

ALDWINCLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3 December 2013 at 8pm

PRESENT

Bob Blakeman (Chairman) (RB), John Foster (JF), Bernard Lowe (BL), John Lawrence (JL)
One parishoner

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Barry Watts (BW), Brain Penney (BP), Tim Hankins (TH) and Helen Wilson (Clerk).

The local PCSO, Steve Ryan, who was due to attend the meeting also sent apologies
JL agreed to take minutes of the meeting as the clerk was not present.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

3 PUBLIC SESSION

The following matters were raised

- Concern that there was no gritting done in snowy/icy weather on village roads except Main Street from Lowick Road to the Wadenhoe Road, particularly where there was heavy traffic using the school
- Concern that at busy times – especially at school times when traffic is parked along Main Street – traffic turning left from Lowick Road into Main Street does not take sufficient care of the give way signs

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2013 were approved and signed by RB

5 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 RB reported that the strimmer had been checked and was not repairable. It was agreed that no replacement was needed.

5.3 JF reported that he had written to ENC about social housing policy but had received no response. To be followed up. **Action JF**

5.5 BL reported that Diocese approval to the new heating system had been received and the finalisation of the Lottery Fund grant was awaited.

7 The working party had carried out the remedial works recommended except for the emergency sign which is to be obtained by RB **Action RB**

8.4 RB reported that the consultant used by the school appeared to be happy with the proposed compromise about the height and position of the fence but had suggested that it should be extended along the full length of the wall. The Council had no objection to this proposal. The required formal applications are likely to be made soon

6 FINANCE REPORT

JL reported the following:-

6.1 **Lease renewal** The Council's lawyers have negotiated a reduction of fees with the Diocese lawyers but feel that they are still excessive. JL has written to our contact at the Diocese to see whether she can have any influence.

6.2 **Precept 2014/15** The proposed precept must be notified to ENC by 17 January 2014. It is not clear yet if any central government restrictions may be imposed on the level of precepts. It is planned that the level of precept will be set at the Parish Council meeting on 14 January **Action JL**

6.3 **Changing bank** JL has contacted Barclays to see what was needed to change the account from HSBC. All proposed signatories would have to attend together to go through the money laundering checks. In view of the imminent changes to how councils can operate bank accounts it was agreed to defer any change until the implications of these new rules are clear and to consider having a reduced number of authorised signatories.

6.4 Accounts for payment

Francis Hale	£140	Grasscutting (3 invoices £30, £60, £50)
Anglian Water	£17.99	Water rates for half year to 29/10/13 at All Saints Church
Helen Wilson/ HMRC	£75	Clerk's salary and PAYE – quarter to 31 December 2013
Bob Blakeman	£24.95	Re-imbusement of website subscription renewal (Spanglefish)

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

7 HIGHWAYS/COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

7.1 The raised walkway on the Thorpe Road has not yet been cut and is currently impassable. The piers supporting the duckboards have been repaired

7.2 It was noted that one person was still taking horses down Baulks Lane footpath despite the new signs that this is not permitted. RB to speak to the person involved **Action RB**

7.3 The points raised in the public session were discussed. It was agreed to contact NCC Highways to put the case about gritting more areas of Main Street in view of the level of school traffic.

7.4 RB will ask BP to take on the new role of Highways Warden on behalf of the Parish Council **Action RB**

7.3 JF will review the state of the Village Hall car park entrance and repair if possible **Action JF**

7.4 **Community Speedwatch** RB had received details of the new campaign. For this to go ahead in Aldwinckle, 10 people must agree to be involved and attend the training. There is no longer a cost to the Parish Council. It was agreed that information would be sent with the email circulation of minutes to ask for volunteers and someone to co-ordinate the project. It was accepted that Speedwatch needed to have clear community support and involvement to be viable. **Action RB**

8 PLANNING

No planning matters were raised

9 CORRESPONDENCE

RB had received a report from the local PCSO which is attached to these minutes. Although most crime category levels have reduced, thefts from motor vehicles have increased, both at the Lowick Lane reserve car park and in the village. It was noted that there had been several thefts from sheds and outbuildings in the village during November.

10 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

Village Hall BL reported that it was hoped to start the installation of the new heating system on 6 January subject to the grant being received. The work was expected to take about 2 weeks and the hall would be out of action for that time.

There were no other reports.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Village grasscutting for 2014

11.1.1 RB reported that NCC had written setting out the specification and cash sum involved in the grasscutting currently carried out by their contractors. The allowance is £564 but the Parish Council would have to take on significant responsibilities and potential risks to achieve this. It was agreed that this would not be pursued and RB will inform NCC accordingly. **Action RB**

11.1.2 It was agreed that a contract specification tender document should be drawn up to cover grasscutting requirements at the Village Hall and All Saints. Doubts were expressed about whether current use of the recreation ground warranted the annual costs of approx £400 for grasscutting and rent. There was anecdotal evidence that there was no interest from village residents in being involved with the recreation ground management and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next meeting where parishioners would be able to comment

11.2 **Picnic tables for the playground** RB had obtained information on the costs of new picnic tables. Wooden tables are £180 to £240 (depending on spec) and recycled plastic £400 - £500. The life of the latter is greater and they are much heavier. The last playground inspection report had recommended that picnic tables be fixed to the ground. It was agreed in principle that a plastic table should be purchased using the funds available in the playground capital items bank account. RB will finalise costings. **Action RB**

11.3 **Contribution to dropping kerbs** BW had been approached by 2 parishioners to ask about a possible contribution to the costs of dropping the kerbs outside their houses to make use of mobility scooters easier. It was agreed that this was not an appropriate use of Parish Council funds.

11.4 **Dog fouling** This continues to be a major problem in the village. It was considered that the ENC dog warden might be able to advise the council.

11.5 **Permanent Christmas tree** It was agreed to pursue this after Christmas and in the meantime to consider the best site for this in the area where the temporary tree now goes **Action all**

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14 January at 8pm (subject to progress with the village hall works). Setting of the precept and future of the recreation ground to be agenda items

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date

