

MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on 11 March 2024

Present Jeff Hayward (JH) Chair, Nick Rose (NR), Joanne Butler (JB), Christina Joyce (CJ), Bob Loughlin (BL), Will Palmer (WP), Mal Ward (MW).

In attendance: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk

Members of public: None

- 1. Open Forum:** No members of the public present therefore no concerns were raised
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Tim Giles, Laura Gowen
- 3. Declarations of member's interests in any items on this agenda:** JH declared an interest in items 9 and 10 as he is a member of Bowls club.
- 4. Approval of minutes of meetings:** The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 were approved and signed.
- 5. Clerk's report:** (i) The clerk reported that she had attended a meeting along with Bawdsey parish councillors at which the clerk for Ufford Parish Council gave a briefing on what is involved in setting up a Neighbourhood Plan. This is a statutory document which sits alongside the Local Plan. It typically takes 2 to 3 years to set up and needs the backing of the community. It was decided that if there are issues which affect both Alderton and Bawdsey it would be worth considering a joint plan. Bawdsey PC will be discussing this at their next meeting and will be in touch regarding the next steps. (ii) NR attended the Annual Conference of the East Suffolk Planning Alliance (iii) JH has completed the Thermal Imaging exercise organised by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership. 19 households took part and all have been sent images of their properties.
- 6. Finance:** (i) **Expenditure versus Budget review** – JH stated that the budget for 2023/24 had been set at £10435 but £13114 had been spent. This is because a lot of maintenance work has been carried out using reserves to cover this cost. A budget for 2024/25 will be finalised by the chairman and clerk and presented at the next meeting. (ii) **Revision of Financial Regulations** – JH proposed minor alterations to items 4 and 10 in the Financial Regulations to make these clearer. Copies were passed to all councillors and these were unanimously approved. (iii) **to note payments made since last meeting** – The items on the attached list were noted.
- 7. Allotments – Update re water supply costs** – TG was not present so this was deferred until the next meeting.
- 8. Recreation ground – (i) To receive new Health and Safety procedures** – a new set of procedures was handed to all councillors for discussion at the next meeting. (ii) **To arrange monitoring of play equipment** - WP reported that there are a few minor repairs outstanding on the play equipment. It was suggested that it would be helpful if members of the public could be encouraged to check the equipment and report any issues to the clerk. This will then be recorded in a dedicated book by the clerk.
- 9. Bowls Club – To discuss new agreement including electric and water company contracts**- After discussion it was agreed to draw up an agreement between Alderton Parish Council and Alderton Bowls Club with APC taking responsibility for the electricity charges. This was a unanimous decision (JH did not take part in the vote)

- 10. Grants – To discuss grant application from Bowls Club** – The clerk has received an application from Alderton Bowls Club for a grant towards replacing their fence. It was agreed to grant £500 towards this which will be paid in May.
- 11. Pigs along Shottisham Road – To discuss danger of pigs roaming on public highway** -a number of incidents have been reported to the council and it was decided that the clerk should write to the company regarding this.
- 12. Village Hall – (i) To receive quote for electrics upgrade** – after discussion **BL** was asked to obtain new quotes excluding the infrared heater in main hall and heaters in the committee room and kitchen. **(ii) To discuss outstanding works** – **NR** was asked to obtain quotes for a new kitchen door. Work to replace broken tiles on the threshold is still outstanding. **BL** has arranged for a quote to sand and treat the floor in the main hall. **(iii) To consider forming a village hall committee**- this was deferred until the next meeting. **JH** thanked **MW** for overseeing the painting of the hall.
- 13. Litter pick – to agree date for village litter pick** – this was arranged for Sunday 14 April meeting at the pavilion at 10 a.m.
- 14. Dates of meetings – To agree dates for forthcoming meetings** - It was agreed to hold an Annual Parish Meeting on 15 April at 7p.m when local organisations in the village can report on their activities to the community. Clerk to advertise and invite organisations. The Annual Parish Council meeting will be on 13 May 2024. Clerk to forward suggested dates for 2024/25 to councillors for agreement at next meeting.
- 15. Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – **MW** stated that he had been advised that Alderton Parochial Church Council are planning an event at the beginning of December 2024. This will need to be taken into account when arranging our Christmas celebrations.
- 16. Date of next meeting:-** AGM 13 May 2024

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m

These are draft minutes which will be verified at the next meeting