

MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on 10 March 2025

Present Jeff Hayward (JH) Chair, Nick Rose (NR), Joanne Butler (JB), Anne Jessup (AJ), Bob Loughlin (BL), Andrew Warne (AW)

In attendance: Joy Andrews (JA) current clerk, Amelia Parmenter (AP) new clerk, James Mallinder (JM) District Councillor.

Members of public: None

Open Forum: No members of the public present therefore no concerns were raised

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Tim Giles, Mal Ward
- 2. Co-option of councillor:** It was agreed to co-opt Mr Alan Austin as a member of the council. As he was unable to attend the meeting the Declaration of Acceptance will be signed at the next meeting.
- 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 13 January 2025 were approved and signed.
- 5. Clerk's and Chairman's update:**

Clerk - (i) The clerk reported that the annual litter pick took place on 9 March with 12 volunteers covering the whole village. **(ii)** It has been arranged for a community police officer to attend the Thirsty Thursday meet-up on 27 March which will be an opportunity to discuss parking in the village. All welcome to attend. **(iii)** The flooding on Hollesley Road has been reported to Highways. This has been passed to Enforcement who will contact the landowner re digging out the ditches on their property and the council will clear the gullies on the opposite side of the road. **(iv)** Flooding on School Corner has also been reported but the response was that 24 hours has to be allowed for the water to recede. The drains are on a routine inspection rota and will be assessed then. **(v)** The council has been notified that there will be traffic lights on Ford Hill, Shottisham for 2 weeks commencing this week **(vi)** AW had raised the question as to whether it is possible to erect signs to warn road users of the presence of deer along the B1083. After investigation the clerk had found this could be done at a reasonable cost but suitable sites would need to be found. **Chairman – (i)** The chairman stated that the electric vehicle chargers being supplied by Plug-in Suffolk are scheduled to be installed sometime before October. **(ii)** A quote for the heaters, sensor light and outdoor spotlights at the village hall has been received from GPM Electrics but he is waiting for another from Barnard Electrical Services.
- 6. To confirm appointment of new parish clerk:** The chairman introduced Amelia Parmenter who will be parish clerk from 1 April 2025. She was welcomed by councillors.
- 7. District Councillor's report:** The March newsletter had been circulated to all councillors. **(i)** JM explained that East Suffolk Council are going ahead with the new system of collecting recyclable materials so every household will have more bins. **(ii)** He has spent some time with the new MP Jenny Riddell Carpenter showing her around our ward and highlighting the problems so that she has more understanding of what we face in rural communities. **(iii)** JM thanked JA for her years of service and welcomed AP as the new clerk. **(iv)** The chairman thanked James for the grant Alderton Parish Council had received towards Christmas events and JM stated that he would consider further help towards the cost of electric work at the village hall and would be pleased to make a contribution to the Thirsty Thursday group from his 25/26 Enabling Communities budget.

- 8. Finance – (i) Report on financial position** – £992.90 is held in the current account and £20491.32 in the Business Premium account. **(ii) To approve budget for 2025/26** – The chairman handed out copies of a financial review for 2024/25 which was discussed. He then stated that the final budget figures will be presented for approval at the Annual meeting. **(iii) To consider opening a new bank account with higher rate of interest for reserves** – It was proposed by AJ and seconded by BL that an account should be opened with Hinckley and Rugby Building Society. All agreed. **(iv) To authorise payments and note payments made since last meeting** – These were duly authorised and noted.
- 9. Defibrillator – To confirm responsibility** – The clerk reported that Will Palmer has confirmed that he is still monitoring the defibrillator. This will be handed over to BL in the near future.
- 10. Village Hall – To appoint responsible officer to take bookings etc** – After discussion it was left that as this does not have to be a councillor the chairman would try to resolve the matter by the end of the month.
- 11. Village Hub – To discuss upkeep** – Mrs Sue Hayward has volunteered to keep the books etc. tidy, passing unwanted items on to a charity.
- 12. Maize clamp – To discuss** – The clerk reported that she had contacted Agri-gen Ltd who stated that it is planned to start the removal of the maize in May. It will be approximately 8 tractor trailer loads a day, Monday – Friday through the Hollesley route. Councillors were also concerned about the smell from the clamp which will only get worse as the weather gets warmer. In view of this it was felt that it will be necessary to keep the pressure on the company. If this is troubling the householders nearby they will need to personally contact the Environmental department at East Suffolk Council.
- 13. Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – **(i)** BL apologised to councillors for inappropriate material which had been sent out to the WhatsApp group, this has been deleted. **(ii)** AW reported that the public footpath at the far end of Beach Lane has been impassable for some months. He will report this on the Highways website. **(iii)** The clerk stated that there had been no response from the Citizen’s Advice Bureau after APC had offered the use of the village hall as an outpost.
- 14. Date of next meeting:-** Annual Parish meeting 14 April 2025, AGM 12 May 2025

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m

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

