

Parish Council of Alfrick and Lulsley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council on 21st January 2014 at 19:30hrs in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present:

Cllr Miss L Randall, Chair,

Mrs D Jammal, Mrs C Williams

Messrs: P Brown, A G Cooper, B Fishwick, D Lee, G Lowe, B Martin, Cllr P Tuthill, (County Councillor), A Warburton (District Councillor), G M Brewin (Clerk), D Bradley (Parish Tree Warden),

Apologies:

Cllr Cllr D Hughes (District Councillor),

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting; None

Reports:

County & District Cllrs, Footpaths' Warden, Tree Warden, Village Hall, Community Shop.

Cllr P Tuthill reported on matters to reduce expenditure by the County Council, staff reductions and reduced subsidies. He noted also the progress on the Bromsgrove Railway Station and Norton Parkway projects.

Cllr A Warburton reported on the Development Control and five-year land supply problems at MHDC.

In sending his apologies Cllr D Hughes reported on the progress of Application No 13/01157/OUT - Development of 14 New Dwellings - Chapel Meadow, Alfrick, and also possible funding for rural businesses from WCC and European Fund Initiatives.

There were verbal reports from Cllr G Lowe, Parish Paths Warden, Dr D Bradley, Parish Tree Warden, Cllr B Fishwick, Village Hall representative and Cllr B Martin for the Community Shop.

AGENDA

1.

Members' Apologies for absence

All members were present

2.

Members' Declarations of Interest

There were Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items from Cllrs A Cooper, B Fishwick, D Jamal - all with regard to the Developments at Chapel Meadow.

3.

Confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th November 2013 circulated in advance.

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

4.

Financial Matters;

a) Consider the report of the Budget Advisory Group and confirm the precept 2014-15

On behalf of the Budget Advisory Group Cllr A Cooper gave the meeting a review of expected expenditure for the next financial year which indicated that the Parish Precept could be maintained at the current level of £10680.

In addition the clerk was asked to prepare details of items which could be put out to competitive tender in the coming year for a discussion at the next meeting.

b) Approve payment – A R Thomas – Lengthsman's account. £1791.60 inc vat. - Agreed

c) Skateboard Facilities – Decide on project and expenditure -- Information circulated in advance.

In view of the high costs of insurance for this project it was agreed to put this 'on hold' for the time being whilst possible restructuring of the project and costs could be evaluated.

5.

Planning and Environmental Matters;

a) Cllr Miss L Randall to report on progress - Application No 13/01157/OUT - Development of 14 New Dwellings - Chapel Meadow, Alfrick – Circulated in advance.

After a substantial discussion it was agreed that the Cllrs Miss L Randall and B Fishwick would attend the next Northern Area Development Management Committee to press the council's views objecting to this development as set out in this report. It was agreed that a summary of the council's position would be sent to all members of the NADMC in advance of the meeting on 5th February. See appendix a for report.

b) Note Clerk's Delegated Response to the Landscape Officer's Report – Circulated in advance.
This was noted.

6.

Community Planning Advisory Group

Cllr A Cooper reported on the Group's work. The draft plan for the Neighbourhood would be based on a combination of the existing Parish Plan together with the Parish Design Statement as revised in 2011. Group members were working on individual aspects of this. A questionnaire was being developed for the parish based on that used in developing the Parish Plan.

7.

Public Meeting to review Plans for the Community Shop Sat 8th February 2014

It was agreed to circulate a notice of this meeting to all households in the parish by mail. The meeting would be chaired by the Chair of the Council who would introduce representatives of both the Village Shop and Village Hall, and chair the subsequent discussion. Refreshments would be provided after the event allowing time for informal questions.

8.

Clerk's Report -

a) Actions from the previous meeting: These has all been completed.

b) Correspondence Received: The Neighbourhood Policing operation has requested a simplification of the monthly reports to avoid the repeated reporting of zero criminal activity. The clerk was asked to arrange for reports only when events occurred.

c) Items drawn to the council's attention. He drew member's attention to items in the NALC Newsletter and one on Rights of Way in Local Councils Direct.

d) Consider funding for Lengthsman to hire Drain-Clearing Equipment – etc. He advised that it was difficult to find a day's work for the 'Jetting Team' and it was agreed that he would work with the Lengthsman to deal with individual instances of blocked drains.

9.

Items for the next meeting.

Competitive Tendering on Budget Items

10.

Confirm the date of the next meeting; - 18/02/2014 at 19:30 hrs. in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Agreed

The meeting closed at 9.44pm

Minutes Confirmed

.....Chairman 18/02/2014

Chapel Meadow Planning Application (13/01157/OUT) –Update.

Since the last Parish Council meeting there have been a number of developments in this application with new documents published on the MHDC website. We have responded to most of these documents and most of our comments are also on the website. The following notes very briefly summarise the additional information and refer to the available documents on the website –I have put their titles in bold and included the dates on which they became available on the website, though these are often very different to the dates when they were written.

- At the November Council meeting I summarised the discussions held at a meeting between myself, Andrew and Brian F with Sam Silcocks (the then MHDC planning case officer) and Bob Hughes (South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership). You will recall that at the insistence of Bob Hughes and ourselves it was agreed that the developer would be asked to arrange the submission of a land drainage report.
- The above report became available on 06/12/2013 and ran to 32 pages. It was prepared by Robert West Consulting and undertaken as a desk exercise, there was no site visit. It did propose some detail for the development site itself but failed to address the fundamental issues that we (and others) had raised –see **Flood Risk Assessment –additional info (06/12/2013)**. We were given a short time for re-consultation and made our comments within a few days, these are on the website as **Comments Alfrick and Lulsley Parish Council (24/12/1013)**. It was also agreed that the decision date of December set by MHDC for this application would be postponed.
- This was followed by a comment **South Worcestershire Land drainage Partnership (16/12/2013)** (Bob Hughes) which was highly critical of the Robert West Consulting report and recommended that further investigation was required. Bob Hughes had made a site visit and carried out a basic survey of the drainage system at the field/road boundary. We have commented briefly in support of this report.
- At around this point we became aware that our case officer (Sam Silcocks) had left MHDC planning and been replaced by Lucy Parsons. We have exchanged emails and are trying to make arrangements for a meeting with her.
- The next report came from Chris Lewis-Farley –**MHDC Landscape Officer (24/12/2013)**. Note. This report was actually dated 11th October ie, prior to the date originally set for the decision but only became public on Christmas Eve. This report looked at the visual impact and the Great Crested Newt issue and suggested that the planning application be withdrawn until the applicant can show that there is no satisfactory alternative to this development or that suitable mitigation has been proposed. We have commented on this report but it has not yet been loaded to the MHDC website.
- A further report **Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (30/12/2013)** from Steve Bloomfield, Conservation Officer, Planning comments on the impact of the development on the wildlife but is less critical of the planning application than the one from the Landscape Officer.
- In addition we have written to our two District Councillors asking for their support in opposing this planning application; drafts of these letters were circulated to members prior to their being sent as was our response to the Landscape Officer’s report

If you are able to find time to have a look at the above it will save time at the next meeting as we can all start from the same point.

Louise Randall