

MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 13 January 2025 at 7p.m

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

In attendance: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk, Anne Jessup

Members of public: None

- 1. Open forum:** No matters were raised
- 2. Apologies for absence:** Joanne Butler, Tim Giles
- 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 11 November 2024 were approved and signed.
- 5. Co-option of councillor** – an application had been received from Anne Jessup which had been circulated to all councillors. After a short discussion it was unanimously agreed to co-opt her on to the parish council. The chairman welcomed Ms Jessup to the council and the Declaration of Acceptance was duly signed.
- 6. Clerk's and Chairman's updates:** - **Chairman** – (i) JH reported that he has received the agreement from Plug-in Suffolk regarding the installation of EV chargers and this needs to be checked and signed in order to progress. (ii) There has been a response from Highways regarding moving the 30mph signs on Hollesley Road but it was not satisfactory and a response has been submitted. (iii) The smoke detectors and socket for a generator have been installed in the village hall but he is still waiting for an estimate to upgrade the outside lighting and heaters for the meeting room and kitchen. (iv) An outside electric socket has been fitted to the pavilion.
Clerk – The clerk reported that, along with the chairman, she had attended a joint meeting of the Deben Ward Parish Councils which was held in Sutton Memorial Hall. The main issues which are affecting all local councils are regarding the state of our roads and it was proposed that a joint letter of complaint should be sent to Andrew Reid (Suffolk County Councillor) and Paul West (SCC cabinet minister for highways). Mike Peates (Sutton Parish clerk) asked all clerks to send details of issues in their parish to him and he will compile a spreadsheet.
- 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 finalise precept for 2025/26** – All councillors had been sent a copy of the budget review for January which had been prepared by the clerk and the chairman handed out figures for the review of 24/25 and a proposed 2025/ 26 spend. The chairman stated that he has received a quote of £5000 to refurbish the kitchen in the village hall but this needs further consideration. It is also possible that shingle will be needed to keep the car park on the recreation ground in good order but £15,000 of reserves is earmarked for possible repairs to the village hall roof. JH proposed that there should be a separate bank account for profits from the village fete which could be used for community events, grants to local organisations and donations to charities. After precept discussion it was proposed that taking all of this into account the parish council should ask for £10,000 for the coming year. This was proposed by MW and seconded by NR and the vote was unanimous. **(ii) To authorise payments and note payments made since last meeting** - After examination BL proposed and NR seconded the motion to approve these figures which was unanimously agreed.

9. **Donations – To review donations policy** – A suggestion had been made at the joint meeting of the Deben Ward Parish Councils that a donation should be made by parish councils towards the equipment for a new First Responder in the area. Councillors agreed to this as it would be permissible under section S137. The chairman reported that a Beach Lane Residents Association is being set up and a bank account in this name has been opened. It was unanimously agreed that when this is all in place APC would be willing to make a donation of £400 towards the repair of Beach Lane with the strict proviso that this would be a one- off payment.
10. **Speed Indicator Device - To discuss** – This was postponed until the next meeting.
11. **Recreation Ground – To receive safety inspection report** – The inspection report carried out by Sovereign Design Play Systems had been sent to all councillors and recommendations were discussed. It was decided to protect the wooden posts from further damage by strimmers by fitting a collar at ground level, BL agreed to investigate this. JH will get a quote to repair the chains on the swings and replace the seats as necessary.
12. **Village Hall – To discuss fire risk assessment report** – The clerk reported that she had purchased necessary signage and this is now in place. JB had been approached and she agreed to carry out the weekly tests providing she is shown exactly what is required. JH will get further quotes for the PAT testing to be carried out.
13. **Litter pick – to agree date** – This was set for Sunday 9 March meeting at 10a.m at the pavilion.
14. **Christmas activities – To review** – Councillors felt that these were successful and enjoyed by a good number of parishioners. A grant had been received from Dist. Cllr James Mallinder’s Community Enabling Fund and MW stated that he would deal with sending the return to East Suffolk Council. It was noted that some form of temporary lighting should be erected for safety reasons at the entrance to Mill Hoo in future when people are gathered to watch the turning on of the Christmas tree lights.
15. **Planning – To discuss planning application DC/24/4426/FUL. Proposal: New porch, replace conservatory with a rear extension, minor internal works, convert part of garage to a plant room, replace garage roof, changes to the external elevations including timber cladding, replace windows and external doors, add roof lights. Site address: The Moorings, Mill Hoo, Alderton** – It was agreed to support this application. AJ did not take part in this discussion.
16. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council** – (i) JH informed the council that Cllr.Tim Giles will be standing down at the end of this financial year due to pressure of work. He also stated that the clerk wishes to retire at the end of the year and this position will be advertised. (ii) MW stated that he has received complaints regarding cars parking on pavements in the village. (iv) BL informed councillors that a representative from the Alzheimers Society will be giving a talk in the village hall on Thurs. 23 January.
17. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 10 March 2025

The meeting closed at 8.45p.m

Signed..... Dated.....

