MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on 11 September 2023

Present: Jeff Hayward (JH) Chairman, Nick Rose (NR), Tim Giles (TG), Laura Gowen (LG), Bob Loughlin(BL), Will Palmer (WP), Mal Ward (MW).

In attendance: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk: Dis. Cllr. James Mallinder (part)

Members of public: None

1. **Open Forum**: No members of the public were present. No concerns were therefore raised.
2. **Apologies for absence**: Joanne Butler, Christina Joyce
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 19 June 2023 were approved and signed.
5. **Clerk's and Chairman's report: To receive updates –** The clerk reported that the repairs to the drain and taps in the kitchen of the village hall have been completed and the chain and padlock across the entrance to the car park are in place. The chairman reported that he had attended a joint meeting of the parish councils on the peninsula. It was ascertained that all of these parishes have similar issues, especially regarding the upkeep of roads and signs. It was agreed that in future it would be advantageous to the peninsular to act as one when dealing with highways and writing directly to Andrew Reid. JH has joined the Deben Estuary Partnership but has not yet attended a meeting. He is currently reviewing the policies and standing orders in relation to APC.
6. **Finance: (i) To report on current financial status**- The bank reconciliation up to 31 August 2023 has been completed by the RFO and verified by the chairman. This shows a balance of £13,282.17 in the current account and £20,948.15 in the savings account. The clerk pointed out that the amount spent on repairs so far this year has exceeded the budget set. This is due to the large amount (£910) spent on unforeseen repairs to the pavilion. This will be covered by a virement from the amount set for Election charges as there is a surplus of £972 for this item. The external audit has been completed and found to be satisfactory. The auditor's report and certificate have been posted on the parish notice board and on the website. It came to light during the audit that it is best practice to have any monies over twice the amount of the precept earmarked for specific projects. It was agreed to allocate £10,000 to replacing play equipment and £4,000 to refurbishing the village hall. **ii) To discuss opening a deposit account for money set aside for projects -** The chairman has contacted Barclays Bank with a view to transferring money set aside to an account which will attract more interest. It was found that the savings account being used is the best option. **(iii) To approve payments** – Payments on the attached list were approved**. (iv) To discuss setting aside an amount to be made available to benefit organisations within the parish** – it was agreed to look at this when the budget for 2024/25 is discussed.
7. **Marquees – To review policy on hiring out marquees owned by the Parish Council** – It was agreed that a longer trial is necessary and this will be reviewed in 2024.
8. **Beach Lane – To receive update** – It has been established that APC are not liable for the upkeep of Beach Lane. Mr Shrimpton has contacted the Peninsula Practice regarding the lack of drainage but has had no response.

9. **Recreation ground – (i) To discuss leaving wild areas and planting bulbs –** JH has been in touch with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and has arranged to meet with a representative who will give advice on site on 11 October at 10.30a.m. **Clerk** to inform Trustees. **(ii) To agree date for clearing containers** - Date arranged for 8 October at 10.30a.m. **Clerk** to order a skip.
   District Councillor James Mallinder joined the meeting and gave his report – JM stated that he is no longer in cabinet as the Green Party and the Liberal Democrats are now in control at East Suffolk Council. He urged councillors to report any issues with sand on the road or flooding via the East Suffolk portal. If this is not something they can deal with they should report to Suffolk County Council. These problems often relate to the surroundings and are ultimately the responsibility of the landowner. JM will back local parish councils regarding these issues. There is a new camping site near Sutton Heath and he is monitoring the situation. JM is continually lobbying the council regarding the extra number of cars using the roads on the peninsula taking into account the new houses to be built in Eyke, the visitors centre planned for Rendlesham Forest and the extra weddings taking place at Butley Priory. **JM left the meeting at 8p.m.**
10. **Maintenance – To discuss repair to bus shelter and upkeep of play equipment –** MW pointed out that the roof of the bus shelter is in poor condition and it generally needs some attention. It was agreed that **JH** and **MW** will get quotes for the necessary work which should be sent to the **clerk.** The amount of £500 was authorised for this work**. TG, BL and MW** volunteered to paint the play equipment with wood preservative.
11. **Emergency Plan – To discuss any action required –** Nothing to report**. BL** asked **WP** for information regarding the defibrillator so that he could take over responsibility.
12. **20's Plenty for Suffolk – To discuss support for campaign** – After discussion it was decided to support the campaign. **Clerk** to get details of Speed Indicator Devices (SID) for next meeting.
13. **Old school bell – To receive report** – MW showed councillors the cabinet in place in the village hall. This has been made with 6mm safety glass and has been made to house the old Alderton school bell and cups used for the Alderton Flower and Produce Show.
14. **Village Fete – To receive report and agree date for 2024 –** The clerk reported that the fete had been a great success with a final profit of £2968.44. Date agreed for next fete 13 July 2024, it was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss arrangements.
15. **Christmas Activities – To discuss –** It was agreed to hold an event on 2 December 2023 when the Christmas Tree lights will be switched on followed by Santa in his grotto. Further discussion to take place regarding additional village activity.
16. **Meetings for 2024 – To review –** The chairman put forward the suggestion that meetings should be held every two months starting in 2024. This will be discussed and decided at next meeting.

Matters to be brought to the attention of the council – No matters were raised.

Date of next meeting:- 4 December 2023

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

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