

## Aldwincle Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22 October 2013)

### Present

Robert Blakeman (RB) (Chair), John Lawrence (JL), Barry Watts (BW), Bernard Lowe (BL) and Tim Hankins (TH) (together, the Councillors)

#### **1. Apologies**

John Foster (JF) and Brian Penney (BP)

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

#### **3. Public Session**

No members of the public were present.

#### **4. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 September 2013 were approved and signed by RB.

#### **5. Matters arising**

5.1 RB advised the Councillors that he had spoken to Olly Hemmings to locate the PC strimmer. **Action BW** to collect the strimmer/parts and take to Woodlands for an evaluation and likely costs estimate.

5.2 It was agreed to keep an eye on the weeds on and around Baulks Lane. **Action TH**

5.3 Further to item 5.4 in the previous minutes, JF to pursue and follow up in relation to the allocation of housing in Cross Lane. **Action JF (to be reminded by RB)**

5.4 RB reminded the Council that we would be pleased to take advantage of the Woodland Trust tree packs and to bear in mind any suitable area to make proper use of the same.

5.5 BL confirmed that there is available a grant of £10,000 for the change to the heating system at the village hall. RB confirmed that consent from the Peterborough Diocesan Board of Finance, Parochial Church Council to carry out the works at the village hall had been obtained (and referred to in a letter dated 10 October 2013 from Messrs Carter Jonas Ref: ARC/PDBF). **Action BL** to obtain consent from the local Diocese. **Action JL** to check insurances (and to consider other assets to be scheduled).

#### **6. Finance Report**

6.1 JL reported that the Council had received the £210.00 expected which was the financial bonus for retaining the same level of precept. JL further reported that the lease renewal costs were currently being negotiated. The Council approved the motion to look to reduce the anticipated professional costs and the **Clerk** was authorised to take forward and report to JL.

6.2 The following invoices for payment were presented to the meeting:

£106.18 to Eon for supply to 30 September 2013

£43.76 to Eon for maintenance to 30 September 2013

£130.00 to Francis Hale Gardening Services for 2 cuts of the recreation area and trimming.

£30.87 to B.Lowe for signs for the village car park.

It was resolved that these payments be made. **Action JL.**

6.4 RB reminded the Councillors that the website annual renewal fee would be due in December.

## **7. Review of playground inspection report**

7.1 RB summarised the results of the playground inspection report by reference to each piece of play equipment. The key points to note as follows:

- The impact area around the swings met previous legislation but users should ensure that picnic tables are not moved near to the swings as this would be hazardous.
- Gaps to be soiled and seeded.
- The play train is wobbly and needs some remedial work. It was agreed that a working party would be formed to assess and attend to the works. **RB to action**
- The multi-play area is adequate.
- The swing needs painting with special playground paint. **RB** to order the paint.
- The balance beam needs some remedial work. **RB to action**
- The scramble net frame needs some work.
- The picnic tables are in poor condition and one needs to be replaced. There followed a discussion regarding 2 new tables and the possible use of ARAPAC funds for 1 and PC funds and Royal Wedding/Diamond Jubilee surplus for the other. **Action RB** to research picnic tables.
- Slatted are between village hall and outdoor shed to be made solid. **Action BL**
- Sign required for use in emergency compulsory. **Action RB**

The inspection report diaries were checked.

## **8. Highways**

8.1 It was noted that some of the holes had been filled and it was agreed to keep an eye out for further holes/cracking and to report to BP. **Action all.**

8.2 BL reported flooding was still occurring in the gully outside the village hall. BL also reported the road collapsing between Manor Farm and his entrance on the Lowick Road. RB recommended BL report via Street Doctor. **Action BL**

8.3 BL reported that double parking on the grass verge and footpath following wedding/village hall/school activities. **Action all** to invite offenders to stop.

- 8.4 RB and TH reported on their meeting with Mr Charteris and Mr Ridd-Jones regarding the likely erection of a fence along the school wall. Neither the school nor the PC wanted to see the type of fence that was obvious at a number of neighbouring schools. RB reported that the discussions centred on the most acceptable compromise, considering the school's and the village's desire to keep our children safe whilst maintaining a pleasant village community environment. It was suggested that a fence, 4ft in height within the school boundary (and offset from the existing boundary stone wall by 1m) might retain an element of openness whilst fulfilling the dual functions of keeping intruders out and children in. The next step was for the school to consult its adviser regarding the acceptability of a 4ft fence before proceeding with a planning application. The Councillors concluded that no further action was appropriate until a formal proposal was forthcoming.
- 8.5 RB reported to the Council that he had obtained some advice, in the absence of Bob Birkett, in relation to village grass cutting and the proposals for grass cutting for the next calendar year. RB commented that the council provide for 4 cuts per calendar year and that there were various options for parish councils who were considering supplementing or changing the frequency of grass cutting involving the council, the relevant subcontractor or employing a contractor directly. RB asked MGWSP, the County Council's subcontractor, for clarification on what areas were being cut and the cost involved and a response had been promised in time for the next Council meeting. It was agreed that the cutting of the Play Area and All Saints Churchyard in 2014 would go out to tender. Depending on the outcome of discussions regarding the areas currently cut by MGWSP, an additional tender may be required. **Action RB to report to at next meeting**
- 8.6 It was observed that the Church wall needed some work and the Council reminded the villagers (by these minutes) that the wall should not be played upon in the playground.
- 8.7 BL reported that the village car park needed some attention. **Action JF** to provide some shavings.

## 9. Planning

The planning application for roof-lights to be fitted at The Old Barn House, Fullers Close had been approved.

## 10. Correspondence

No significant item that required action.

## 11. Reports from other bodies

11.1 BL reported that the pub night was successful and that the heating works would commence on 6 January 2014.

11.2 Diary dates: 21<sup>st</sup> December – Carol concert

25<sup>th</sup> January – Safari supper

11.3 There were no other reports.

## 12. Any other business

12.1 The Good Councillors Guide had arrived and would be circulated to all.

12.2 JL and RB to review the standing orders and new model.

- 12.3 The Clerk advised the Council that to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the school building, that FTS and School were planning a Ball on 5<sup>th</sup> April to be held at The Great Hall in Oundle. Other fundraisers planned to mark the anniversary and the village is very welcome to join in.
- 12.3 Dates for the 2014 Council meetings agreed as being: 14 January, 4 March, 15 April, 27 May (AGM), 24 June, 2 September, 21 October, 2 December.

The date of the next meeting is **3 December 2013 at 8pm**. All welcome.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

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Approved

Date