

ALDWINCLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 24th February 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT

Bob Blakeman (Chairman) (RB), John Foster (JF), Bernard Lowe (BL), John Lawrence (JL)
Tim Hankins (TH) Brian Penney (BP) (together the Councillors)

Fiona Williams (Clerk) in attendance

1 PUBLIC OPEN TIME

There were no members of the public present.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13th January 2015 were approved and signed by RB

5 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

6 FINANCE REPORT

JL reported the following for payment:-

6.1	Anglian Water All Saints Church tap	£18.49
	Clerk salary – 1 January to 24 February 2015	£50.97

BL joined the meeting.

There were no other bills submitted at this time.

It was resolved that these payments be made

Action JL

6.2 JL advised that Aviva Insurance renewal was due on 30th April 2015 for the Village Hall. Quote for renewal is £848.90. JL suggested that value of contents be reassessed once new kitchen equipment is installed and would raise this with Village Hall Management Committee once work is done, which is scheduled for May 2015. Meanwhile JL to negotiate with Aviva on price quoted and renew.

Action JL

6.3 TH to provide meter reading for christmas lights and JL delegated to pay amount.

Action TH

6.4 JL advised Council that a review of internal control and risk assessment (finance) is required as suggested by NCALC. JL stated that we currently have these procedures in place and it is annually reviewed by auditors. No queries had been raised by the auditor. The Council considered these procedures and policies to be in order.

6.5 JL advised that the accounts at 31 March 2015 which will go to the auditor may not be finalised prior to the 7th of April meeting. If not available council may have to hold extra meeting to approve accounts prior to May election and AGM. Council agreed to change date of April meeting to Tuesday 14th April to provide more time for the accounts to be finalised.

7 HIGHWAYS

7.1 BP reported that there were no new problems in the village and that some jobs had been carried out including the drainage outside the village hall and the concreted area on the corner of Cross Lane. However there are still outstanding jobs that the Highways Department are to do. These include renewing white lines, including outside the school and Thorpe Road walkway. BP advised that these works are weather dependent and hopes that they will be completed soon.

Council wished to note their frustration at the delay in completion of these jobs which has taken 2 years since initial walk around the village with Highways Department.

7.2 BP advised council that 2 new street lanterns have been fitted and 4 old lanterns are still in use. These will need to be replaced and suggested 2 to be replaced in next financial year for which funding has already been allocated. Council agreed that the new lanterns are brighter and noticeably better.

8 PLANNING

8.1 Three planning applications had been submitted:

14/02372/OUT 110 houses in Brigstock Council response – No Comment

15/00119/VAR Urban extension in Corby, including residential, commercial, schools and changes to operating regime at Rockingham Speedway. Council response – No Comment.

15/00237/FUL Change of use agricultural land to garden at 30 Main Street Aldwincle.
Council response – No Objection. FW to reply to East Northants Council

Action FW

9 POCKET PARK

9.1 Members of the council met with Smiths Gore on the 14th January to discuss the Pocket Park lease and while Council do not wish to incur additional costs they are aware of the benefits to the local community and environment. Following a visit to the park and meeting at the village hall, Smiths Gore are to report back to Merchant Venturers and then the Council on potential costs involved in renewing the lease. Council await their response.

10 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

10.1 RB attended a briefing meeting on 5th February in Thrapston and the Power Point presentation has been emailed to council for their information. Candidate applications are due by 9th April, hand delivered to East Northants Council in Thrapston. Nomination packs will be available from the council and packs will be sent out to the Clerk.

10.2 RB advised that Aldwincle Parish Council comes to an end on the 11th May and after the election the council have fourteen days in which to hold a meeting and the AGM. The planned timescale meets these requirements with 19th May meeting and AGM.

10.3 RB noted that this year is the first time that Parish Council, District Council and General Election are being held on the same day. RB added that the Parish Council website will have information about local elections and he will email villagers to elicit interest in candidates. Council discussed Titchmarsh having open evening and agreed that this could be done if there was demand. RB to update website and send emails. **Action RB**

11. PARISH CLERK RECRUITMENT

11.1 Council discussed recruitment of new Clerk and the 3 hours per month currently worked which is less than many other comparable parish councils. Council considered the future role of the Clerk to include being the financial officer responsible for the accounts for which extra hours would be required incurring extra cost for the council budget. Council discussed the benefits of having a qualified Clerk to be responsible for finance and to support the council in an advisory and procedural capacity.

11.2 Council discussed the management of archive documents which need to be formalised and centralised, providing better paper trail when requests are made for information and JL commented on the statutory requirements and policies and procedures.

11.3 Council agreed that they are to seek a qualified experienced Clerk and to advertise the post with the hours to be negotiable depending on experience and responsibilities.

12 PLAY AREA GRANT APPLICATION

12.1 RB advised that application for £22,700 was almost complete and that APC are to provide 10% contribution and set up fees of £2,300 which totals £4,700.

12.2 RB reported on statistics from survey with annual footfall of 2950 visits per year increasing to 4000 visits per year when project completed due to improved and new equipment and additional child numbers at school. RB noted that a number of questions on the application relating to volunteer opportunities for example were not applicable.

12.3 RB to meet with Mick George at exhibition on 5th March to get feedback on application procedure.

12.4 BL reported on the mole problem in the play area and has obtained services at a cost of £170.00 to install 5 traps. JF suggested poison instead of traps as more effective but reluctant to use in a children's play area for health and safety reasons. Council agreed that BL to finalise plans to use traps and that notices would be erected around the play area and gates to be padlocked and notice given at school when the play area will be closed for a period of approximately 5 days.

Action BL

13 ALDWINCLE LITTER PICK 2015

13.1 JL advised that the Aldwinckle Litter Pick will be held on the 28th of March starting at 10am outside the village hall. JL to leaflet villagers and RB to put information on council website.

Action JL and RB

14. DEFIBRILLATOR FOR ALDWINCLE

14.1 TH advised council that he had £250 from previous fund raising towards the cost of a defibrillator for the village. TH stated that fire engines are being called out to emergencies in response to a heart attack in rural locations, with fire service being first responders followed by paramedics then ambulance. TH advised that there have been 3 emergencies in the village in the last 3 weeks. Council discussed costs being around £1395 plus vat for an outdoor defibrillator which could be installed on the village hall wall.

14.2 Council agreed to take this forward within the community with the intention of raising the funds without the use of the precept. JL thought that there may be some funds available from the Flower Show and TH agreed to produce a leaflet seeking contributions from villagers. Other fundraising could be obtained through raffles at village events.

Action TH

15. CORRESPONDENCE

15.1 RB had received invitation to Special Constables briefing being held on 28th of February but no one could attend.

15.2 TH advised that Farm Watch is to be reintroduced.

16. REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

16.1 BL reported that the village hall refurbishment grant had been approved and was waiting for the contract to come through. Work scheduled to start on w/c 11th May when the village hall will be out of use for approximately 3 weeks. This may cause a problem for the 19th May APC meeting and AGM. BL to update council if any change to dates.

Action BL

16.2 RB asked BP to obtain WI information which can be added to website. **Action BP**

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th April at 7.30pm in the village hall. (Councillors to note change of date)

18 ITEMS FOR NOTING

There were no items for noting.

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

..... Chairman

..... Date