

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 24th January 2019 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present: Cllr B Martin, Chair

Cllrs: A G Cooper, A Crockford, B Fishwick, G Lowe, E Mutter, Dist. Cllr Ms S Rouse, C. Cllr P Tuthill, D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden), G M Brewin (Clerk),

Apologies; Cllrs Ms B Brown, Ms L Lowton, N Tudge

Visitors: Four parishioners, one visitor

Matters of concern prior to the formal meeting. Three parishioners had expected the council to be discussing the planning application for stables at Brownings Acre. The clerk explained that the matter, which required a response well before this meeting, had been dealt with under the council's procedure for the clerk to make a delegated response. Agenda Item 5 (c) was merely a formality to record the response in the minutes of the subsequent council meeting. The Pollinators Group which was developing proposals for improving wildflower habitats around the parish proposed having unmown areas of the Playing Field. Discussions with other owners of land which could be considered as 'wild-flower meadows' were being identified and the clerk agreed to discuss these with the Group.

Reports: County & District Councillors, Footpaths' Warden, Tree Warden, Village Hall, Community Shop.

Cllr P Tuthill briefed the council on new developments at Worcester Royal Hospital Trust, the progress on the Worcester Southern Bypass and the plans for the widening of the Carrington Bridge..

Cllr S Rouse reported on the MHDC plans to improve homelessness with the appointment of an officer for this, the approval of the Newlands site for 800 houses, reviews of community transport and support for local food banks.

Dr D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden) reported on the work in maintaining the 'Pound'. He would be attending the WWT Natural Networks Programme meeting and the council asked him to formally represent the council at this.

Cllr B Fishwick reported on progress on resurfacing the Village hall car park which would start at the end of February.

Cllr B Martin as vice-chair of the Community Shop Committee reported that the new Chair is Mr T Jardine and five new members had joined the committee.

The formal meeting commenced at 20.13 hrs

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

The apologies from Cllrs Ms B Brown, Ms L Lowton, N Tudge were accepted.

In sending her apology Ms L Lowton had sent her resignation from the council as she was no longer resident in the parish. The Chair declared a formal vacancy on the council but as elections to the council would be held in May it was agreed that there was no need to seek an immediate co-option to fill this.

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest in agenda items.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the monthly meeting on 22/11/18 (circulated in advance)

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record and they were signed by the Chair.

4.

Financial Matters;

a) Consider the report of the committee to consider expenditure in 2019-20, and agree a budget and precept for 2019-20
Cllr A Cooper set out the proposals of the committee under each section of expenditure and proposed that the Precept remain at £12,840. This was agreed (for details see appendix - a)

b) Approve payment: Lengthsman - Dec. - Jan. - £345.60 inc vat - Approved

c) Approve payment: MCB Landscapes, Playing Field - £90.00 inc vat - Approved

d) Approve payment: Parish Tree Warden - Alfrick Pound maintce. £65.49 - Approved

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters; -

a) Review status - Clay Green Farm development and Chapel Meadow development.

There was a general discussion on these developments. It was noted that on completion of the Chapel Meadow site some £44,000 of 'Section 106' charges could be available for local community projects. The council would consider this further at the next meeting.

b) Note clerk's delegated response to: Application Number 18/01748/HP Millbrook Lodge Millham Lane Alfrick Worcester WR6 5HS. Proposal, Replacement of glass roof on existing PVCU conservatory with pewter grey roof tiles. Installation of a flue for a log burner.

'No objection' returned

c) Note clerk's delegated response to: Application Number 18/01519/FUL. Brownings Acre Alfrick Proposal, Erection of horse stables (retrospective)

'This council objects in the strongest terms to this application. It is within the AONB and would set a precedent for anyone building in this area and then seeking retrospective planning approval. A professional advisor (as in this case) should know that prior approval would be required. As such it is a disregard of the planning process and those who abide by it. Unless the applicant can show wholly exceptional circumstances they should be ordered to remove the buildings and return the site to its original condition.'

6.

Highways and Footpaths

a) Highway Litter-Picking. MHDC is launching the annual 'GreatBritish Spring Clean' on 15th March. Equipment will be available on loan for local 'Litter Picking Groups' and it is proposed to have a morning working party starting and finishing at the Alfrick Community Shop Cafe. The clerk will ask for volunteers in the forthcoming Winter Newsletter. Possible dates - Saturdays 16th or 23rd March

b) Lengthsman - The Lengthsman would be asked to give additional attention to areas of local flooding.

7.

Jubilee Plantation

Review situation. It was agreed that some thinning or pollarding would be beneficial and the Tree Warden Dr D Bradley would arrange a meeting with Cllr A Crockford and the MHDC Tree Preservation Officer to work on a plan for this.

8.

Contents of Winter Newsletter

proposals include - elections to the council, road traffic speeds. housing developments, parish children's' playground, annual parish meeting - this year 21st May, litter picking.

The clerk will circulate a draft newsletter as soon as possible.

9.

Clerk's Report -

a) Actions from the previous meetings - all completed.

b) Correspondence received. All circulated to members

c) Items to be drawn to the council's attention - a revised Welcome Pack produced by Cllrs Cooper and Fishwick had been circulated to members. Any revisions should be sent to the clerk as soon as possible.

10.

Items for the next meeting.

Items 5, 6, 7, 8 above.

11.

Confirm the date of the next meeting;

Thursday 28th February 2019 at 19:30 hrs. in the Village Hall, Alfrick Agreed.

The meeting closed at 20:31 hrs.

Minutes confirmed 28/02/2019

Appendix -a
Alfrick & Lulsley Parish Council
Expenditure Proposals 2019-20.

	2019 – 20	2018 - 19
Precept	12840.00	12840.00
Sundry Income	200.00	200.00
Total Receipts	13040.00	13040.00
Account Payments		
Audit	150.00	150.00
Clerk Expenses	1200.00	1600.00
Clerk Salary	3920.00	3735.00
Election exp	300.00 if needed	300.00 (last)
Education	500.00	200.00
Footpaths	350.00	250.00
Insurance	580.00	520.00
Jubilee Plantation	500.00	500.00
Meeting Expenses	250.00	200.00
Other Expenses – Neighbourhood Forum	NIL	
Consultancy Costs	750.00	1500.00
Parish Lengthsman	1000.00	750.00
Parish Tree Warden	75.00	75.00
Playing Field Maintenance	1500.00	1250.00
Subscriptions	400.00	330.00
War Memorial Mtce	500.00	500.00
Litter and general tidy up	250.00	NIL
Youth Projects	0.00	0.00
Alfrick Pound	500.00	500.00
Smart Water		500.00
Total Payments	12725.00	12860.00
Surplus/Deficit -	+315.00	+180.00

We had hoped to recommend a further reduction, but there remain uncertainties and needs to be addressed as follows:-

1. No Allowance has been made for any increase to Precept from the occupation of houses on Churchfields.
2. Have increased the education budget to allow for all/any PC's to be adequately trained.
3. Slight increase in Footpaths to give our warden some leeway to carry out urgent repairs/maintenance.
4. Jubilee Plantation - we have left the budget at £500 as we can see big opportunities if we are able to merge the plantation with the bottom of 'Rogers' field.
5. Clay Green Farm is now going to appeal. In case we need to use the consultants services for the junction again, we have allowed £750.
6. Lengthsman – slight increase.
7. Playing field maintenance – Slight increase.
8. War Memorial. We are very grateful to Joe for maintaining the flowers round the memorial. The balance from last year, plus the balance from this year and ongoing will be used in due course to redo the inscription on the memorial.
9. A litter pick should be organised in March/April with the help of the organiser from Suckley. An allowance is suggested to allow a thank you to those who help.
10. Alfrick Pound – DB has been trying to clear this area with the help of a young person. We have budgeted for the same amount again in an effort to get it cleared properly, and the ongoing to keep it maintained.
11. Sandy Lane – This is an ongoing problem over which we believe there is little we can do, as it is a public road. However, we would like to propose that any of the unused budget, eg, consultancy costs etc, be earmarked to look at ways that we could improve the road and thus make it unattractive to the 4x4 users.
12. We have over the last few years built up a useful surplus, beyond that which is recommended. We would like to recommend that we look again at a possibly developing a Young Children's Play Area.