

## ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021, 7.30 p.m. at Alvington Memorial Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Richard Heys (Vice-Chair)  
 Cllr. Gail Thompson  
 Cllr. Nick Powell  
 Cllr Nathan Burlton (co-opted during item 2 and serving as a councillor thereafter)

ATTENDING: Meg Humphries (Clerk)  
 Alec Davis  
 John Wood  
 Laraine George  
 Carol Hinton  
 Andy Jones  
 Viv Harris  
 Chris McFarling (representative for county and district councils)

No/Ref	Item/Notes	Action
1. 088 21/22	<b>To receive apologies for absence.</b> Councillor Alan Haslam sent his apologies due to ill health.	
2. 089 21/22	<b>To consider co-opting a new councillor.</b> One application was received, from Mr Nathan Burlton, who introduced himself to the meeting and outlined his background. Cllr Thompson proposed that Mr Burlton was co-opted onto the council; this was seconded by Cllr Powell and agreed unanimously.	
3. 090 21/22	<b>To note declarations of interest relating to the agenda.</b> None.	
4. 091 21/22	<b>To approve the accuracy of the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 04.11.21.</b> Proposed by Cllr Thompson; seconded by Cllr Powell; agreed.	
5. 092 21/22	<b>Public forum.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carol Hinton raised concerns that it has transpired that Gigaclear will not be connecting all houses in the parish to faster broadband, which is different from what was initially promised. Clerk to write a letter to Gigaclear lead at the county council to ask for further information and to call for a fair approach and to include the estimated 25 houses in the parish which won't be connected according to current plans.</li> <li>• Laraine George complained about the construction at the Clanna Road development starting earlier than the permitted 8 am.</li> <li>• Alec Davis asked whether the council had heard from Cornerstone about improving internet/mobile connectivity in the parish; the Clerk advised that she had recently contacted them and was expecting a reply shortly.</li> <li>• Alec Davis raised the poor condition of the public rights of way in the parish. Cllr McFarling assured Mr Davis that the PROW officer is aware of the issues and intends to improve the situation but is under intense time and budget pressure. Clerk to contact the officer to confirm all issues are on the 'radar'.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Wood reiterated his pavement and footpath concerns and the clerk outlined her work on reporting the issues and advised that she would chase up the Highways representative.</li> <li>• Viv Harris described how two trees at a residence near her home were impractically tall, and owner Two Rivers had refused to cut them down. They were planted by a previous resident, and the current resident does not have the means to do so. Ms Harris asked whether the parish council would consider funding the removal. Cllr Heys suggested that this was Two Rivers' remit. It was agreed to write to Two Rivers to call for action.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6.093</b> <b>21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Budget 2022-24. To approve the proposed budget and precept request.</b> Cllr Heys outlined the proposed budget for 2022-23, with a proposed 3% increase on last year's precept. Given that inflation is over 4% currently, this would represent a real-terms decrease, but that a careful approach to spending would make it work. Cllr Powell proposed that the proposed budget be approved; this was seconded by Cllr Thompson and agreed unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>7.094</b> <b>21/22</b></p>	<p><b>To receive/note any reports from county and district councillors for the parish.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three surveys of note currently out: 1) biosphere reserve survey, which Cllr McFarling invited all to fill in; 2) 20 mph survey, as the county council are considering this lower limit for all residential streets in the county (there can be exceptions, and local councils can influence those exceptions.) 3) a survey on electric vehicle charging points, as there is funding to install 1,000 over the county and the county council want communities to suggest good locations.</li> <li>• Flooding at 1 Tudor Cottages. Severn Trent built in a relief pipe to store what would otherwise have flooded the drive, but then this pipe needs to be emptied after flooding, or the garden will still flood – and this is exactly what happened recently. Cllr McFarling has asked for monitoring equipment on site to prevent the overflow from reoccurring.</li> <li>• Drainage issues in the village: Highways' drains survey has now been carried out, as funded by Cllr McFarling's Highways Local Fund. That leaves the residential drainage, i.e. gutters. Cllr McFarling has asked Severn Trent for flow monitors and is calling for investigations into how to decrease pressure on the drains.</li> <li>• Clanna Lane development: Cllr McFarling has received complaints on work timings, changes to the plans, a site access point that was not granted permission, and changes to approved attenuation ponds. Tony Pope (FoDDC Planning) has confirmed that no new applications had been received and that he will either attend the site himself or will get an enforcement officer to attend. Cllr McFarling is in touch with Tony going forward. Cllr Heys proposed making contact with the architect regarding the s106 monies and resident concerns; agreed.</li> <li>• Footpaths and signposts – Cllr McFarling encouraged Mr Davis to let the PROW officer know about any issues so he can take action. Budgets are tight, but the Highways Local Fund has helped ease the pressure, and Cllr McFarling is working on protecting the PROWs budget in future years.</li> <li>• Gigaclear – regarding the discussion during public forum, Cllr McFarling recalled how in 2017 the plan was that every house in the county would be connected to faster broadband by Dec 2021. Cllr McFarling has been working to find someone responsible overall for the Gigaclear rollout so he can interrogate how decisions are made.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8.095</b> <b>21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Planning.</b> <b>a) To consider: P1811/21/FUL: The Rag Cottage, Church Lane, Alvington, Lydney. Removal of condition 04 (occupancy) of planning permission P1706/13/FUL to allow the Annexe to be used as dual use as ancillary accommodation to the main house and as a short-term unit of accommodation for tourists.</b></p>	

	<p>The applicant had been in touch to clarify the aim of the application, which is to rent out the annexe as part of the whole house rental rather than individually. In the past, the applicant has hired the memorial hall in order to use its car park, but it was noted that the hall would not always be available. Members discussed the matter and identified the common concern of parking capacity.</p> <p>Andy Jones, a neighbour, also raised parking concerns and suggested that the proposed removal of the condition would put pressure on the parking capacity in the area. It was agreed to raise the concern of parking with the planning department and ask for careful consideration of this issue.</p> <p><b>b) To consider P1947/21/TCA: Driftwood House Clanna Road Alvington: T1 (Spruce) Fell due to being too close to the house and casting excessive shade. T2 (Alder) Fell due to excessive size and casting too much shade. Replacement planting with insect and bird attracting shrubs in similar locations to that of trees proposed for removal. No objections.</b></p> <p><b>c) To note a consensus of no objections to: P1887/21/TCA: 7 Duncastle Court Main Road Alvington Removing 2 oaks from front garden, leaving third oak to develop without being crowded. Remove single ash with ash dieback from back garden, and remove a small subservient oak that is interfering with a standard beech. Replanting will be with 3 x ornamental acers, of which at least one will be in the front garden.</b> It was noted that the council did not have any objections to this application.</p>	
<p><b>9. 096 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Village</b></p> <p><b>a) To note any updates on village/parish improvement matters.</b> The list of matters in the meeting pack was noted.</p>	
<p><b>10. 097 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Sports Field</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive a report on the Quiz and Pudding Night on 20/11/21.</b> Cllr Heys reported on a successful evening, which was very pleasant, with gross takings of £409. Net takings could be calculated once expenses had been processed.</p> <p><b>b) To note any updates on other future fundraising events.</b> The council had applied to the REACR turbine fund and is currently awaiting the outcome.</p> <p><b>c) Pavilion project: to receive any updates.</b> None.</p> <p><b>d) Play equipment: to receive any updates on repairs.</b> None.</p> <p><b>e) To receive any reports on other Sports Field matters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Containers: the cricket club received several grants in 2021 and bought a wicket mower, so one mower can be running while the other is being repaired. Cllr Powell asked permission of the council to turn the containers 90 degrees to allow better mower storage. Agreed.</li> <li>• Trees – most new trees doing well, lost one in recent storms. Some trees have been donated and will be planted near the car park.</li> <li>• Andy Jones commended Roger Wakefield for his dedication to maintaining the field.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>11. 098 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Churchyard</b></p> <p><b>a) To consider quotes for the 2022-24 churchyard mowing contract.</b> Two quotes were received. Cllr Heys proposed that the contract was awarded to Richard Morgan, the existing contractor; seconded by Cllr Thompson and agreed unanimously.</p> <p><b>b) To receive any reports on any churchyard matters.</b> None.</p>	
<p><b>12. 099 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Highways.</b></p> <p><b>a) To note any updates on Highways matters (see meeting pack).</b> The list in the meeting pack was noted. The Clerk advised that she will chase up ongoing matters.</p>	

	<p>Cllr Heys advised that the drains on Court Lane are still overflowing and the culvert seems to have collapsed.</p> <p>b) Pedestrian crossing: to receive any updates.</p> <p>Cllr Heys reported that he and Cllr Haslam met with the consultant in November. Clerk to contact the consultant to ask for an update.</p>																															
<p><b>13. 100 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Finance.</b></p> <p><b>a) To approve the payment of invoices for this month.</b> Approved as follows</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Meg Humphries</td> <td>Clerk Pay November 2021</td> <td>295.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merlin Waste</td> <td>Dog Bins: November 2021</td> <td>47.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meg Humphries</td> <td>Reimbursement for Stamps</td> <td>15.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alan Haslam</td> <td>Reimbursement for printer ink</td> <td>18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GPFA</td> <td>2021-22 Subs (Nov-Nov)</td> <td>50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nicholas Powell</td> <td>Quiz night bar stock</td> <td>180.01</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>b) To note the receipt of income received since the last meeting.</b> Noted as follows.</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date received into account</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>09/11/2021</td> <td>Bank Interest</td> <td>0.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15/11/2021</td> <td>Ellwood FC – pitch hire</td> <td>20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/11/2021</td> <td>Quiz Night takings</td> <td>370.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>c) Online banking: to note any progress on online banking authorisation access for all councillors.</b> Ongoing.</p>	Meg Humphries	Clerk Pay November 2021	295.08	Merlin Waste	Dog Bins: November 2021	47.67	Meg Humphries	Reimbursement for Stamps	15.80	Alan Haslam	Reimbursement for printer ink	18.00	GPFA	2021-22 Subs (Nov-Nov)	50.00	Nicholas Powell	Quiz night bar stock	180.01	Date received into account	Description	Amount	09/11/2021	Bank Interest	0.10	15/11/2021	Ellwood FC – pitch hire	20.00	24/11/2021	Quiz Night takings	370.00	
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<p><b>14. 101 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>To note correspondence for information.</b></p> <p>Correspondence included an invitation for local councils to consider contacting the county council to express support for introducing a 20 mph limit for all residential roads in the county and to encourage a proactive approach and to consider applying the new limit to trunk roads in residential areas too, including the point that the A48 is already 20 mph twice each day due to schools.</p>																															
<p><b>15. 102 21/22</b></p>	<p><b>Council</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive the Clerk’s Report.</b> Noted.</p> <p><b>b) To receive councillors’ reports and items for future agenda.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Burlton brought up two loose inspection covers in the parish, which are the responsibility of Openreach; no action has been taken yet so he will report them again.</li> <li>• Cllr Powell raised the issue of a tree on Swan Hill, located behind the one that fell in the recent storm. It’s growing outwards and occasionally is clipped by passing lorries. Clerk to report to Highways.</li> <li>• Cllr Heys continues to put a lot of time into his role as Chair of Governors at Woolaston Primary School. Ofsted is active in the area currently; a description of recent inspection grading changes due, it seems, to changes in government policy. The school continues to work with Tutshill Primary School.</li> </ul> <p><b>c) To note the date of the next council meeting: February Full Council: Thursday 3rd February 2022 at 7.30 pm in Alvington Memorial Hall.</b> Noted.</p>																															

Meeting closed: 9.11 p.m.

Signed:..... (Chairman)

Date:.....