

ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held remotely (Zoom) on Thursday 4th February 2021, 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Alan Haslam (Chairman)
 Cllr Richard Heys (Vice-Chair)
 Cllr. Gail Thompson
 Cllr. Lisa Chidley
 Cllr. Nick Powell (co-opted Item 3)

ATTENDING: Alec Davis
 Nick Powell
 John Wood

Jo Goodman
 Phil England
 DCllr Chris McFarling
 Meg Humphries (Clerk)

No/ Ref	Item/Notes	Action
1. 116 20/21	To receive apologies for absence. None.	
2. 117 20/21	To note declarations of interest relating to the agenda. None.	
3. 117 20/21	To co-opt a councillor if not already done so via an extraordinary meeting. One application was received, from Mr. Nick Powell. Cllr Haslam proposed that Mr. Powell was co-opted; Cllr Heys seconded this; vote: unanimous. Cllr Haslam welcomed Cllr Powell to the parish council.	
4. 118 20/21	To approve the accuracy of the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 03.12.20. Approved.	
5. 119 20/21	Public forum. Alec Davis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering on A48 at the east end of the village is a concern; requests to petrol station have been dismissed; Mr. Davis suggested that the parish council writes to the owner to ask for engagement on the issue. • Vehicle debris still on Swan Hill. • Phone kiosk could be listed to protect it for future generations. • Public rights of way have many issues outstanding. • The pavement to Aylburton still needs excavating as is extremely narrow. • Knapp Lane resurfacing job is very good – suggested thank-you email to Highways. John Wood: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seconded Mr. Davis' complaint of rubbish on Swan Hill. Joanne Goodman: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willing to help with the litter-picking initiative. Cllr Haslam thanked Ms. Goodman and expressed appreciation to the several individuals who carry out ad hoc litter-picking in the community. Cllr Haslam advised against dealing with the debris on Swan Hill due to the inaccessible location. • Expressed interest in the flood warden vacancy, pending re-settling of schedule post-Covid. 	

<p>6. 120 20/21</p>	<p>To receive/note any reports from county and district councillors for the parish. District Councillor Chris McFarling gave an update covering the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid response work continues, including: checking in with the clinically vulnerable, and CCG re vaccine being accessible to the most vulnerable; business grants (c. £11M to date). • February FoDDC full council meeting will deal with the budget; £5 (c.2.73%) to be added to council tax for 2021-22. • Local Plan consultation closed last Friday (29/1) and the next steps will be to respond to every comment individually and then draft the plan itself, which will take around a year. The Local Plan's aims include addressing the climate emergency. DCllr McFarling welcomed any climate-related queries from the parish council. 	
<p>7. 121 20/21</p>	<p>Planning. a) To consider P0005/21/DISCON: Land Off, Clanna Road, Alvington, Gloucestershire. Discharge of Conditions 11 (Construction method statement) & 12 (Waste Minimisation statement) relating to P1494/15/OUT. Condition 11's sheet describes groundwater as 'minimal' which Cllr Haslam felt did not represent the situation, as evidenced by the stubborn 'pond' of groundwater which has been on the site for months. It was noted that Highways had recommended refusal of Condition 11 on grounds of the street plan not meeting standards. It was also noted that Severn Trent Water's consultee response seemed very general and had no objections or concerns, which it was felt was not in keeping with the drainage situation in the parish. Cllr Haslam advised that this is possibly due to the consultation's focus on the pipes from the site to the mains sewage pipes rather than the whole system. It was resolved to object to the application regarding Condition 11 on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over accuracy of documentation, e.g. reference to 'minor' surface water. • The site entrance is too small to allow HGVs to turn into and out of it without mounting the pavement. When using the existing entrance, tractors have to mount the opposite kerb to turn in, demonstrating that the turning needs to be wider. <p>Also the response to include a request that the number of parking spaces is carefully considered by the planning officer, as due to no on-street parking being available the car park on site must be wholly adequate for the construction workforce.</p> <p>b) To consider P0118/21/TCA: The Rag Cottage Church Lane Alvington Holly tree (shrub) to rear of house, reduce to approximately 3 metres and cut back sides in order to allow the oil tank to be changed and reduce shading. No objections</p> <p>c) To receive any progress reports on local planning matters. It was noted that the planning appeal concerning the Cross Stores had been refused.</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>8. 122 20/21</p>	<p>Village a) Coronavirus: to receive any updates specific to the parish. Cllr Thompson reported that this is continuing as before with no new requests for support and no issues. b) To note any updates on village/parish improvement matters. (see meeting pack) Updates in the meeting pack were noted, with the following additions:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCllr McFarling’s complaint to the CCW about Severn Trent’s lack of action on the sewage flooding at 1 Tudor Cottage is progressing but has been slow to begin with due to administrative challenges. CCW has now requested sight of any information about solving the issue which was sent to the resident. DCllr McFarling will send any useful information he has too. • In January, there was sewage on the road near the Blacksmiths Arms following heavy rain. Cllr Haslam complained about this to Highways twice, and others complained too. Highways responded quickly and fixed the issue, although this included simply washing the sewage down the hill. A crew will send a camera into the drainage system in this area to investigate the network and may be able to resolve the ‘dip’ in the road where water gathers at the same time. Brian Watkins advises that the timescale will likely be sometime in March. <p>c) Allotments: To receive any updates. The Clerk reported that the allotment holders had no objections to the guidelines which had been adopted last year.</p> <p>d) Motocross concerns from September 2020: an update on discussions with other authorities. Updates from the meeting pack were noted, and the Clerk had since been able to speak to the Covid compliance officer for FoDDC, who plans for early engagement with Motocross organisers across Gloucestershire regarding 2021 fixtures.</p> <p>e) To receive any reports on other village matters. The Clerk has received an email from GRCC regarding a housing needs survey for the parish. The Clerk will invite the GRCC officer (Chloe Maliphant) to the next meeting.</p>	
<p>9. 123 19/20</p>	<p>Sports Field</p> <p>a) Pavilion project: to receive any updates. The project received £2,120 from REACR’s latest funding phase. Cllr Heys plans to discuss actions with the architect and surveyor soon so that building regulations can be progressed. Cllrs Powell and Heys have discussed organising a volunteer day to work on the required changes to the car park – timings and plans depend on Covid restrictions.</p> <p>b) Mowing: to receive any updates. None.</p> <p>c) Play equipment repairs and safety improvements: to note any updates. The clerk has contacted Kompan regarding the repair needed to the activity tower and will chase it up.</p> <p>d) Woodland Trust tree pack: to consider planting arrangements and receive any updates. Awaiting the end of lockdown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e) To receive any reports on other Sports Field matters. The ash tree replanting scheme by GCC was noted but the replacement of lost trees will be covered indirectly, by Woodland Trust trees. DCllr McFarling recommended leaving ash trees where they are as there is some evidence of trees now tolerating ash dieback, plus standing deadwood is an important part of sustaining biodiversity. • Two small trees have fallen down during the recent bad weather. • Car park gate operations are going smoothly and the car park is usually empty when Cllr Heys visits to lock the gate. Bizarrely, there is a midday littering issue. • Cllr Haslam reported that he had received a letter from a resident expressing concern about non-parishioners using the sports field to walk their dogs. Cllr Chidley highlighted that dog meetups had been advertised on Facebook and 	

	<p>that these had caused problems due to the dogs not being well controlled. The Clerk will send a response letter to the resident.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Heys raised that due to frequent flooding of Lydney Rugby Club's grounds it may be worth discussing them hiring Alvington Sports Field, though this would require more grounds work. 	
10. 124 20/21	<p>a) To receive any reports on other churchyard matters. Cllrs Haslam and Heys have replaced the churchyard gate latch, for which they were thanked.</p>	
11. 125 20/21	<p>Highways a) To note any updates on Highways matters (see meeting pack). The update in the meeting pack was noted. John Wood raised concerns over the bulging and cracked retaining wall on Swan Hill A48 and queried whether it would be worth Highways assessing this. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Highways urgently. b) To note any updates on the pedestrian crossing. Cllr Haslam reported: the developer is now required to engage their solicitor to progress with a deed of variation. The Clerk is keeping in touch regularly.</p>	MH
12. 126 20/21	<p>NDP a) To receive an update on the progress of Alvington NDP. None; awaiting referendum in May 2021.</p>	
13. 127 20/21	<p>Finance a) To approve payment of invoices and expenses from the past month. The following payments were approved: M Humphries: Clerk Pay, January 2021: £295.08 Merlin Waste: Dog Bins, January 2021: £33.80 AR Website Design: Web hosting 2021-22: £85.00 GPFA: Subscription Nov 2020 – Nov 2021: £50.00 Okells Francis Law: Land Registry Fees: £190.00 N Burlton: Mower Purchase: £2,500.00 b) To ratify the payments made in January 2021 The following payments were ratified, having been made in January 2021: M Humphries: Clerk Pay, December 2020: £295.08 Merlin Waste: Dog Bins, December 2020: £33.80 PATA Payroll: Payroll Services Q3: £23.25 c) To note the receipt of income received since the last meeting. The following income was noted: 09/12/2020: Bank Interest: £0.11 11/01/2021: Bank Interest: £0.11 d) Online banking: to note any progress on online banking authorisation access for all councillors. Cllrs Chidley and Heys advised that both applications were in progress. e) Audit 2020-21: To approve the appointment of GAPTC as internal auditor at a cost of £175. Cllr Heys proposed that this appointment was made; Cllr Haslam seconded this proposal. The vote was unanimous. f) To allocate the task of Q3 Internal Controls check. Cllr Thompson offered to carry out this task.</p>	GT/MH
14. 128 20/21	<p>To note correspondence for information.</p>	

	<p>9.29 pm: At this point, Cllr Haslam proposed that the meeting was extended by an additional 30 minutes to 10 pm to allow for all business to be accommodated. Agreed unanimously. Correspondence was noted.</p>	
<p>15.129 20/21</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>a) To receive the Clerk’s Report. Noted.</p> <p>b) To receive an update on asset inspection process. See item 15e, below.</p> <p>c) To receive an update on the registration of the Memorial Hall. Cllr Haslam reported that there had been plenty of activity in getting this underway. Cllr Haslam is now officially a trustee of the memorial hall charity. There are six trustees now, and Cllr Haslam has the Charity Commission login so can keep records up to date.</p> <p>d) To adopt the updated Emergency Plan (internal document due to sensitive data). Adopted.</p> <p>e) To consider the draft General and Play Area safety checks and agree on frequency of checks. It was agreed that these drafts were suitable for the purpose and Cllr Thompson offered to format them for easy use.</p> <p>f) To adopt new Standing Orders following minor changes to the model (see meeting pack). Cllr Heys proposed that these were adopted; seconded by Cllr Haslam. Agreed unanimously.</p> <p>g) To receive councillors’ reports and items for future agenda. Cllr Heys gave a report on Woolaston Primary School: the school continues to move forward with homeschooling, with children getting time with their teachers three times per week, supported by a wider portfolio of online learning. Ofsted is likely to make an inspection in 2021 and will be looking at the homeschooling offer as part of this inspection. Admissions are open, and new students are always welcome.</p> <p>h) To note the date of the next council meeting: Thursday 4th March 2021, 7.30 pm. Noted.</p>	<p>GT</p>

Meeting closed: 9.47 pm

Signed:.....Chairman.

Date:.....