

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

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

Present: Cllr B Martin, Chair,

Cllrs: Ms B Prodder, 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 to remain with the current level of precept of £13,500, was proposed.

This was agreed and the amended 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 Maint. £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 Storrige, 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 1st 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: 23rd 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 31st 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 3rd 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.

Your Councillors to May 8th 2023.

Appendix -c

Chair Brian W Martin 01886 833 180
Vice-Chair Nathan S Catlow 01886 830 215
Richard A Ashton 01886 821 340 Thomas M Clarke 01886 821 228
Tony Hinton 01886 833 069
Garth Lowe 01886 833 362 Barbara Prodger 01886 884 846
Graham Messervy-Whiting 07759 090 429

Clerk to the Council

Geoffrey M Brewin, Whistlewood House, Lulsley, Knightwick,
Worcester. WR6 5QT, 01886 821386, email, geoffreybrewin@waitrose.com

Parish Footpaths Warden

Garth Lowe 01886 833 362

Parish Tree Warden

Simon Warr 07855 222 242

Parish Council web site;

<https://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/> click on Alfrick.
Here you can find the minutes of the council meetings, the date of the next meeting of the council and the meeting agenda a week in advance of the meeting.

Meetings of the Parish Council

The Council meets on the fourth Thursday in the month, except August and December, at 7.00pm in Alfrick Village Hall. Forthcoming meetings; 23 February, 23 March, 27 April, 11 May, (*note different date.*)
Members of the public may wish to raise matters of general concern from 7.00 - 7.30pm prior to the formal meeting.

The May 11th meeting will be the First Meeting of the newly elected Parish Council.

Prior to this the Annual Parish Meeting will be held.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council and the Annual Report of the Parish Council 2022-23**
- 2. The Parish Council Accounts for 2022-3**
- 3. Reports by County Councillor & District Councillors.**
- 4. Charities: a) Reports from: Old Storrige Charity, Alfrick Educational Charity, Lulsley Charities, b) The Lulsley representative on Knightwick Charities**
- 5. Any other business (at the Chair's discretion).**

All Parishioners are entitled to attend, and contribute to this meeting.

Front cover; Somewhere in the parish.

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Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council News



**Representing your interests
Keeping you informed
Seeking your involvement
Working to improve village life**

Edition 50

Winter 2023

A new member of the Parish Council

At the October meeting the council co-opted Tony Hinton to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ned Mutter.

Resignation from the council

At the January meeting of the council 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.

Election of a new Parish Council

On May 4th a new Parish Council will be elected to serve for the next four years. There are nine places on the council (Seven for Alfrick and two for Lulsley) and it is important to fill these on that day to ensure the council's fully-elected status. Parish Councils are the part of local government closest to the people. They are elected units of local government whose activities are controlled by Acts of Parliament, serve the smallest areas and are responsible for the most local of matters. Very importantly, these councils can 'precept' - raising a sum collected with the council tax each year to improve facilities and services for local people. This council meets ten times a year (every month except August and December) usually on the fourth Thursday in the month in the evening.

If you are interested in standing for election to the Parish Council next May please contact the clerk to the council who can provide more information.

Financial Matters

The Parish Council has decided that the parish precept for 2023-4 will be as for the previous year, £13,500, approx £39.02/ property. (a reduction of £2.65 on average per property as a result of the new houses being completed.)

A New Village Tennis Court

Malvern Hills District Council has almost £80k available from a 'section 106' charge on the new housing development at Clay Green Farm for the construction of a new tennis court and associated facilities by the Village Hall. The Hall Committee consider that this would be best achieved by the Parish Council taking over the project and has instructed their solicitor to prepare a draft 99 year lease to the Parish Council of the whole area at the rear of the Village Hall. When this is available the Parish Council will propose a project to MHDC for approval. Once installed the court will replace the existing court with a new high-quality, low maintenance court completely free to the public. It is hoped that the grant will also cover some additional features such as an outdoor table –tennis table, adult exercise equipment, seating and improved car parking.

A New Bus Stop Shelter by the War Memorial.

The council owns a small plot of land by the bus stop, the site of a previous shelter which was burned down some years ago and it has decided to install a new shelter on the site.

The old foundations have been uncovered and will be repaired prior to the installation of the new shelter in the Spring.



Speeding through the Village

Our new radar unit has now been running for a year and still it is obvious that a small number of drivers, often resident locally we believe, continue to exceed the 30 mph limits by large margins. We have sent the information from our machine to the local police so that these miscreants may be apprehended! Our thanks to Cllr Richard Ashton who collects and analyses the data and looks after the equipment.

Improving mobile phone connectivity in the area.

The council is concerned that because there is supposed to be a mobile signal outdoors in the parish we will be overlooked in the move to enhance the service. To help us press for improvements, please send the clerk details of location (Post Code), signal strength and mobile provider so that a detailed response can be sent to OFCOM. Without detailed information some areas will be left 'in the dark'.

Please keep your dog under control

The council has received complaints that stray dogs are harassing sheep. Please keep your dog on a leash when you are out in the countryside walking your dogs through the fields. And please remember to close gates properly. Those who exercise their dogs on the Playing Field are reminded to clear up afterwards.

Resignation of the Clerk to the Council.

At the end of the January meeting the Clerk, Geoffrey Brewin told the council he was resigning after twenty-one years in post. He would complete the three month's notice required on the last day of April 2023. It is hoped that the council will have appointed a new clerk by then.

If you are interested in this, which is a part-time local government appointment, currently 6 hours/week, pay scale LC2 please contact the Chair of the Council, Brian Martin - b533martin@btinternet.com