

## Aldwincle Parish Council Minutes

(Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2013 at 8pm)

### Present

John Foster (JF) (Chair save for in relation to item 9), John Lawrence (JL), Barry Watts (BW)  
Bob Blakeman (RB and being Chair for item 9), Bernard Lowe (BL) and Brian Penney (BP)

#### 1. **Apologies**

Tim Hankins (TH)

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

Declarations of interest were made in relation to the discussion regarding the planning application at 9 below.

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

Adrian Boddington was present and he made representations in support of the planning application referred to at item 9.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were approved and signed by JF.

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

5.1 JF reiterated the importance of being vigilant around the village in respect of dog fouling. The owner/person responsible for not cleaning up after said dog(s) was acting in an irresponsible manner with little regard for the local community. JF presented a letter he had written on behalf of the Council which had already been approved for circulation. This letter would be posted to each household. **Action Councillors to post.**

5.2 It was noted that some of the lavender overgrowth at 40 Main Street had been dealt with but that further maintenance/cutting back was required. **Action BW** to speak to Mr and Mrs Strode-Willis and report back at the next meeting.

5.3 JL reminded the Council that a **litter pick is arranged for 6<sup>th</sup> April**, 10am start outside the village hall. Equipment to be provided and all welcome.

5.4 Councillors felt that it would be useful to have sight of the village hall committee accounts and AGM minutes given that the Council is the lessee of the village hall. It was preferred that the treasurer of the village hall committee authorised this directly. **Action BL.**

**JF then stepped down from chairing the meeting for the Council to hear the representations from Mr Boddington in relation to the application for outline planning for 2 dwellings at 14 Lowick Lane. RB Chaired at item 9.**

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

6.1 JL updated the Council in relation to his long standing battle to resolve the issue of the playground lease. Progress had seemingly been made and, via Carter Jonas, a new lease was proposed on the same terms other than rent had been upwardly reviewed to be £100 p.a.

rather than £1. **Action: The Clerk to liaise with JL and to obtain a quote from legal advisers to act on behalf of the Council.**

6.2 JL advised the Council that he had notified the precept to ENC. RB asked whether the Council might be eligible for any bonus for keeping the precept at the same level as last year.

6.3 JL asked the Councillors to provide him with any bills given that the Council's year end was approaching.

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

£160.00 to Pat Bustin in respect of painting the village sign (duplicate)

£106.18 to Eon for supply to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013

£39.44 to Eon for maintenance to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2013

£39.41 to Anglian Water (re All Saints)

£45.00 to the Clerk (net amount) for quarter ended 31 March 2013

£725.78 for village hall events insurances for period ended April 2013

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

## **7. Internal control and risk assessment**

7.1 JL advised the Councillors that it was appropriate to consider the current internal control and risk assessment procedures in place for the Council. This was essentially to ensure that all financial matters, risk assessment, standing orders and general governance procedures were reviewed regularly by the Council and considered in the light of the parish and circumstances at the time. The Councillors held a general discussion regarding conduct in these matters and it was agreed that the Councillors felt that the existing "conduct guidelines" referred to above were appropriate and remained relevant for the Council. No amends were required. **Action JL to circulate the risk assessment for paper trail.**

## **8. Highways**

8.1 **BP to report the blocked drain outside the village hall again to the Street Doctor. BL to take a photograph next time it "silted up".**

8.2 The Council were delighted to report that Baulks Lane was to be widened to 1.5m following on from various meetings between TH/RB/JL with R.Birkett. RB thanked JF for donating the length of drainage pipe that had been used to drain water seeping from the bank away from the path. It was proposed to contact Bob Birkett thanking him for the improvements and to enquire about the possibility of installing "no horses" signs. **Action: RB**

8.3 BP reported that Lowick Lane potholes would be attended to in approximately 4 months time.

8.4 **JF agreed to look at the "wobbly" Lowick Lane sign.**

## **9. Planning (RB Chairing)**

RB noted that the Council had received a notice of request for outline planning for 2 dwellings at 14 Lowick Lane. RB commented that this was the same application as before but for fewer

dwellings. The application had the same access and the site would still be outside the settlement boundary. There was a general discussion about why the application had been objected to previously and it was noted that the Council's objections were the same. There was concern regarding increased traffic along Lowick Lane, access to the site, visual impact and that the proposed development would be outside the village boundary. The Council voted and the objection to the development carried (3:2 vote). **Action Clerk to refer to planning.**

## 10. Correspondence

No significant item that required action.

## 10. Reports from other bodies

BL reported that the village hall committee were looking at a "coronation event" for June 2<sup>nd</sup>. BL further reported that he was investigating lottery grants regarding improvements to the heating and electrical wiring.

There were no other reports.

## 11. Any other business

### 11.1 Website update

#### **All contributions welcome.**

Please visit - <http://www.aldwinkleparishcouncil.org.uk>

### 11.2 Play area

RB led a discussion regarding the ROSPA report in relation to the play area. That report had concluded that the play area was a "medium risk" site and therefore some usual(delete) maintenance work was required.

RB and JF had met with Wickstead Playscapes and attended their inspection with them. Various recommendations were made and these are appended. RB led a discussion regarding the options detailed and the Council agreed that largely the timber edging and soft surfacing needed attention, some painting of equipment was required and it would be beneficial to update bearings, chains and shackles on the swings. Agreed that the Wickstead quotation (approx. £200) be accepted for the repair of the swings. BW, RB and JF agreed to help with the general maintenance of the area and trial the remedial work to the soft surface edging. Quotes would be obtained for the replacement of the small entry gate and associated fencing. It was noted by the Councillors that there had been no reports of any material incidents or accidents. BL to treat/sand the picnic tables (JF to assist in moving them to BL's workshop).

It was agreed to trial Wickstead Playscapes inspections given that they are cheaper than ROSPA @ £45 per unaccompanied inspection.

### 11.3 BW to continue with the grass cutting and hoping that conditions wouldn't be as bad as last year.

The date of the next meeting is 16th April 2013 at 8pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Approved

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Date