

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday, Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 19:00hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present: Chair, Cllr N S Catlow

Cllrs: Ms B Prodger, R Ashton, A K Hinton, G Lowe, G Messervy-Whiting, G M Brewin (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr B Martin, S Warr, (Parish Tree Warden),

Visitors: twelve.

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

An informal discussion with representatives of the Alfrick and Lulsley Show Committee on the resolution of the temporary lease requirements of the Council's Playing Field.

Ten members of the Show Committee expressed their various concerns that the Parish Council was intruding into their running of the 'Show' (which had gone on unhindered for seventy years), by the introduction of a formal short-term lease agreement and associated fee. The Chair responded that it was not the council's intention to hinder the committee's efforts but it was necessary to be more formal in the approach to organisations wishing to take short-term possession of the playing field due to liability insurance concerns. He considered a separate less formal discussion could result in all being reconciled and would arrange such a discussion.

The Chair reported that Simon Warr (Tree Warden) will be planting the 6 traditional trees ordered by the council in Clay Green on Tuesday 28th March at 10.30am to help bring traditional trees back into the parish. This is to complete the project started by the previous tree warden.

The formal meeting commenced at 20:00hrs

Agenda

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

The apology from Cllr B Martin was accepted. In noting this the Chair asked the clerk to send him the best wishes of the council for a speedy recovery.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

None

3.

Confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 23rd February 2023 (circulated in advance)

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

4.

Financial Matters

a) Clerk to report on the purchase and installation of a Bus Shelter on land at Clay Green

The clerk explained that he was having difficulty finding a suitable contractor to clear and relay the foundation slab.

Councillors offered to supply details of suitable contractors.

b) Note the following payments made under the 'Delegated Action' procedure.

06/03/2023 R A WILKS Parish Lengthsman exp £492.00 - Noted

c) Note Bank Acc at 16/3/23; £27044.40 - Noted

d) Confirm the council's external auditor for the year 2022-3 as Duffy Regan Accountants Worcester. Confirmed.

e) Register the council's title to the Playing Field at the Land Registry. This would cost around £375.

After a discussion the Chair proposed that this should be done. Agreed unanimously.

f) Support the Parochial Church Council (PCC) welcome party at the Village Hall on Sunday 10th June.

It was agreed to meet the cost of the hire of the Village Hall for this.

Further support could be forthcoming once other costs were known. The clerk was asked to pursue this.

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters;

Consider if dogs should continue to be allowed on the Playing Field.

After considerable discussion the Chair proposed the following statement:

'We carefully monitor the play area weekly throughout the year, this is organised and led by councillor Richard Ashton who has set up auditing software and organises the yearly schedule. There is a specific item on the audit checklist for dog waste as well as litter. Additionally, through the summer, the Alfrick Cricket Club are on the main field weekly and will also report dog waste problems to the council.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and welcome any reports of dog waste on the playing field.'

This was agreed unanimously.

6

Accept the report of the committee to recommend on the appointment of a new Clerk to the Council and confirm the appointment. Chair to propose.

It was agreed that in order to protect the confidentiality of the applicants a separate meeting would be held to do this on 30/3/2023.

7.

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

Approve the document 'Application for use of the Playing Field' for all activities over 100 attending.

It was agreed that the final approval of the document would be held over pending further discussions with the 'Show Committee'.

8.

New Tennis Court - S106 funded project.

a) Review the advice of Mr E Mutter MRICS and agree to the draft 99 year lease to the area to the north of the Village Hall.

It was agreed that this proposed a more acceptable form of index-linking and the clerk was asked to resolve this with the Village Hall Committee's solicitor. Otherwise the draft lease was acceptable and the application for the s106 funding could go ahead.

b) Confirm that the council will implement the lease once the S106 project funding is approved.

On the proposal of the Chair this was confirmed.

c) Agree that the clerk together with Cllr Ashton to proceed with the project application to MHDC and report to the next meeting. Agreed.

9

Clerk's Report -

Correspondence received and Actions from the previous meeting.

The only outstanding matter is the 'buying-out' Suckley Parish Council's share of the 'old' VAS to enable it to be permanently situated in the parish at a cost of £100, where a response from Suckley Parish Council is still awaited.

The clerk noted that when the last Newsletter was published, including the date of the May meeting on 11/5/23, the date of the Coronation had not been announced. Subsequently the timing of this just after the parish council election and the additional Bank Holiday meant that the earliest day on which the May meeting of the new council could be held was Monday 15th May. He proposed that the council's May meeting would therefore be on Thursday 18th May.

This was agreed.

10.

Items for the next meeting.

See items 4- e&f, 6, 7, 8 above. Organise a Spring Litter Pick.

11.

Confirm the date of the next monthly meeting: 27th April 2023 at 7pm proposed

Confirmed

The meeting closed at 21:00 hrs.

Minutes confirmed.....