

## Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 19:00hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

**Present:** Cllr B Martin, Chair,

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

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

Apologies: C.Cllr Ms K Hanks, Cllr.G Messervy-Whiting, S Warr, (Parish Tree Warden),

Visitors: none

### Reports:

C.Cllr Ms K Hanks: In her absence had sent a report (see appendix -a) covering current WCC activities.

District Cllrs Ms S Rouse and P Whatley reported on the activities of the MHDC noting the South Worcestershire Development Plan, the District Council 5-year land supply, and grants for Malvern theatre.

Tree Warden: in his absence the clerk confirmed the planting of six apple trees on Clay Green was in hand.

The formal meeting commenced at 19:27hrs

### Agenda

#### 1.

##### Members' Apologies for absence

The apology from Cllr G Messervy-Whiting was accepted.

Cllr A J Crockford announced his resignation. The Chair thanked him for his contributions over a long period and wished him well on behalf of the council.

The Chair Cllr B W Martin said that he would not be standing for election to the new council on May 4th.

#### 2.

##### Members' Declarations of Interest

None

#### 3.

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

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

#### 4.

##### Financial Matters

a) Confirm the budget and precept for 2023-4. (*Chair to report on the committee discussion of 10/1/23*).

The Chair proposed that the precept be raised to £14,500 (+£1000 and approx £0.23/property increase on 2022-

##### 3.)

After a discussion an amendment of remaining with the current level of precept (£13,500, £2.65/property reduction on 2022-3). This was agreed and the proposal of a precept of £13,500, carried.

b) Clerk to report on the delay to the purchase and installation of a Bus Shelter on land at Clay Green He had delayed the ordering of this as the installation cost in particular had increased substantially. He would discuss with the supplier an alternative means of installation and report at the next meeting.

c) Note the following payments made under the 'Delegated Action' procedure since the last meeting.

14/11/2022 R A WILKS Parish Lengthsman exp £216.00 - Noted

07/12/2022 R A WILKS Parish Lengthsman exp £198.00 - Noted

21/12/2022 M.C.B. Playing Field Maintenance £270.00 - Noted

30/12/2022 P Salter War Memorial Maint. £145.00 - Noted

d) Note Bank Acc at 31/12/22 - £28153.45 - Noted

#### 5.

##### Planning and Environmental Matters;

a) Note the delegated responses to planning applications:

M/22/01662/HP Charlton Cottage, Yarrington Road, Alfrick Part single storey, part two storey rear extension.

'This council has no objection to this application.' - Noted

M/22/01564/HP Linden Lea, Old Storridge, Alfrick, Retrospective - Single-storey porch and store extension.

'This council has no objection to this application.' - Noted

b) Respond to: Application Number : M/22/01883/FUL

Location: Dove Barn, Crews Hill, Alfrick, Worcester, WR6 5HF

Description of Proposal: Change of use of agricultural pasture land for the installation of 14no ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels (*circulated in advance*)

It was agreed to support this application.

6

**Review the inspections of the Play Area.**( Cllr R Ashton)

Cllr Ashton reported that several small items were missing from the equipment and he had requested replacements. The contractor had carried out the quarterly inspection at the end of December and weekly reviews by individual councillors were continuing.

7.

**Review the Council's standing policies and the continued adherence to them.** (*circulated in advance*)

The Chair drew members' attention to the list of operational procedures circulated by the clerk and in particular to the Worcestershire Agreement of 2011. He asked members to consider if changes were needed as a result of newer methods of working over the past eleven years and report at the next meeting.

8.

**Update of the Alfrick & Lulsley Self Help Community plan.** (*circulated in advance*)

Cllr G Messervy-Whiting (the instigator of this plan) was unable to be present so the Chair asked members to consider additions and report at the next meeting.

9.

**Arrangements for Alfrick and Lulsley Horticultural Show committee's use of the Council's Playing Field.**

Review a draft procedure/requirement schedule (*circulated in advance*)

Members confirmed the final draft and asked the clerk to send it to the show committee. (see appendix -b)

10.

**New Tennis Court - S106 funded project.**

Clerk to report on the progress of this project. The lease of the land is yet to be received. An updated quotation for the construction of the court had been received and a competitive tender would be sought.

11.

**Confirm the Winter Newsletter 2023** (*circulated in advance*)

Subject to some additions resulting from decisions at this meeting this was agreed. The clerk said he expected it to be posted to all houses in the parish by 1<sup>st</sup> February. (see appendix -c)

12.

**Clerk's Report -**

Correspondence received and Actions from the previous meeting.

He had received a letter from a local farmer asking for the council's support in persuading residents to keep their dogs under control and on a lease when walking in farmland. There had been several cases of sheep being attacked. He had included this matter in the forthcoming newsletter.

He said that this meeting marked the completion of twenty-one years as clerk to the council and he was giving notice that he would leave at the end of April in accordance with the terms of his contract.

13.

**Items for the next meeting**

Ref to items 7 and 8 above.

14.

**Confirm the date of the next meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 at 7pm proposed**

Agreed

The meeting closed at 21:00 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....

## Report to Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council 26/01/2023

### Worcestershire County Council Budget 2023/2024:

The Draft budget will go through scrutiny and then finally be approved at Full Council Meeting 16 February 2023.

#### Parish Council Budget Update:

A virtual budget overview for Parish Councils is to take place 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. This will be presented by WCC CFO and the Cabinet Member for Communities, Marcus Hart.

***A 5% increase for lengths men scheme is proposed in FY 23/24 following a 15% increase in 22/23***

#### Draft outline below:

Overall WCC budget £400.79 million vs £373.19 million in 2023/24.

£27.7 million increase in the net budget from last year which will be funded by £14.1 million net increase in council tax income, £8.4 increase in business rates and £5.2 million net use of reserves.

Proposed uplift of 2.94% and 2% uplift in adult social care levy, so total increase of **4.94%**, less than the 5% permitted by central government.

This would put band D council tax @ £1465.78. This puts Worcestershire at the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest place in the country out of all County Councils without fire in the data set.

We have now received our Provisional settlement from Government and County Council is around £8 million better off than originally expected and **we are able to produce a balanced budget in 23/24.**

#### Notes on budget:

Public transport – council is proposing £3.5 million from earmarked reserves in 2023/24 to support public transport as it recovers from the pandemic. Our cabinet member for Highways has started a consultation process, with a December meeting in Malvern – Parish Council members, indeed all residents are welcome to be included in these meetings.

The cost of inflation is having a significant effect on the price of new projects and highways maintenance is running much higher than the headline CPI rate, so it is proposed to add a further £2.5 million to the financing of the capital programme. **All promised work will be ring-fenced.**

#### Divisional Fund:

County Council Members Fund enables smaller but important things to be done in communities. It was due to end in 2024, but additional funds will be allocated to end in 2025.

**I welcome requests for community projects from my Divisional fund.**

#### Visit Worcestershire:

This is now under the remit of Worcestershire County Council, and I would like to mention that any events taking place in The Parish, may be featured on the site without charge.

**Boundary Review for County Council:**

The process has started and looks as if the total number of divisions, 57, will remain the same.

**Highways:****Footpaths;**

I have received a residents complaint re the footpath running along 5,6,7,8 Clay Green and this has been allocated prioritised in my member's highways budget, along with Folly Road. The earliest this will be actioned will be March 2023 onwards.

**Responses to Highways requests logged:****Latest update on Stitchens Hill Trees:**

We have requested the land ownership details for the land at this location, once we have this we will write to them requesting they cut back the trees.

**Request for Change in Speed Limits:**

In response to request from Parish Council Meeting 29 September 2022. I was advised that the general view is that the existing 30mph limits should be extended specifically along two lengths of narrow roads viz

1. Alfrick Pound Junction to Upper House Crossroads
2. Alfrick Pound towards Leigh terminating at Stitchens Hill.

Response from the traffic management engineer.

"I've investigated this and would state that Worcestershire County Council takes guidance on such issues from the Department for Transport (DfT). One of the key aims, when setting local speed limits, is to provide a consistent message between road geometry and environment, so that changes in speed limit reflect changes in the road layout and environment. This also ensures that speed limits are effective, in the absence of enforcement. Looking at this section, the road is predominantly rural with very little frontage development.

When considering the information above, given the character of the road and the immediate environment, the road does not lend itself to a speed limit lower than the national one, which applies the majority of the rural road network. Bends, narrow sections and other factors, that restrict forward visibility, typically mean that actual vehicle speeds on such routes are usually well below the posted national speed limit.

Having checked the Police injury collision data for the last 3 years there have been no incidents recorded on this section of this route.

For the reasons detailed above and in order to maintain consistency throughout the County, it is concluded that the current national speed limit should remain unchanged."

**Karen Hanks 26.01.2023**

## **Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council**

### **Arrangements for the Alfrick and Lulsley Horticultural Show Committee's annual use of the Council's Playing Field.**

There is a need for the relationship between the parish council as landlord and the show committee as a short-term tenant to be formalised.

The overriding principle is that the show committee takes full responsibility for the total area of the playing field during the installation of the show premises, the actual show, and the subsequent breakdown of these premises, (the show period ) and is responsible to the council, as landowner, for all activities on the playing field during this period.

The following sets out the procedure for this:

1.

At least six months prior to the date of the show the show committee will make a formal request to use the playing field specifying the dates and times of the period during which it becomes a short-term tenant of the field.

2.

The parish council will confirm the request on the following terms:

a) The Show Committee makes a payment of £250 to cover the council's additional costs.

b) The Show Committee takes out insurance to cover all eventualities over the show period, and produces evidence to the council.

c) The Show Committee sets out such activities on the field which might affect, or impinge on, neighbouring properties. (Sale of alcohol, loud music, use of PA equipment, etc)

3.

At 8 weeks prior to the show the show committee will provide the council with:

a) A layout of the show on the field, (The layout to include an agreed location for a parish council pavilion/tent if requested at no cost to the council.)

b) A list of 'subcontractors' ie secondary organisations with premises on the field over the show period.

c) The location of potentially hazardous equipment ( electrical supply generators etc) and provisions for protecting the public from these.

d) A comprehensive risk analysis covering the whole occupancy. This should include specific provisions for emergency services to be able to attend.