MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 9 September 2024 at 7p.m

Present: Nick Rose (NR) Chairman, Tim Giles (TG), Bob Loughlin (BL), Mal Ward (MW), Jeff Hayward (JH)

In attendance: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk, James Mallinder (JM) District Councillor (from 8.15p.m)

Members of public: One

1. **Open forum**: No matters were raised
2. **Apologies for absence**: Joanne Butler
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 8 July 2024 were approved and signed.
5. **Co-option of councillors –** An application had been received from Mr Andy Warne and after a short discussion councillors were pleased to co-opt him on to the parish council.
6. **District Councillor's report** – JM had two other meetings to attend this evening so his report was postponed until later. (See item 6a below)
7. **Finance - (i) To report on current financial status** - The clerk reported that there is currently £10,147.73 in the current account and £21,258.11 in the savings account. The bank reconciliation was presented and accepted. **(ii) To review amounts earmarked for specific projects –** JH stated that as the flat roof on the village hall has been untouched for a number of years there is a distinct possibility that it will need work in the not too distant future. In view of this it was decided to earmark £15,000 for this**. (iii) To discuss how money raised at fete should be spent** - A number of suggestions had been received and it was decided to investigate the cost of the following - to install an external electric socket on the pavilion (BL) to install an electric socket in the village hall for a generator to plug into in case of hall being needed as an emergency refuge (BL), to refurbish kitchen (JH), to install a Speed Indicator Device (clerk). **(iv) To discuss donation to Citizens Advice** – It was agreed to make a donation of £250. Councillors also decided to offer the village hall to be used as an outreach post as it is difficult for some residents to get to the office in Woodbridge. **(v) To approve payments** - Payments made were noted and approved. **(vi) To discuss purchase of wreath for Remembrance Day –** clerk instructed to purchase a wreath.
8. **Recreation Ground – (i) To discuss application for 'Take Away' van to visit village –** Mrs Elizabeth Mann (BarMann) asked permission to trade from a Take Away van on the recreation ground. The proposal is to visit once a week in the early evening. After discussion with Mrs Mann councillors voted (all in favour) to allow this with a review in 12 months**. (ii) To discuss upkeep of play equipment** – MW reported that the slide attached to the Pirate Ship has been removed and some woodwork has been repaired, this is currently being painted using a specialist paint in primary colours. Trees are being pruned and the fence treated with a preservative. A specialist company is required for work and ongoing maintenance on the Zip Wire and this is being looked into. MW also reported that work to install two electric vehicle charging points is going ahead at no cost to the parish council. **(iii) To consider erecting signs near play area** – MW reported that he has found dog poo near the play equipment on more than one occasion, it was agreed that a notice is required to remind owners to clear up after their pet. (MW).

(iv) To discuss date for 'End of Summer' event – Councillors agreed to an end of summer event taking place on the recreation ground, date to be arranged.

9. **Village Hall – (i) To receive updates on works and cleaning arrangements** – MW reported that shelves, threshold and repairs to skylight have all been completed. Outside of domes need cleaning JH will arrange with window cleaner. BL stated that he is still trying to get an estimate for the electrical work. Cllr. Butler had agreed to clean the village hall and it was agreed that she should be asked to clean throughout and then a trial of 2 hours per month at £15.00 per hour should be undertaken. This will be reviewed in the new year**. (ii) To update terms of hire –** It was decided that the following condition should be added "No loud music or noise after 11p.m and the premises must be vacated by midnight. Exceptions for special occasions may be considered by application via the clerk"
10. **Allotments – To discuss upkeep** – TG reported that complaints have been received regarding the unkept state of some of the allotments. Letters have been sent to the relevant tenants reminding them of clause 5 in the rules, namely 'The tenant shall keep the allotment garden free from weeds and maintain it in good fertile condition'. If this is not carried out within the next month notice of termination will be served.
11. **Christmas activities – To discuss arrangements** – The following was agreed – Christmas Tree lights switch on Saturday 7 December, Senior citizens tea party 17 December, Children's party date to be arranged, all to be held in the village hall. Councillors agreed to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival to be held in St. Andrew's church from 29 November to 1st December.
12. **Village fete – To set date for 2025 –** Saturday 12th July
13. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council** – (i) NR reported that there has been a lot of noise coming from irrigation equipment in one of the fields. (ii) The clerk stated that the bench gifted to the parish in memory of Rosemary and Clifford Thurston is now in place on the recreation ground. (iii) JH reported that Mr Robin Shrimpton has declined setting up a resident's association with regard to improving Beach Lane.
14. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 11 November 2024

6a. District Councillors report – The District Councillor's monthly newsletter had been circulated to all councillors. (i) JM stated that he is currently monitoring two planning enforcement issues in the area. (ii) The construction of 65 new houses in Eyke is going ahead. (iii) East Suffolk Council is changing the way in which household waste is collected to keep in line with the government initiative which comes in force in 2026. This will involve more sorting at home with a weekly food waste collection, 2 weekly recycling collection and general waste only being collected every 3 weeks. (iv) JM reminded councillors that he will support any projects which benefit the community with funding from his Enabling Communities Grant.

The meeting closed at 9.25p.m

Signed…… Dated……