

Aldwincle Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 April 2013 at 8pm

Present

John Foster (JF), John Lawrence (JL), Barry Watts (BW) Bob Blakeman (RB), Bernard Lowe (BL), Tim Hankins (TH) and Brian Penney (BP)

1. Apologies

None.

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 5th March 2013 were amended at paragraph 6.4 to change the amounts and period due as follows:

£106.18 to Eon for supply to December 31st 2012

£39.44 to Eon for maintenance to December 31st 2012

£725.78 for village hall events insurances for period commencing May 2013

The amended minutes were then approved and signed by JF.

5. Matters arising

5.1 The Chair thanked JL for his efforts in arranging and conducting a successful litter pick on 6th April. 13 villagers/residents joined in and the Council were grateful to all for their hard work.

5.2 Further to RB's comments at the previous meeting, the Council was entitled to a £210 "bonus" for maintaining the current level of precept.

5.3 It was noted that there were weeds/dandelions coming through the new Baulks Lane footpath which was disappointing. RB to speak with Bob Birkett (as well as reminding him about the "no horses" signage). **Action RB**

5.4 In relation to the ongoing dog fouling problem, the Council had been advised that there are 3 professional dog walking operators who use the village (both to walk village dogs and "non-village" dogs). It was also noted that the Nene Way was "hazardous" due to dog fouling. JF to speak to the Dog Warden to see whether there is a by-law to avoid dog fouling on the Nene Way and about approaching the dog walking companies. **Action JF**

6. Finance Report

6.1 JL requested an invoice in relation to the new tree surround for the Jubilee tree for £100.00.

6.2 JL advised the Council that tax in the amount of the £30.00 had been paid in respect of the Clerk's pay for quarter end March 31st.

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

£191.10 NCALC subscription including the internal audit charge (for period to end March 2014)

£103.87 to Eon for supply to March 31st 2013

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

6.4 JL reported that the heads of terms in respect of the playground lease had been received. The Council had received a fee quote of £250 plus VAT and any disbursements from Shoosmiths LLP to advise on the terms of the new lease and the lease. The Council voted unanimously to accept this. In particular, the Council felt that it should take advice in relation to terms relating to indemnifying for mishaps with no liability cap.

7. Highways

7.1 BP reported that Lowick Lane potholes had been treated but not very well. BP further reported complaints relating to the visibility on the bridge approach at Thorpe Waterville and it was observed that the Council hadn't seen anyone in the village attending to the drains. **BP to follow up.**

7.2 RB mentioned the erosion by water of the side of the road from Thorpe into the village in certain sections and asked BP to include those areas in his report to highways requesting work to be done in the village.

7.3 It was noted that there were new weight restriction signs for both bridges in the village.

8. Planning

8.1 It was noted by the Council that outline permission for the Lowick Lane development had been granted. It was acknowledged that the Council didn't feel that the planning authority had considered the views of the Council in making this decision. It was hoped that the Boddington family would consider the Council's views in relation to the proposed development as the matter progressed.

8.2 The Chair invited the Councillors to take part in the planning online survey.

9. Correspondence

No significant item that required action although it was noted that the NCALC booklet had been distributed.

10. Reports from other bodies

10.1 BP delivered the school report observing that Mr Charteris would be supporting another school for the rest of the school year. Mrs Freeman would be the acting head at the school.

10.2 BL reported that he was investigating lottery grants regarding improvements to the heating and electrical wiring. After some discussion, RB would see if he could attend the initial meeting with BL to understand the suitability of the proposed heating system.

10.3 There were no other reports.

11. Any other business

- 11.1 The village hall committee accounts were circulated for the financial year 2011/12.
- 11.2 JF thanked James Faulkner for making and installing the fence surround for the Jubilee tree. This was to be paid for using the proceeds of the Jubilee celebration "50p" collection, plus a small contribution from the PC to make the sum up to £100. It was further agreed that a plaque would be sourced and would state "Planted to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee June 2012".
- 11.3 RB advised that the swings in the play area had been repaired. RB also advised the Council that he had received 2 quotes for the fencing to be replaced at the play area. There followed a discussion about the best quote with consideration of materials, safety, noise awareness re banging gates. It was agreed that the quote from DK Carpentry of £384 would be accepted and RB was duly authorised to take forward.
- 11.4 RB commented that the equipment on the recreation area had been damaged and could be a hazard. **JF to review.**
- 11.5 BW mentioned that the Bosworths had finished grass cutting.

The date of the next meeting is **28th May 2013 at 730pm** for a Parish Meeting followed by AGM and then Parish Council Meeting. All welcome.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Approved

Date