

ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

ATTENDING: 5 parishioners including:
Alec Davis
John Wood

DCllr Chris McFarling
CCllr Patrick Molyneux
Meg Humphries (Clerk)
Barbara Pond, GRCC

| No/Ref | Item/Notes | Action |
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| 1. 130 20/21 | To receive apologies for absence. None. | |
| 2. 131 20/21 | To note declarations of interest relating to the agenda. None. | |
| 3. 132 20/21 | To approve the accuracy of the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 04.02.21. Approved. | |
| 4. 133 20/21 | <p>Public forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Clanna Lane: an inhabited converted horsebox, with smoke coming out of the chimney. • Litter on Sandford Hill. Cllr Haslam advised that there was a group doing litter-picking very recently and that the petrol station had replied positively to the council's letter about litter, advising that they were asking staff to take more action. • Clanna Lane: There is still rubbish from the September 2020 motocross event. Clerk to refer to FoDDC street cleaning team. • Pothole on Clanna straight - already breaking up less than a week after being done. Also some potholes breaking up on Clanna Lane. Clerk to mention this issue to Highways. <p>John Wood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked Cllr Heys for picking up some of the debris on Swan Hill. | <p>MH</p> <p>MH</p> |
| 5. 134 20/21 | <p>To hear from Barbara Pond of GRCC about the proposed Housing Needs Survey for the parish.</p> <p>Barbara Pond from GRCC gave a report on the plans for a HNS in April/May throughout the parish. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GRCC facilitates HNSs in partnership with FoDDC. • HNSs look at the need for affordable housing in the area, and the need in general for housing. Community-led housing is a related project which Barbara is happy to return to discuss at a later date if the council is interested. • HNSs are posted to each household in the parish and packs contain a freepost envelope. The survey is anonymous although there is a section for personal details if people wish to give them. <p>The meeting thanked Barbara for her time and Barbara left the meeting.</p> | |
| 6. 135 20/21 | <p>To receive/note any reports from county and district councillors for the parish.</p> <p>County Councillor Patrick Molyneux:</p> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gigaclear is installing cabling in the area, which will mean some unavoidable disruption to lane access. • The county council has now set its budget, details available on GCC's website. • Schools reopen next Monday 8th March. Secondary schools are operating twice-weekly testing, and some schools are operating a staggered return. • Growing Communities fund: some funding is left, so Cllr Molyneux invited applications. • Gloucestershire/South Gloucestershire is bidding to become home to the first fusion-reaction power plant in the UK. <p>Cllr Molyneux invited questions, and Cllr McFarling asked whether schools could be prioritised for faster broadband due to the online teaching challenges faced by rural schools, including St Briavels Primary. Cllr Molyneux advised that regrettably the process was geographically linear due to the need to install cables</p> <p>District Councillor Chris McFarling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FoDDC budget has been published and is looking stable. This year's rise in council tax is equivalent to about £5.00 a year for a Band D property. • Business grants scheme has been performing very well and officers are aiming to deliver funding to applicants swiftly. Awareness is key, as is guiding businesses through the application process. • Cllr McFarling continues to focus on the Tudor Cottages sewage flooding issue but is still awaiting a response from the Consumer Council for Water. • Motocross noise concerns: suggested that Alvington PC join with Aylburton PC in holding a meeting with all parties involved to look at improving the situation. Clerk to discuss with DCllr Mark Topping (Aylburton and Lydney West) about next steps. | MH |
| 7. 136 20/21 | <p>Planning.</p> <p>a) To consider P0326/21/TCA: 3 The Row Main Road Alvington: 1 x Hazel Crown reduction by 15%. No objections.</p> <p>b) To receive any updates on planning enforcement complaint at Smallbrook. A referral to Planning Enforcement was made some time ago following eyewitness reports suggesting that a garage was being used as a dwelling, and a new driveway seeming to appear, running from a pre existing gate to the garage.</p> <p>c) To receive any progress reports on local planning matters.</p> | |
| 8. 137 19/20 | <p>Village</p> <p>a) Coronavirus: to receive any updates specific to the parish. There was a discussion of parishioners recently lost, including due to Covid.</p> <p>b) To note any updates on environmental health complaint at Cross Stores. Significant changes to the amount of refuse in the garden and the types of refuse are of concern and therefore this was referred to ERS, who are monitoring the situation and have made contact with the owners. There were also reports of a tree having been removed without the permission required in a conservation area. The Clerk will continue to request updates from ERS and can relay any further information or developments to ERS too.</p> <p>c) To note any updates on village/parish improvement matters (see meeting pack). Noted with the following updates given verbally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A48 drainage: Jetting and CCTV was carried out 18/2 and the crew surveyed the culvert, but they couldn't complete the survey because of obstructions in the culvert. Brian Watkins is awaiting the finalised report. • It was agreed to set up a meeting with Severn Trent Water, Cllrs McFarling and Molyneux, Laurence King and Highways. | |

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| | <p>d) To receive any reports on other village matters. Clerk advised, following some queries, that Newnham's phone kiosk had been listed by residents rather than the parish council so the parish clerk was not able to give information on the process but apparently the kiosk must be in a heritage-significant setting.</p> | |
| <p>9. 138 20/21</p> | <p>Sports Field</p> <p>a) Pavilion project: to receive any updates. REACR have awarded £2,120 in funding for the pavilion project, which can help establish build costings to facilitate future bidding. Building controls is on Cllr Heys' to-do list.</p> <p>b) Mowing: to receive any updates. Cllr Powell advised that the new mower has been fully serviced and he had carried out some mowing last week. A roller would be used on the field next weekend.</p> <p>c) Play equipment repairs and safety improvements: to note any updates and to officially approve the booking of RoSPA safety inspections for Garlands Road and Sports Field at a cost of £164.40 total (£68.50+VAT per play area). Cllr Haslam proposed that the booking was approved; Cllr Thompson seconded this and it was approved unanimously.</p> <p>d) Woodland Trust tree pack: to receive any updates. These will be planted this weekend.</p> <p>e) To receive any reports on other Sports Field matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Heys has arranged some wood chippings to be delivered by TrunkArb to soak up the mud in the car park. • Cllr Heys has moved on a few cars at gate-closing time, but nothing sinister. | |
| <p>10. 139 20/21</p> | <p>Churchyard</p> <p>a) To receive any reports on other churchyard matters. None.</p> | |
| <p>11. 140 20/21</p> | <p>Highways</p> <p>a) To note any updates on Highways matters (see meeting pack). Noted.</p> <p>b) To note any updates on the pedestrian crossing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Glaze of Cotswold Transport Planning gave some advice and insight via a Zoom meeting with Cllrs Haslam and Heys and the Clerk. • Speed of traffic is a challenge at the keep-left island location. For a zebra crossing to be viable, the 85th percentile speed at the site needs to be 35mph or less. Therefore, the next step is to commission a speed survey at the site. This cannot take place until at least April due to Covid risks. • One thing Mr Glaze raised was whether the council had seriously considered an enhanced refuge as a potentially safer option. A zebra crossing would have to be an all-in-one crossing, with no refuge. Therefore, it may in fact be safer to enhance the existing refuge with for instance street lighting, signage, a better 'island', and 'village gates' to give impression of the road narrowing, • Either way, the paths on the approach would have to be widened, and access improved, including the crossing over Court Lane. • The corner of the Globe Inn juts out into the line of sight, which may be a challenge. • DCllr McFarling stated that the pedestrian crossing condition had only been partially discharged, and construction on site has to start by 1st April or permission expires. • CCllr Molyneux urged that the council recognise the limitations of what the developer may be willing to do and perhaps to work with them to enhance the offer delivered by the developer themselves will provide. <p>c) To ratify the decision to commission a traffic survey at a cost of £150+VAT. Ratified unanimously.</p> | |
| <p>12. 141 20/21</p> | <p>NDP</p> <p>a) To receive an update on the progress of Alvington NDP.</p> | |

| | The referendum will take place on 6 th May. The document can now be shared again as a 'Referendum Document'. Alec Davis will amend the document accordingly and the Clerk will then re-supply this to FoDDC. There was a discussion of a flyer to raise awareness; no decision taken. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 13. 142 20/21 | <p>Finance</p> <p>a) To approve payment of invoices and expenses from the past month. The following upcoming payments were noted and approved.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>TO WHOM</th> <th>DETAILS</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Meg Humphries</td> <td>Clerk Pay February 2021</td> <td>295.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merlin Waste</td> <td>Dog Bins February 2021</td> <td>33.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Heys</td> <td>Reimbursement: Churchyard gate latch</td> <td>19.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SmartWater</td> <td>Membership renewal</td> <td>36.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>b) To note the receipt of income received since the last meeting. Noted.</p> <p>c) Online banking: to note any progress on online banking authorisation access for all councillors. Cllrs Heys and Chidley had still not received any confirmation of registration. Clerk to restart the process.</p> <p>d) To review the charges made by the council. The last review was 6+ years ago. Sports Field hire: £20 per session (use by a group; may be reduced on application for groups with lower impact on the ground e.g. dog training) Newsletter advertising: £25 per advert, or larger adverts according to size relative to the standard size. It was agreed to keep the charges the same for the 2021-22 civic year.</p> <p>e) To note the increase in Merlin dog bin collections from April 1st 2021 by 20p (3.90 → £4.10 per bin), resulting in a monthly price increase of approx. £21/year. Noted.</p> | TO WHOM | DETAILS | AMOUNT | Meg Humphries | Clerk Pay February 2021 | 295.08 | Merlin Waste | Dog Bins February 2021 | 33.80 | Richard Heys | Reimbursement: Churchyard gate latch | 19.99 | SmartWater | Membership renewal | 36.00 | MH |
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| 14. 143 20/21 | To note correspondence for information. Noted. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. 144 20/21 | <p>Council</p> <p>a) To receive the Clerk's Report. Noted.</p> <p>b) To receive an update on registration of the Memorial Hall. Ongoing.</p> <p>c) To assign play area and general checks using the new checklists. Checklists are unfinished, but nearly complete; this action will be deferred until the April meeting.</p> <p>d) To note the meeting dates for civic year 2021–22 (see meeting pack). Noted; it was agreed to hold the May meeting a week later (13/6) in light of the elections on 6th May. <i>At 9.27 pm Cllr Haslam proposed to extend the meeting to 9.35 pm in order to get through all business. Agreed unanimously.</i></p> <p>e) To receive councillors' reports and items for future agenda. As Chair of the Governors, Cllr Heys will give a report at the April meeting to give a news update on Woolaston Primary School. Cllr Powell: a sports field user had suggested putting up a zipwire on the sports field for young people/older children.</p> <p>f) To note the date of the next council meeting: Thursday 1st April 2021, 7.30pm – which will also be the Annual Parish Meeting. Noted.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Meeting closed: 9.32 pm

Signed:.....Chairman.

Date:.....