

MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on 19 June 2023

Present: Jeff Hayward (JH) Chairman, Nick Rose (NR), J Butler (JB), T Giles (TG), L Gowen (LG), Christina Joyce (CJ), B Loughlin(BL), Will Palmer (WP), Mal Ward (MW).

In attendance: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk: Representative from Suffolk Emergency Planning

Members of public: 2

- 1. Open Forum:** No members of the public were present. No concerns were therefore raised.
- 2. Apologies for absence:** None
- 3. Co-option of councillors** – Joanne Butler and Laura Gowen were co-opted and Declarations of Acceptance signed. The chairman welcomed both new councillors and advised that there is training to be undertaken – clerk to send information.
- 4. Declarations of member's interests in any items on this agenda:** None
- 5. Emergency Plan – To receive a report on suitability of village hall for emergency use** – BL arranged for two visitors from the Bawdsey/Alderton Emergency Planning committee to attend and also a representative from Suffolk Emergency Planning who advised that volunteers, who will invest time are needed but *"It is best to keep it simple to start with. As long as you can provide light and heat you have the basics which can then be built on"*. Vulnerable residents should be advised to register with the UK Power Network who can then give them priority for reconnecting electricity. When asked if we needed a generator he advised that UKPN would have advice on this. NR informed the meeting that the village hall has been insulated and a gas heater installed to bring it up to standard as an emergency centre. It became apparent that Alderton and Bawdsey already have formulated an emergency plan and a survey of both villages had been carried out but now needs updating. The chairman thanked all the representatives for their help and advice and they left the meeting. **BL** to discuss with the 'Bawdsey' committee what follow up action is required by Alderton.
- 6. Approval of minutes of meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2023 were approved and signed.
- 7. District Councillor's Report:** Dis. Cllr. James Mallinder was unable to attend but had sent his June newsletter
- 8. Planning application -DC/23/1755/FUL - Proposal: Garage conversion to ancillary accommodation at 46, The Street, Alderton, IP12 3BL-** APC has no objections to these alterations.
- 9. Admin – To discuss replacement/repair to office printer** -The council approved a budget of £400 to replace the printer. **WP** recommended a laser printer and will investigate.
- 10. Finance: (i) To report on current financial status-** The clerk reported that the whole of this year's precept has been received making the total at the bank £8687.35 in the current account and £20948.15 in the savings account. **(ii) To check and sign CIL report** -The chairman explained the figures to members, this was approved and signed. **(iii) To approve payments** – Payments on the attached list were approved.

- 11. Marquees – To review policy on hiring out marquees owned by the Parish Council** – It was agreed by vote of 6 members for & 3 against, that a trial should be carried out. For the largest marquee it was agreed at a hire charge of £100 with £300 deposit. **Clerk** and **JH** to review and update 'Terms and conditions' to apply. **BL** and **TG** will check and prepare marquee.
- 12. The Shrubbery – update on access to Public Right of Way and maintenance** – A cutting has been made avoiding the new metal gate thereby giving access to the original footpath. The grass and undergrowth have been cut now making it passable but the signpost on the Hollesley Road still needs to be cleared from trees etc.
- 13. Drones – To discuss testing of drones being carried out in the village** – The company concerned had been contacted by the clerk and information received passed to all councillors. The necessary permissions have been obtained by the company. This is an operation to explore the viability of sending medical samples from outlying doctor's surgeries to Ipswich hospital using drones. It was felt that if parishioners were made aware that this is work being carried out in conjunction with the NHS it would be more acceptable. Information to be put on website and bus shelter.
- 14. Beach Lane – To discuss resident's concerns** – CJ reported that she has met with Mr Robin Shrimpton regarding this in order to try and gain an understanding of any upkeep implications in title deeds had been placed on the residents. It was reported that Mr Shrimpton advised he has nothing but is concerned with the lack of drainage and the soakaway outside his property. Mr Shrimpton has obtained quotes to rectify this (£600/£800) and he is liaising with the management of the Peninsula Practice who are responsible for the maintenance of the drain. He has also obtained a quote to level the stretch from the main road to the entrance of the recreation ground (in the region of £2400). JB was aware of a home owner who advised her that it is stated in their deeds and believes it to be the responsibility of residents for the upkeep of Beach Lane. **JH** to prepare a letter to this effect to be sent to Mr Shrimpton and all residents of Beach Lane.
- 15. Recreation ground – To discuss way forward with grass cutting** - WP has previously looked into this and a suitable alternative contractor has not been found. In view of this it was decided to allow the contract to pass over to East Suffolk Services on 1 July 2023. John Mann has offered to cut the grass when needed, LG pointed out that it is essential to check that he has Public Liability insurance and a risk assessment in place which she offered to help with. It was decided that the idea of leaving wild areas should be looked into and planned for the next growing season.
- 16. Pavilion – To receive update on repairs** – The pavilion has been satisfactorily repaired and painted. Authority given for invoice to be paid.
- 17. Village Hall – (i) Outside drain needs repair**- The pipework from the kitchen needs replacing, this is in hand. **(ii) Proposal to put chain across car park to stop unofficial parking** – This was agreed, **BL** will deal.
- 18. Old school bell – To discuss display of Alderton old school bell**- APC are now in possession of the hand bell which was used at Alderton school. Judy Foulger has offered to write a potted history and Richard Gilligan will make a display cabinet. It was felt that the church or village pub would be the best place for this. **MW** will follow this up.
- 19. Village Fete – To finalise arrangements** – WP reported that all is in hand. It was felt that it is necessary to offer card payments at events now as many people no longer carry cash. **WP** to arrange this.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the council –

- **BL** stated that the high hedge along the Hollesley Road is hanging over the road causing damage to vehicles and needs to be reported to Highways.
- **JH** wishes the council to tidy-up the appearance of the Village Hall & Car Park and the appointment of a regular handy man to carry our repairs for the council.
- **Clerk & JH** to look into improving the Council website.

Date of next meeting:- 11th September 2023

The meeting closed at 9.15p.m.

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT