

Minutes of the Aldwinckle Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st December 2015 in the Village Hall.

Present:

Bob Blakeman Chairman
Bernard Lowe
John Lawrence
Brian Penney
David Strode-Willis
Barry Watts
Tim Hankins

Richard Reed – Clerk

15/109 Public Open Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

15/110 Apologies

Apologies had received from ENC Cllr. Geoff Shacklock.

15/111 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary: None

Other interests: Cllr. Lawrence declared an interest in planning application 15/02077/FUL as a neighbouring property owner.

Requests for Dispensations: It was agreed not to seek dispensations in respect of the determination of the Precept.

15/112 Minutes of the meeting held on 13.10.15

It was proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. David Strode Willis that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2015, and having previously been circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record of that meeting.

15/113 Matters arising.

15/101 – Cllr. Lawrence said that he had contacted the Dog Warden in respect of dog fouling and had been advised that evidence would be required before any action could be taken. Cllr. Lawrence is to liaise further with the Dog Warden to see what can be done to raise awareness of the problem and to consider additional designated areas. **Action: JL**

15/098(ii) – The Chairman had written to Carter Jonas.

15/106 – following a visit by the Chairman and Clerk to HSBC, the mandate has now been sorted.

15/114 Reports from Other Bodies

- (i) Village Hall – Cllr. Lowe said that the new curtains and chairs had been ordered and presented an inventory which is to be checked against the insurance policy.

Action: Clerk

It was noted that the recent quiz had been a success.

- (ii) Police Issues - The Chairman spoke of his discussions with the PCSOs and the Clerk presented a letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- (iii) Defibrillator – The Chairman reported the arrival of the equipment, dummies and training material which had been supplied free of charge. The school governors were keen to house the defibrillator at the school as the location was the most frequented during much of the day. The cabinet had been installed and the defibrillator was scheduled to be fitted the day following this meeting along with an alarm. Training sessions are to be arranged and volunteers are requested to come forward. Details are to be published around the village.

15/115 Highways

Cllr. Penney said that he was unaware of any surface problems.

Two failed street lights had been replaced and two more of the old units were in need of replacement. There is also a gap in the lighting system between Baulks Lane and Lowick Road which requires an additional lamp. Cllr. Penney asked if funds could be considered for this work.

15/116 Aldwinckle Glebe

The payment of Carter Jonas' fees is to be approved later and once these have been passed over the matter should be progressed.

15/117 Review of grass cutting arrangements

Grass cutting last went out to tender two years ago when the successful contractor was Francis Hale. Cllr. Lowe felt that a new tender should be drawn up as he considered that the standards required were not being met, particularly on the Village Green. By its nature, i.e. highway verge, together with the periodic attention it received from Northamptonshire Highways' contractor, councillors considered it difficult to maintain a high standard here and it may be better to restrict cutting in this area to strips alongside the footpath and adjacent to seats. Cllr. Lawrence suggested tweaking the specification and then taking on Francis Hale for a further year if the price was the same and then reconsider after next season. The Chairman is to speak to Francis Hale over this proposal, and if accepted, an on-site meeting to be arranged to review cutting requirements on the Village Green and at All Saints churchyard. **Action: BB**

So as to make cutting of the churchyard more efficient, Cllr. Hankins is to seek permission to remove the grave kerbs. **Action: TH**

15/118 To Consider Correspondence Received

The insurance documents had now been received.

The Chairman spoke of an e-mail he had received from a resident of Cross Lane regarding the storage of building materials on the grass verge..

15/119 Planning

The Chairman had amended the website links to improve access to planning documents.

- a) 15/02037/LBC: No objections.
15/02077/FUL: Having earlier declared an interest, Cllr. Lawrence took no part in the discussions over this application.
While councillors had no objection to the proposed structure, they were concerned over the indicated provision of parking for four cars at the front of the existing property. There was believed to be only room for two and they questioned the works that would be required to provide the extra spaces. Clarification on this point is to be sought from ENC. **Action: Clerk**
- b) No applications had been considered since the last meeting.
- c) It was noted that additional documents had been submitted in respect of 15/01795/REM and ENC is to be asked if the Parish Council would be consulted on these. **Action: Clerk**

15/120 Finance

- (i) The Clerk presented the monthly statement of accounts, the bank reconciliation to the end of October and the budget monitoring report to the end of November.
- (ii) The following invoices were approved for payment, proposed by Cllr. Lawrence and seconded by Cllr. Hankins:
EON Street light repairs £756.00 Cheque No. 100611
Shoosmiths LLP £720.00 Cheque No. 100612
HMRC PAYE £68.80 Cheque No.100613
R Reed Clerk's quarterly salary and expenses £291.86 Cheque No. 100614
Francis Hale grass cutting £360.00 cheque No. 100615
- (iii) The draft budget and precept for 2016/17 was discussed and some amendments proposed. The draft is to be amended and put to the next meeting of the Parish Council for approval.
- (iv) Christmas items for funding. The following items of expenditure were agreed, proposed by Cllr. Hankins and seconded by Cllr Penney: Christmas tree £60; wreath £6-7; Carol Concert £30.
- (v) The HSBC Tax forms were discussed and signed although their relevance to the Parish Council was questioned.

15/121 Items Requiring Urgent Attention, For Information or For the Next Agenda

Next agenda: 2016.17 Budget/precept.

15/122 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th January 2016 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further urgent business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:30pm.