

**ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Alan Haslam (Chairman)  
 Cllr Richard Heys (Vice-Chair)  
 Cllr. Gail Thompson  
 Cllr. Lisa Chidley  
 Cllr. Chris Miles

ATTENDING: Meg Humphries (Clerk)  
 Tom Lockyer  
 Alec Davis  
 Jan Evans  
 Martin Jones  
 Mieko Horiuchi

John Wood  
 Nathan Burlton  
 Jill Croxall (Neighbourhood Watch)  
 Kevin Strong  
 Cath Strong

No/ Ref	Item/Notes	Action
1. 140 19/20	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> None; all councillors present.	
2. 141 19/20	<b>To note declarations of interest relating to the agenda.</b> None.	
3. 142 19/20	<b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 05.02.20.</b> Approved; signed by Cllr Haslam.	
4. 143 19/20	<p><b>Public Forum</b></p> <p><b>Alec Davis</b> noted that he has submitted a report of incidents of recent flooding in the parish.</p> <p><b>John Wood</b> raised the question of how to escalate the flooding complaints in order to get more help. Cllr Haslam responded that it has been raised with FoDDC and GCC and is being looked into at present, but that the council does take Mr Wood's point.</p> <p><b>Tom Lockyer</b> reported the poor Church Lane surface and was advised that it had been repaired, but it has not been. <b>ACTION:</b> Clerk to report this issue to Highways.</p> <p><b>Martin Jones</b> raised the erosion of the verge on Clanna Lane seemingly due to flooding, and to the drains being completely blocked on Clanna Lane. He suggested a kerb installed along Clanna Lane would help protect the verges.</p> <p><b>Jan Evans</b> reported witnessing Highways drain cleaning vehicle missing drains, and also leaving the sludge around the drain, which then prevents water draining. Ms Evans also mentioned run-off down Clanna Lane. Cllr Haslam advised that poor drainage had been reported to Highways and that Brian Watkins said that he would be taking a look in the area in February. <b>ACTION:</b> Clerk will raise this with Highways. Last of all Jan raised the issue of large lorries using Clanna due to satnavs sending them that way. <b>ACTION:</b> Clerk to raise this with Brian.</p> <p><b>Lorraine George</b> raised the runoff at the bottom of her drive, which hasn't stopped all week despite fairly dry weather.</p> <p>Nathan Burlton stated that he supported everything raised already.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>MH</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MH</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>MH</b></p>
5. 144 19/20	<p><b>To receive a brief update from Jill Croxall, District Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch. (Deferred from February meeting)</b></p> <p>Jill thanked the council for inviting her to the meeting, with the purpose of tailoring a talk to be given at the April meeting. Jill is chairman of Forest of Dean</p>	

	<p>Neighbourhood Watch; she wants to raise the organisation's profile and increase activity. A lot of people think NHW stopped existing in favour of neighbourhood alerts so it is important to clarify that this is not the case. Jill wants to arrange meetings around the district, which is a large area so not practical to have one meeting to cover it all.</p> <p>Currently in Alvington, 117 of 297 households are covered by a NW rep. Jill related how cyber crime, a growing sector of crime, is now one of the most lucrative crimes. Cold callers which target the elderly is also a big issue.</p> <p>Cllr Haslam stated that break-ins and attempted break-ins of garages and sheds seemed to be the most common crimes in the parish.</p> <p>John Wood raised the potentially confusing situation of there being a number of alert systems – including Neighbourhood Alerts (FB and email) and Community Alert. Mrs Croxall clarified: Neighbourhood Alerts can be from fire, police, health. If you're not in NW you wouldn't receive NW updates.</p> <p>There is no NW joining fee, and get discounts on car insurance and other services. The council thanked Jill for coming</p>	
<p><b>6. 145 19/20</b></p>	<p><b>To receive/note any reports from county and district councillors for the parish</b></p> <p><b>County Councillor Patrick Molyneux:</b></p> <p>The County Council budget was set in February, which it was felt would meet the council's needs while also making some savings.</p> <p>£1M has been earmarked specifically for climate-related projects including planting 1M trees in the county.</p> <p>Cllr Molyneux's remit covers economy, education and skills so he will be getting involved in the climate aspect of these areas.</p> <p>A brand new school in Cheltenham with 1600 solar panels is being built. The build will be carbon-neutral.</p> <p>Cllr Molyneux was looking for projects to be funded by Highways Local scheme, so he is looking for suggestions of any projects, e.g. drainage, lengthsman scheme, or any other projects. <b>Clerk will collate project suggestions and will send to Cllr Molyneux to be considered for climate/highways funding streams.</b></p> <p>Coronavirus: the key message is not to panic. GCC are looking at it closely to ensure systems are in place for the worst-case scenario and to protect the most vulnerable. St Mary's School in Tetbury was shut this week, because some staff were in self-isolation following contact with an infected person. The situation is likely to get worse before it gets better, so Cllr Molyneux suggested that the community cares for the elderly and perhaps for example pick up food for them so they don't have to venture out.</p> <p>Alec Davis comment that £1M for climate projects would not be enough and suggested that the council increases that. Cllr Molyneux responses that the funding is specifically for climate projects but that every part of the council's £468M budget will need to take climate into account.</p> <p><b>District Council Chris McFarling:</b></p> <p>Re coronavirus: FODDC is working on putting out consistent messages so that everyone is getting the same message. Important to look at vulnerable people and FoDDC is prepared to shift the advice to change the way we commute, work and meet. FoDDC website has full details and latest advice.</p> <p>The FODDC budget has been passed, and council tax will increase by £5, a 2.88% rise.</p> <p>Flooding: Cllr McFarling reminded parishioners that the mess caused by storms is not exclusively in Alvington, but flooding does need to be looked at seriously. There is a need to revisit capacity of the drainage network to take water away, but also a</p>	

	<p>need to focus on reducing flow rate in the upper areas to take some pressure off the drains. He reassured the meeting that he was looking into both aspects.</p> <p>Climate emergency: on 30th March there is a climate action day for councillors and clerks - up to 3 members per council. The event deals with 'now what do we do?' having declared a climate emergency. It aims to help parish and town councils work on a climate plan of action. Charlie Leaman / Centre for Sustainable Energy are running the day.</p> <p>As part of FoDDC's action plan on climate, FoDDC plans to split the support groups into members only, to look at how FoDDC can reduce carbon footprint, and then a climate emergency community partnership, which will enable communities to work out their own action plans and benefit from examples of good practice. 22nd April 5-8pm is an opportunity for representatives of community groups to come together.</p> <p>Sewage issue at 2 Tudor Cottages: Cllr McFarling has not visited the property this year but has been in touch with the resident on a regular basis, and has also been in touch with Laurence King, Flood Engineer, and has been liaising with Severn Trent (ST) to look into directing the flooding into neighbouring field or into the pumping station, but ST have not been engaging and seem reluctant to commit to any action. Cllr McFarling was advised to contact Ofwat (consumer council for water) to ask them to investigate whether ST is shirking their duties. Cllr Heys suggested reporting the issue to HSE as well especially due to proximity to footpath used for school journeys. <b>It was agreed to coordinate with CMcF to draft letter to Ofwat to request investigation.</b></p> <p>Biosphere initiative: still moving forward. Forest Economic Partnership have applied to the Heritage Lottery fund for £10K to develop a feasibility study and four consultation events to look at what sort of support there is for the project. With FoDDC having declared a biodiversity emergency and with climate change seemingly accelerating, the project would seem to have increasing weight. It is hoped that the scheme will start just as the Foresters' Forest project concludes, thus retaining the volunteers from Foresters' Forest.</p>	
<p>7. 146 19/20</p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>a) To note any update on P0001/20/DISCON Land Off Clanna Road Alvington, Gloucestershire: Discharge of Condition 10 (details of pedestrian crossing) of planning appeal APP/P1615/W/16/3153161 (P1494/15/OUT).</b></p> <p>The developer has submitted a proposal for just dropped kerbs by the speed camera, which the parish council feels does not fulfil what the inspector asked for. Cllr Haslam advised that a petition requesting that the condition be upheld had AH delivered petition to FoDDC that afternoon, addressed to key members of planning committee meeting. It has 158 signatures, which represent 112 dwellings, 103 of which are within the defined settlement boundary.</p> <p>The village had an unexpected visit by three members of the Planning Committee and two Planning officers for a site visit. The parish council had not been notified of the visit but Cllr Haslam was notified and was able to attend and explain the parish council's and community's position on the crossing, and showed them the alternative location.</p> <p><b>Cllr Haslam will contact owners of the Globe Inn regarding land ownership of footpath to the side of the pub.</b></p> <p>Cllr Heys emphasised that a point to make at the Planning Meeting on 10/03/20 was that the area has already got a dropped kerb, so the question is why would the inspector give a crossing as a condition if that was sufficient?</p> <p>GCC Highways have raised concerns regarding the crossing type and location, and have done so before the application came in.</p>	

	<p>Cllr McFarling outlined some advice on the logistics of planning committee meetings. Cllr Heys intends to send key points to Planning Committee as he cannot attend.</p> <p><b>b) To consider posting notifications of all parish planning applications on the parish council Facebook page (suggestion via member of the public)</b> It was agreed not to adopt this suggestion, but the council appreciated the idea being put forward.</p> <p><b>c) To note the request from FoDDC for suggestions for development sites</b> Noted; no sites to be put forward.</p> <p><b>d) To receive any progress reports on local planning matters.</b> None at this time.</p>	
8. 147 19/20	<p><b>Village</b></p> <p><b>a) To note updates on village/parish improvement matters*</b> Updates from the meeting pack were noted. Cllr Chidley spoken to Two Rivers to about reletting the out-of-use garages, and about the poor condition of garages. Cllr Chidley has taken some photographs of the Garlands Road footpath and will send to Cllr McFarling with an aim of solving the dispute over who owns the land (Highways or Two Rivers).</p> <p><b>b) To receive an update on plans to mark 75 years since the end of WW2 (May 2020)</b> Ongoing; no further updates at this time.</p> <p><b>c) To receive any reports on other village matters.</b> None at this time.</p>	
9. 148 19/20	<p><b>Sports Field</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive an update on the pavilion project.</b> Planning have accepted the revised plans, including the revised car park, and the decision is pending.</p> <p><b>b) To receive any updates on Sports Field mowing arrangements for 2020</b> Ongoing, pending discussion with mower owner.</p> <p><b>c) To receive any reports on other Sports Field matters.</b> RH requested approval to buy bags of gravel to put by kissing gate at sports field. Approved by all. Cllr Heys had identified potential location of new trees – from the storage containers down to the corner, so as to not interfere with the view of Severn.</p>	
10. 149 19/20	<p><b>Churchyard</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive an update on the drafting of a churchyard risk management plan</b> The Clerk reported that this is awaiting a response from Philip Blatchly. Cllr Heys offered to have a site meeting with Sue Rickards, church warden. The council reviewed suggested wording for the churchyard entrances to warn visitors of churchyard maintenance and rights, and it was agreed that the wording was acceptable.</p> <p><b>b) To receive any reports on other churchyard matters.</b> Cllr Heys is in the process of tracking down lime to make repairs as discussed previously.</p>	
11. 150 19/20	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p>Updates from the meeting pack were noted. No further updates at this time.</p>	
12. 151 19/20	<p><b>NDP</b></p> <p>The newly added policy is currently out for consultation via FoDDC until 18<sup>th</sup> March. The Locality funding pot has a further c. £1,000 for which the parish council can apply, and the intention is to submit an application in April. Any unspent funds remaining (i.e. from newsletter advertising etc) can be reallocated to other cost centres.</p>	
13. 152 19/20	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>a) To approve payment of invoices and expenses from the past month</b> The following payments were approved and signed by Cllrs Thompson and Chidley.</p>	

TO WHOM	DETAILS	AMOUNT
Meg Humphries	Salary – February 2020	223.04
Merlin Waste	Dog Bins – 21/1/20 and 02/02/20 2020	£30.00
Alvington and Woolaston Cricket Club	Mower fuel and upkeep 2019 mowing	£207.00
Alvington Memorial Hall	NDP hall hire July, August and December 2019	24.50
Meg Humphries	Clerk Expenses – ink	58.49
MBC	Traffic survey ref pavilion planning application	1,476.00

**b) To note the receipt of any income since the last meeting**

The following income was noted and the report signed by Cllrs Thompson and Chidley.

Date received into account	Description	Amount
29/01/2020	Ellwood Youth FC Hire payment Jan 2020 – March 2020 inclusive (6 matches)	120.00
06/02/2020	Alvington and Woolaston Sports Field Hire 2019	120.00
10/02/2020	Bank interest	0.57

**c) Audit 19/20: to receive an update on preparations**

The Clerk has sent out a request for an audit quote to 11 local accountancy companies none received. Decision to be made at April mtg.

Additional updates: Cllr Heys has been looking at two grant schemes: Severn Trent Community Fund and and Magnox.

14.  
153  
19/20

**To note [correspondence for information](#)**

Noted.

15.  
154  
19/20

**Council**

**a) To receive the Clerk's Report.** Noted.

**b) To receive councillors' reports and items for future agenda.** All already covered.

**c) To note the date of the next Full Council meeting: Wednesday 1st April 2020 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall – this will also be the Annual Parish Meeting.** Noted.

Meeting closed: 9.30 pm

Signed:.....Chairman.

Date:.....