

MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on 13 March 2023

Present: Christopher Langley (CL) Chairman, Nick Rose (NR), Robin Gilbert (RG), T Giles (TG), Jeff Hayward (JH), Christina Joyce (CJ), Will Palmer (WP), Bill Vaudrey (BV), Mal Ward (MW).

In attendance: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk: James Mallinder (JM), District Councillor (part)

Members of public: None

- 1. Open Forum:** No concerns were raised
- 2. Apologies for absence:** None
- 3. Declarations of member's interests in any items on this agenda:** None
- 4. Approval of minutes of meetings:** The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 were approved and signed.
- 5. Matters arising from minutes:** JH reported that the speed watch team had operated 7 sessions and 12 motorists were found to be exceeding the speed limit. These have been reported and will receive a letter from the police.
- 6. District Councillor's Report:** As Dis. Cllr. James Mallinder had other parish council meetings this evening he was unable to attend until later, see end of report.
- 7. Finance: (i) to finalise budget for 2023/24** - The Budget (copy attached) for 2023/24 was adjusted to allow for the current rise in the cost of living. This was then approved. **(ii) to approve payments over £100** – The items on the attached list were authorised and the payments made since the last meeting noted. (iii) The clerk reported that there is £24,609 in the bank.
- 8. Allotments – Update re lease** – The chairman reported that the lease of the land from the Flagship Housing Group Ltd has been renewed until 16 June 2029.
- 9. Beach Lane – Update** – The chairman stated that it has been established that neither the Parish Council, District Council or County Council own this land. When Sir Cuthbert Quilter died in the 1950s his land was divided up and sold to local farmers. It is the understanding of the chair that the whole of Beach Lane would have been included in the sale to Mann Farms. CJ stated that she has searched the Land Registry and Beach Lane is unregistered but someone must hold the title deeds. CJ and JH agreed to visit a resident who lives along Beach Lane to find out what is recorded on the deeds regarding right of access.
- 10. Recreation ground - (i) To discuss purchase of new picnic tables** – It was unanimously agreed to purchase 3 new picnic tables made from recycled plastic at a cost of £1230 exc.VAT. The cost of these will be paid for with money received from the Community Infrastructure Levy. **(ii) To discuss hiring a skip and clearing storage container** – WP stated that the old container which is full of rubbish leaks and is very damp inside. In view of this the clerk was asked to investigate as to whether Sackers would remove the container and take the rubbish at the same time. **(iii) – To discuss renewal of contract for grass cutting** – The clerk stated that she had been unable to find a new contractor to cut the grass on the recreation ground but had received an offer of renewal for 14 cuts at a cost of £598 from Suffolk Norse. WP offered to investigate further. **(iv) - Basketball Base – update on situation re work carried out and action to be taken by the contractor to remedy uneven surface** – MW reported that he has been in constant touch with the contractor who has agreed the work is not up to standard. The contractor will visit the site next week and MW will follow up.
- 11. Pavilion – To receive quotes for renovation and discuss way forward** – Two quotes have been received regarding this work namely, G W Smith (Alderton) Ltd £5985 and Bradley Building Contractors £8225.

After discussion it was felt that these major repairs should be left until it has been established what further cost might be incurred when boards are removed with emergency repairs only being carried out.

- 12. Village Hall – To discuss purchase of sanitary bins** – NR informed councillors that 3 new sanitary bins are required in the village hall. Approval was given to purchase these at a cost of approximately £120.
- 13. East Suffolk Blooms – to discuss accepting spring bulbs to plant on public land** – Cllr. James Mallinder is championing a scheme launched by East Suffolk Council to supply spring bulbs to voluntary and community groups throughout East Suffolk. It was decided to apply for one bundle of bulbs which, if awarded, will be available to plant in November.
- 14. Village fete – To discuss organisation of fete in 2023** – WP stated that he had met with CJ and JA and basic arrangements have been put in place.
- 15. King Charles’ III Coronation – To discuss how to celebrate and commemorate** – It was agreed to purchase 72 commemorative mugs at a cost of £584.40 to be given to all children under 16 who are resident in the village. These will be distributed at an event to be held on the recreation ground commencing at 12 noon on Sunday 7 May 2023. BV suggested a BBQ with music by Flaming Cheek and a bar. CJ suggested making bird boxes which can be distributed around the village, this seemed appropriate as King Charles is particularly interested in the environment.
- 16. Litter pick – to agree date for village litter pick** – this was arranged for Sunday 26 March meeting at the pavilion at 10 a.m. The clerk stated she would get pickers, sacks and hoops from East Suffolk Norse.
- 17. Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – **(i)** The Village Recorder has been offered the old Alderton school bell for display in the village hall. **(ii)** The clerk informed councillors that she would take all nomination papers for those who are standing for election to East Suffolk offices on 27 March if they wished. These have to be delivered to ES by hand before 4p.m on Tuesday 4 April.
- 18. Dist. Cllr. James Mallinder joined the meeting** – JM stated that he has been the Environmental Portfolio holder at ES for the past four years and will be standing for election as District Councillor for the Deben Ward at the election in May. A copy of his latest newsletter had been sent to all councillors via email. JM drew attention to the new small electrical recycling scheme which is being trialled with pink bins available at Tesco stores in Kesgrave and Martlesham. He stated that he has been supporting communities re the proposed closure of the doctor’s surgery in Hollesley and the planning for 65 new homes in Eyke. He held a series of surgeries recently when residents could raise their concerns. He stated that he has been challenging the parking charges in Ramsholt but although signage has now been reduced the situation stays the same. JM finished by thanking Christopher Langley for his years as chairman of Alderton Parish Council.

19. Date of next meeting:- AGM 15 May 2023

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m

Signed.....

Date.....

