

## ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 7.30 p.m. at Alvington Memorial Hall**

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

**ATTENDING:** Alec Davis  
 John Wood

Chris McFarling (district and county councillor)  
 Meg Humphries (Clerk)

No/Ref	Item/Notes	Action
1. 015 21/22	<b>To receive apologies for absence.</b> None.	
2. 016 21/22	<b>To note declarations of interest relating to the agenda.</b> None.	
3. 017 21/22	<b>To approve the accuracy of the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 01.04.21.</b> Approved.	
4. 018 21/22	<p><b>Public forum.</b></p> <p>Mr Alec Davis made the following remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass opposite the Blacksmiths Arms has not been cut in a long time.</li> <li>• Potholes – poor quality repairs on both roads and pavements, which seem pointless and cost a fortune.</li> <li>• Remarked on the number of houses without a letterbox in the parish.</li> <li>• Clanna site for sale. The huge ‘For Sale’ sign has resulted in queries about Mr Davis selling his house.</li> <li>• Public rights of way continue to deteriorate.</li> <li>• On Sandford Hill, Gigaclear’s works have revealed how wide the footpath should be – there is a big difference due to verge encroachment. Cllr Haslam advised that the council has requested excavation of the footpath.</li> <li>• Suggested that reducing the speed limit between the Alvington and Aylburton would benefit both villages. The Clerk advised that this was something Aylburton PC was also looking at.</li> <li>• Mr Davis has several A0 village maps from working on the NDP which are no longer needed. Cllr Haslam offered to store these on behalf of the council.</li> <li>• There have been three accidents outside the Globe Inn in the last two weeks, seemingly linked to the antisocial parking by pub patrons. The crossing island’s bollards have been knocked over twice – the second time having just been reinstated.</li> <li>• Large puddles – especially outside the Blacksmiths Arms. The Clerk advised that she has chased Highways every month to no avail.</li> </ul> <p><b>John Wood:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vehicle debris on Swan Hill is still there. The Clerk will chase up FoDDC.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reiterated Mr Davis's footpath comments.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. 019 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>To receive/note any reports from county and district councillors for the parish.</b></p> <p>Cllr Haslam welcomed Cllr McFarling and congratulated him on becoming the area's county councillor in the 6<sup>th</sup> May elections. Cllr McFarling thanked the community who had elected him.</p> <p><b>Cllr McFarling's Update on FoDDC matters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FoDDC is in the process of applying for the Levelling-up Fund and is looking at projects which fit together on a common theme. There were several submissions for proposals for cycle paths, which weren't eligible because they weren't shovel-ready; Cllr McFarling aspires to turn them into a pipeline of projects where FoDDC can help them become shovel-ready to make the most of government funding, which often requires such.</li> <li>• Mr Davis asked about any progress on the Chepstow Bypass. There was then a discussion covering the Local Plan and transport corridors.</li> <li>• Local Plan: consultation responses are currently being analysed. Flood map projections for 2030 show a lot of local areas affected by rising water levels. Cllr McFarling emphasised the implications on key transport links and housing allocations. Cllr McFarling offered to circulate the 2030 flood map.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cllr McFarling's Update on GCC matters:</b></p> <p>Cllr McFarling has only been in the role for a couple of days so did not have any updates at this time, but he expressed his aim of supporting all of the communities regardless of politics. He also reminded the meeting of county councillors' discretionary transport fund.</p>	
<p><b>6. 020 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Planning.</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive any progress reports on local planning matters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Stores: The Planning Enforcement team have now allocated a case officer, so the enforcement case is live once again.</li> <li>• Clanna site: It was noted that this is now up for sale.</li> <li>• cPlanning application (received after the agenda was produced): <b>P0047/21/DISCON: The Meadows Clanna Lane Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6BD: Discharge of conditions 03 (external lighting), 04 (archaeological investigation), and 05 (surface water drainage scheme) relating to planning permission P0875/21/FUL.: No objections.</b></li> <li>• Application received in between meetings: <b>P0536/21/FUL: Old Garden Bungalow, Clanna Country Park, Alvington, Gloucestershire. Part conversion of an outbuilding for use as holiday accommodation. No objections.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. 021 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Village</b></p> <p><b>a) Coronavirus: to receive any updates specific to the parish.</b> None.</p> <p><b>b) To discuss antisocial and dangerous parking by pub patrons on Clanna Road and consider possible actions by the council to improve the situation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The parish council is gathering evidence of antisocial parking from residents and sending this to Highways to build a case for better parking control on the road.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Powell advised that HGV sat navs guide HGVs up Clanna despite being unsuitable. The restrictions were taken off the road because Clanna Park requires access for HGVs. Cllr Powell advised that it's possible to install a sign that tells HGV drivers to ignore their sat-nav; clerk to discuss this possibility with Highways.</li> <li>• Cllr Heys reported increasingly bizarre parking on Court Lane, forcing tractors to drive into the verge, eroding the bank.</li> <li>• Cllr Haslam reminded the meeting that any double yellow lines would only go approximately 20 yards from the junction so would not fully solve the issue.</li> <li>• It was noted that the situation was likely to worsen from 17<sup>th</sup> May, with changes in COVID restrictions resulting in more customers.</li> <li>• Cllr Heys suggested the solution of a map of where to find the sports field car park, on large signs readable from cars.</li> <li>• Cllr Chidley reported some positive contact with the local police team after sending them numerous photos of the parking for several days. The police agree it's an issue and are going to continue checking. Police officers have been visiting and on occasions taking number plates.</li> </ul> <p><b>c) To note any updates on village/parish improvement matters (see meeting pack).</b> Information in meeting pack noted, with the following additional points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sewage flooding at 1 Tudor Cottage: Matthew Jeynes of Severn Trent Water (STW) has yet to respond to the Consumer Council for Water's request for information following Cllr McFarling's complaint. Mr Jeynes suggested Cllr McFarling directly contact the CEO of STW. Also, STW has committed to installing some flow monitors and looking at the interconnection of water and sewage, and at manhole covers. Cllr McFarling expressed dissatisfaction that no action had happened to date and suggested a petition as a further option.</li> <li>• Garlands Road footpath now repaired.</li> <li>• Cllr Chidley offered to take on the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator vacancy.</li> <li>• Cllr Thompson appointed as the parish Flood Warden.</li> </ul> <p><b>d) To receive any reports on other village matters.</b> Cllr Powell advised that a local farmer is willing to help with snow ploughing. Cllr Powell to supply contact details to the Clerk.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>MH</p> <p>NP</p>
<p>8. 022 21/22</p>	<p><b>Sports Field</b></p> <p><b>a) Pavilion project: to receive any updates.</b> 25th July was agreed as a provisional date for the 2021 Fun Day. Cllr Heys will do some preliminary planning work. Cllr Heys has now received a written quote from a building surveyor and continues to liaise with the architect, particularly regarding a proposed two-phase build. It was agreed to submit the plans to building regulations when ready.</p> <p><b>b) Play equipment: to note the play area safety inspections and any other updates.</b> Noted; remedial work to be led by the Sports Field committee members. Cllr Heys advised that the goalposts had been repaired, and the play area metal equipment is in good condition. The wooden play equipment requires dismantling to check all of the parts and then reassembling – ROSPA has advised this. One tyre is</p>	

	<p>showing more severe damage, so some more extensive repairs needed, or removal. There was a discussion on repair options. It was agreed to arrange a councillor site visit to help form a plan.</p> <p>Cllr Chidley reported that the rusty sign at the Garlands Road play area needs repair or replacement. Cllr Powell will look into this. There is also a rabbit hole, which Cllr Chidley will fill in.</p> <p><b>c) To receive any reports on other Sports Field matters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The turf is in good condition and both mowers are working well.</li> <li>• Two of the 110 saplings planted earlier this year have been lost, to be expected with such a large number planted.</li> </ul>	<p>MH/RH</p> <p>LC</p>																														
<p>9. 023 21/22</p>	<p><b>Churchyard</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive any reports on churchyard matters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The catch on the lych gate needs repair; Cllr Haslam is looking into this.</li> <li>• It was noted that some major works to trees in the churchyard would be required in the medium term. There was a discussion about views affected by the yew trees.</li> </ul>																															
<p>10. 024 21/22</p>	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <p><b>a) To note any updates on Highways matters (see meeting pack).</b></p> <p>The information in the meeting pack was noted, plus the following additional points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding the unstable wall on Swan Hill as previously discussed: It has transpired that this wall is the responsibility of Highways as that section of road has been detrunked, therefore repairs will be organised by Highways, and FoDDC is putting pressure on them for action.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) To note any updates on the pedestrian crossing.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A speed survey has now been conducted at the preferred crossing site. The results suggest a crossing in the location is likely acceptable to Highways. Clerk to seek quotes for crossing schemes at this location.</li> </ul>	<p>MH</p>																														
<p>11. 025 21/22</p>	<p><b>NDP</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive an update on the progress of Alvington NDP.</b></p> <p>The plan passed the referendum held on 6<sup>th</sup> May, at which point it became a 'made plan'. Cllr Haslam thanked the NDP committee for all their hard work.</p>																															
<p>12. 026 21/22</p>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p><b>a) To approve payment of invoices and expenses from the past month.</b></p> <p>Approved as per the payment schedule, as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="213 1451 1286 1951"> <thead> <tr> <th>TO WHOM</th> <th>DETAILS</th> <th>AMOUNT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Meg Humphries</td> <td>Salary – April 2021</td> <td>295.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merlin Waste</td> <td>Dog Bins: April 2021</td> <td>34.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colour Frog</td> <td>Sports Field signage: 2 x A3</td> <td>53.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Heartbeat Trust</td> <td>Defib pad replacements (reason: expiry of the previous pads)</td> <td>51.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alan Haslam</td> <td>Reimbursement for expenses: goalpost repairs</td> <td>17.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meg Humphries</td> <td>Reimbursement of expenses: NDP leaflets (card payment only)</td> <td>29.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GeoXphere Ltd</td> <td>ParishOnline annual subs</td> <td>90.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playsafety Ltd</td> <td>Annual inspection of play areas</td> <td>164.40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Morgan</td> <td>Grasscutting – churchyard April 2021</td> <td>222.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>b) To note the receipt of income received since the last meeting.</b></p> <p>Noted.</p>	TO WHOM	DETAILS	AMOUNT	Meg Humphries	Salary – April 2021	295.08	Merlin Waste	Dog Bins: April 2021	34.67	Colour Frog	Sports Field signage: 2 x A3	53.35	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defib pad replacements (reason: expiry of the previous pads)	51.60	Alan Haslam	Reimbursement for expenses: goalpost repairs	17.92	Meg Humphries	Reimbursement of expenses: NDP leaflets (card payment only)	29.99	GeoXphere Ltd	ParishOnline annual subs	90.00	Playsafety Ltd	Annual inspection of play areas	164.40	Richard Morgan	Grasscutting – churchyard April 2021	222.00	
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	<p>c) <b>To note the Year-End Budget Statement, Year End Accounts Statement and Q4 Bank Reconciliation.</b> Noted.</p> <p>d) <b>AGAR 2020-2021: To agree to certify the council as exempt from an external audit due to both income and expenditure being under £25,000 for 2020-2021.</b> Agreed.</p> <p>e) <b>Online banking: to note any progress on online banking authorisation access for all councillors.</b> Ongoing; Lloyds has clarified the process.</p>	
13. 027 21/22	<p><b>To note correspondence for information.</b></p> <p>Noted.</p>	
14. 028 21/22	<p><b>Council</b></p> <p>a) <b>To receive the Clerk's Report.</b> Noted.</p> <p>b) <b>To receive an update on the registration of the Memorial Hall.</b> Land Registry advise a 12-month lead time, therefore it is unlikely there will be any developments until autumn 2021 at the earliest.</p> <p>c) <b>To receive updates on routine checks on play areas and council assets.</b> See item 8b. <b><u>At this point, Cllr Haslam proposed an extension of 15 minutes to allow the meeting to cover all agenda business. Agreed.</u></b></p> <p>d) <b>To receive councillors' reports and items for future agenda.</b> Cllr Heys intends to give another Woolaston Primary School update at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Cllr Haslam raised a safety concern about a dead ash tree next to the footpath which runs from Duncastle Farm up to the fields. Clerk to report this to Jeff Wheeler.</p> <p>e) <b>To note the date of the next council meeting: June Full Council: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, 7.30 pm in Alvington Memorial Hall.</b> Noted. Cllr Chidley gave her apologies due to family commitments.</p>	MH

Meeting closed: 9.36 p.m.

Signed:.....Chairman.

Date:.....