

## MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 8 July 2024 at 7 p.m

**Present:** Jeff Hayward (JF) Chairman, Nick Rose (NR), Joanne Butler (JB), Tim Giles (TG), Mal Ward (MW)

**In attendance:** Joy Andrews (JA), clerk.

**Members of public:** None

1. **Open forum:** No members of the public were present.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Bob Loughlin
3. **Declarations of member's interests in any items on this agenda:** JH declared that as he is a member of the Bowls club he would not vote on item 12.
4. **Declaration of Acceptance of office** – duly signed by Nick Rose, vice chair.
5. **Approval of minutes of meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2024 were approved and signed.
6. **Clerks' and Chairman's report** – (i)The **chairman** informed the meeting that our new '.gov.uk' website for Alderton Parish Council has been launched and he is currently bringing it up to date. (ii) Suffolk County Council have appointed a company to instal Electric Vehicle charging points around the county and the application from Alderton is being considered. This will necessitate completion of a legal document which must be returned by 31 July 2024 to confirm that the council wishes to go ahead with this project. Councillors voted unanimously to go ahead. The **clerk** reported that this year's fete was being organised by two members of the community and all arrangements were in place. JH commented that the advertising this year is excellent.
7. **Councillor vacancies – To discuss co-option** - The **clerk** was instructed to advertise the 2 vacant posts.
8. **Finance - (i) To report on current financial status** - The clerk reported that there is currently £8,157.43 in the current account and £21,258.11 in the savings account. This includes £7,350 which is the total precept payment for 2024/25. It was agreed that the sums earmarked for specific projects need to be reviewed, this will be discussed at the next meeting. **(ii) To approve payments** - Payments made were noted and approved. **(iii) To receive and approve CIL report** - The CIL report was checked and signed.
9. **Village Hall – To receive updates from JB and BL. Discuss future management** - **(i)** JB reported that it costs £100 per day to hire a floor polisher. After discussion it was decided that it would be more economical to buy a machine for this purpose. A budget of £300 was set for **JB** to purchase this. **(ii)** NR suggested that it would be beneficial to fit trickle vents in the toilet windows as there has been a problem with unpleasant smells. It was agreed to appoint Woodbridge Glass to carry out this work. **(iii)** JB agreed to clean the hall once a month, hours and rates to be discussed. **(iv)** BL had informed the clerk that he is still awaiting estimates for the electrical work in the hall but this is in hand. **(v)** JH reported that he has received an estimate of £360 to complete the minor repairs in the hall, this will include repairing the threshold between the entrance lobby and main hall, repairing the skylight in the entrance lobby and installing shelving in main hall. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with this work. **(v)** JH feels that the village hall needs to be promoted more in order to generate more funds. In order to do this he suggested forming a group from the community to organise events. **Clerk** to advertise for volunteers.

10. **Beach Lane – To review response to residents’ meeting and consider proposal from resident re lane repairs** – The chairman reported that only 3 residents had responded to his letter regarding holding a meeting to discuss repairs to Beach Lane. Councillors had received a copy of all emails between the chairman and Suffolk County Council regarding this and felt that as this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council there is no further action it can take. With regard to the repair quotation received, councillors also received copies of all correspondence between himself and Mr Robin Shrimpton but felt that they needed to see a plan for the whole of Beach Lane. Furthermore, they would like to be made aware of the other residents’ thoughts and contribution before any Council financial contribution could be considered. It was decided that JH would write to Mr Robin Shrimpton suggesting that he forms a residents’ association to take this forward.
11. **Recreation ground (i) To consider new Health & Safety procedures** – The policy statement was agreed and accepted by councillors, clerk to purchase a new accident book. **(ii) To discuss repairs to the containers and renovations to the play area** – It was agreed to purchase shelving for one container at a cost of £240. TG agreed to follow this up. MW agreed to get a quote for painting some of the equipment with a specialist, colourful paint and treating the fence with a preservative. JH and MW will source signs stating ‘uneven surface on basketball area’ and ‘no vehicles on playing field’. TG agreed to being the responsible officer for the recreation ground. JH will check the Rospa report.
12. **Bowls Club – To discuss proposal regarding areas of agreement and power costs** – APC have to take responsibility for the electricity supply at the Pavilion. A proposal was made by the bowls club that it should only pay for the electricity they use and all daily standing charges should be the responsibility of the Council. It was discussed and agreed (JH did not vote) that the bowls club should be asked to pay the costs (standing charge and units used) for the period from April to September and the Parish Council to pay for the remainder of the year plus an allowance will be made when events such as the village fete take place. The chairman asked the vice chairman (NR) to contact Mr Clive Baker of the bowls club.
13. **The Swan Public House – To discuss Community Asset renewal** – It was accepted by councillors that communication with the landlord had not been handled correctly regarding this and JH agreed to contact them and write a letter of apology for this oversight. However, it was felt that it is in the interest of the community to renew this order and the application still stands.
14. **Planning application** - DC/24/2202/FUL: New porch, replace conservatory with rear extension, minor internal works, convert part of garage to a plant room, replace garage roof, changes to external elevations including timber cladding, replace windows and external doors, add roof lights. Site address: The Moorings, Mill Hoo, Alderton – After discussion it was decided to support this application.
15. **Box Up project** – It was felt that this scheme would not benefit the village in any way and was unanimously rejected.
16. **In Post Parcels** – Councillors felt that this may be a useful service for the community and JB agreed to investigate various options and report to the next meeting.
17. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council** – (i) NR reported that traffic cones have been purchased mainly for use at the fete. These will be stored in the container. (ii) JH stated that thought should be given to Christmas activities so that these can be discussed at the next meeting. A date for the 2025 fete needs to be set.
18. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 9 September 2024. The meeting closed at 9.10p.m

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

