

## Aldwincle Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2013

### Present

Robert Blakeman (RB) (Chair), John Lawrence (JL), Barry Watts (BW) and Brian Penney (BP) (together, the Councillors)

#### **1. Apologies**

John Foster (JF), Bernard Lowe (BL) and Tim Hankins (TH)

#### **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 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were approved and signed by RB.

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

5.1 Following on from concerns raised during the public session at the previous meeting, the Councillors commented that vegetation at All Saints was being maintained. It would be useful to "strim" certain parts that BW couldn't reach with the mower. **Action RB** to speak to Olly Hemmings to locate the PC strimmer.

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

5.3 The PC discussed further cuts on the village green and RB reported that he had spoken with Bob Birkett who had provided a further contact point. **Action RB** to pursue to get a better understanding of ENC's grass cutting obligations for the village.

5.4 Further to item 5.3 in the previous minutes, JF to pursue and follow up in relation to the allocation of housing in Cross Lane.

5.5 In relation to the overgrowth at 40 Main Street, it was noted by the Councillors that an attempt had been made to clear the vegetation from the path and this was appreciated.

5.6 The Council would be pleased to take advantage of the Woodland Trust tree packs although no suitable area could be identified by the Councillors to make proper use of the same.

5.7 There was a general discussion regarding the proposed change to the heating system at the village hall. Some concerns were expressed regarding the suitability of the proposed "air to air" exchange, the cost of installation and maintenance of the same, and particularly that the PC had not been consulted in its capacity as tenant of the village hall and that any such changes may require the consent of the landlord of the village hall. It was agreed that the insurance position should be checked also. **Action RB** to speak to John Horrell.

5.8 The Chair thanked TH for taking the minutes at the June meeting.

## 6. Finance Report

6.1 JL reported that the audit had been successfully completed, although it was noted that an asset valuation should be included next year and following. JL also reported that no audit fee was charged given the size of the account. **Action JL**

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

£54.00 to Wicksteed Playscapes (for September inspection)

£105.02 to Eon for supply to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2013

£43.76 to Eon for maintenance to June 31<sup>st</sup> 2013

£350.00 to Barry Watts for grass cuts

£100.00 to Francis Hale Gardening Services for 2 cuts of the recreation area.

£17.23 to Anglian Water (tap at All Saints Church)

£1100.63 to Broker Network Insurances

Quarterly payment of the Clerk's wages and associated PAYE.

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

6.4 JL reported that he had received some advice from Shoosmiths LLP in relation to the playground lease and that the matter was progressing.

6.5 JL notified the Council that as a requirement of the insurance policy, the Council (or competent person) was required to inspect the playground area on a weekly basis and it was agreed that RB would obtain some diaries for the recording of the inspections of both the playground and the recreation area.

6.6 JL to obtain mandate forms from Barclays with a view to transferring the account to Barclays in Thrapston.

## 7. Highways

7.1 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.**

7.2 The Council commented that visibility had improved around Thorpe Bridge.

7.3 BP to review "Highways survey link" and to respond on behalf of the PC. **Action BP.**

7.4 JL reported that riders were taking their horses up and down Baulks Lane. The Council were reminded that Baulks Lane was not a bridleway and therefore horses were not permitted on the lane. RB had already contacted Bob Birkett regarding the "no horses sign" but would pursue again. **Action RB**

## 8. Planning

8.1 A revised planning application for roof-lights to be fitted at The Old Barn House, Fullers Close had been submitted. The Council had no objections. **Action Clerk**

8.2 It was noted that the Peartree Tearoom had closed and the address to be used as offices.

**9. Correspondence**

No significant item that required action.

**10. Reports from other bodies**

10.1 There were no reports.

**11. Any other business**

11.1 JL commented that he was aware that a “War Memorial Grant” was available to tidy up war memorials up until 2018. BW reported that the Aldwinckle War Memorial was in generally good order but would review periodically. **Action BW.**

11.2 The Chair commented that any rent paying class should be encouraged at the village hall and that the PC meetings would happily fit around such classes given that the PC don't pay rent for hire of the hall.

The date of the next meeting is **22 October 2013 at 8pm**. All welcome.

The meeting closed at 928pm.

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Approved

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Date