grass in the area and trim around the fencing and equipment.

7.

Discussion on the Local Council Award Scheme and Quality Award Status – Chair to lead.

Cllr B Martin said that as the chair of the WCALC area committee he noted that this matter was being discussed across the county and he would appreciate comments from councillors regarding this. The clerk reminded members of the council's achievement in becoming a 'Quality Parish Council' in 2007 and its subsequent withdrawal in 2010. Apart from the reduction of Newsletters from 4 to 2 a year the council continues to maintain the standards of performance achieved when the 'Quality' status was first awarded

After a discussion it was agreed not to pursue accreditation under the scheme at present.

8.

Clerk's Report -

Correspondence received – Jubilee Plantation; He had received comments from the landowner of the field next to the Plantation too late to circulate to members. Briefly he felt that the suggestions made would be difficult to implement, but he would circulate them and await comment

Actions from the previous meeting. The new VAS was now operational and would visit the three sites in the village with two weeks at each. Cllr R Ashton would be responsible for the location and recording of data.

He was planning to sell the 'old' VAS in conjunction with Suckley Parish Council.

The clerk noted also that the full cost of the new VAS had been paid into the council's account from C. Cllr K Hank's discretionary account.

The Chair in noting this thanked C.Cllr Hanks for her support.

9.

Items for the next meeting

This will be the Annual Meeting of the Council for which much of the agenda is prescribed.

10.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: May 26th 2022 Agreed.

This will be the Annual Meeting of the Council. It will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 19:30. Agenda; 1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council 2. Reports: a) County and District Councillors b) Chairman of the Parish Council 3. Annual Statement of Accounts of the Parish Council and Parish Charities.

The meeting closed at 21:32 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....

26/05/2022

appendix -a

Councillor Karen Hanks

Report to Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council 28.0.2020

Support to guests from Ukraine:

This is jointly supported by County and District Councils.

As of today, the figures for the Malvern Hills are 72 households and 185 guests, who have been successfully matched and (anecdotally 40 have arrived). Worcestershire County Council is responsible for the education of all children within the county and in the case of Ukrainian guests, there are 16 school applications for The Malvern Hills (13 primary and 3 secondary).

The figures are changing daily and are accelerating in line with the home office visa applications.

Charities, community groups, organisations or businesses who are able to offer support to Refugees to register their service on the [Community Services Directory](#) to enable us to build up support networks and signposting.

Signposting to Welcome guides and checklists are being sent to sponsors and the website is being updated to reflect available support.

The County Council's Adult Learning Team is running Cultural awareness sessions for Officers (Districts, County Council, wider partners inc. schools) and Sponsors on cultural awareness. These have been well received so far.

Highways:

Highways liaisons are looking to put together a map of VAS locations and input from the Parish would be most appreciated.

Malvern Hills has a new Highways liason officer starting 10th June, Tanya Crake, and we would be happy to set-up a site visit to Alfrick and Lulsley over the summer if required.

There are two safety cuts to the verges planned by Worcestershire County Council, the first starting w/c 3rd of May and the 2nd at the end of August or early September.

Within the last month I have visited the owner of Rosebank on Knightwick Road and I will be looking to arrange a re-surfacing of the pavement which has been damaged by refuse vehicles etc.

I have requested a new "No through Road Sign" for Green Street and its junction with Folly Road

appendix -b

Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council

Proposed Play Area Maintenance

Once this equipment becomes operational we need it to be to the highest standard all the time. I therefore suggest that we employ someone to do this work as a Contract for Service job. (i.e. not a council employee but in a similar role to the Lengthsman).

I suggest we also need a full size rubbish bin similar to the one by the bus stop and the village shop. We will have to pay for the installation but I believe MHDC will service it if we meet their requirements.

In an area where children are running around I think it is important that the grass cuttings are removed when the grass is mown.

There will also be a need to pick up bits of rubbish even if we have a sizeable rubbish bin by the side of the area.

Finally a wipe over each week of the areas of the equipment such as the handles, trodden-on steps, seats, etc to keep the equipment in a good-looking order and in so doing report on any problems, breakages, etc.

This leads to the proposal that the person looking after the area (see above) would bring a conventional lawnmower and mow the area once a week during the summer season. At other times this could drop back to once every two weeks. They would also strim around and generally clean up on the long grass around the edges, pick up rubbish, empty rubbish bin if needed etc.

This boils down I think to something like an average of two or three hours work a week throughout the season, maybe more in Summer, less in Winter at a pay rate of £12.50/hr payable monthly on receipt of completed check/activity sheet.

To announce that the play area is ready for use we have already discussed the possibility of using either the Summer Newsletter which usually goes out in July or a special postcard mailing to the whole of the parish. In addition there would be notices in the sphere on our website and Facebook pages.

The likely timetable is that the contractor will handover probably mid-April when all checks have been completed. We then need a short period for the surface grass etc to settle down and be tidied-up before the public is allowed in.

So an announcement is really needed at the beginning of May and I suggest that we use the postcard mailed to everyone as the easiest way. We could also advertise on it that the council is looking for somebody to take permanent part-time two hours a week for the play area.

I suggest this issue is resolved at the April meeting so may I have your thoughts on a firm proposal for the agenda taking the above into account.

Geoffrey
20/4/22