

MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 11 November 2024 at 7p.m

Present: Jeff Hayward (JH) Chair, Nick Rose (NR), Andrew Warne (AW), Mal Ward (MW)

In attendance: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk,

Members of public: None

- 1. Open forum:** No matters were raised
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Joanne Butler, Tim Giles, Bob Loughlin
- 3. Declarations of member's interests in any items on this agenda:** None
- 4. Approval of minutes of meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2024 were approved and signed.
- 5. Clerk's and Chairman's updates:** - **Chairman** – (i) JH reported that the process of installing EV chargers on the recreation ground is progressing. (ii) He has written to Highways regarding the position of the 30mph signs on the Hollesley Road and is awaiting a response. (iii) The parish council is taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival to be held in St Andrew's church and JH is leading this. **Clerk** – (i) The clerk was made aware of rats in and around the forage clamp in a field on the Hollesley Road and has reported the problem to both the company responsible for the clamp and to the Environmental Services at East Suffolk Council. A pest control company has been contacted and asked to visit as soon as possible. (ii) A fire risk assessment has been carried out in the village hall and several small items need attention. The **clerk and MW** agreed to do these and a councillor to carry out regular checks will be appointed at the next meeting.
- 6. Co-option of councillors - Declaration of Acceptance to be signed** – The chairman welcomed Mr Andrew Warne to the council and the declaration of acceptance was duly signed.
- 7. District Councillor's report** – JM was unable to attend the meeting but his monthly newsletter had been emailed to all councillors.
- 8. Finance - (i) To review budget and discuss precept for 2025/26** – All councillors had received a copy of the budget review for November 2024. These figures were discussed and councillors were asked to put forward any projects they had in mind for the coming year. The budget for 2025/26 will be finalised and presented for adoption at the January meeting. **(ii) To authorise payments and note payments made since last meeting** – The clerk stated that on 31st October there was £7270.65 in the current account and £21337.61 in the savings account. It was agreed that £4000 should be transferred to savings to attract more interest. **(iii) To discuss clerk's pay rise as per National Assoc. of Councils pay award** – It was unanimously agreed to increase the clerk's hourly rate to £13.69 - proposed JH, seconded NR.
- 9. Beach Lane – To receive proposal from residents** – it was noted that some repairs had been carried out and the parish council has received a quote and a proposal from Mrs. E. Veats that it should pay for the remaining repairs to Beach Lane and that she was progressing with the formation of a Resident's Association. NR stated that the councils' position has not changed in that we cannot take responsibility for Beach Lane and if a formal association was to be formed then they would be able to submit an application for a council community grant. The **chairman** will write to Mrs Veats.

- 10. Sexual and General Harassment Policy – To adopt new policy** – The clerk will carry out further work on this and present it at the next meeting. NR wishes to confirm that Just 42 has relevant policies in place for running the youth club, clerk to follow this up.
- 11. Speed Indicator Device (SID) – To discuss** – JH stated that he feels this would be beneficial to the village along with a 20mph speed limit in part of the Hollesley Road, from Watson Way to The Street. MW presented details of some portable signs which can be placed in different parts of the village as appropriate and would be far cheaper than a SID. As several councillors were absent it was decided to make a final decision at the next meeting.
- 12. Village Clean Up – To discuss** – MW proposed that residents should be asked to clean up in front of their property to improve the appearance of the village. It was agreed that he would post this idea on social media and the clerk will put up some posters. MW also stated that the annual litter pick needs to be arranged for early March next year before the roadside banks become overgrown.
- 13. Recreation Ground – To receive update on work in progress** – JH reported that APC has arranged a 5 year package with Sovereign Design Play Systems Ltd to inspect the play equipment and carry out any necessary repairs. In addition, the Zip wire will receive a service. He will also endeavour to get a quote for the upgrade the supply fuse box, installation of an external electric socket and an outside tap on the pavilion and for attention to several trees which are in need of attention..
- 14. Village Hall – To receive update on work in progress** – JH reported that BL has work in hand regarding electrics. JH will look into purchasing a floor polisher and a new Hoover plus get a quote for an external socket for a generator as detailed in our emergency plan.
- 15. Joint Deben Ward Parish Council meeting – items for agenda** – councillors agreed that the main item should be regarding Highways in general and the traffic congestion from Sutton to Melton.
- 16. Christmas activities – To discuss arrangements** – Events: Christmas Tree Lights Switch On 7th December at 5p.m; Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea 17th December at 3p.m; Children’s Party 23rd December 1 – 3p.m. It was agreed that more people are needed to organise these events and councillors should ask anyone who may be able to help. A budget of £30 was agreed for the youth club to buy craft materials to make decorations for their Christmas tree. Wednesday 4th December at 7p.m was arranged to decorate the village hall.
- 17. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council** – no matters were reported.
- 18. Date of next meeting** – Monday 13 January 2025

The meeting closed at 9.05p.m

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

