

## ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, 7.30 p.m., Alvington Memorial Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Richard Heys (Vice-Chair)  
 Cllr Gail Thompson  
 Cllr Nick Powell  
 Cllr Nathan Burlton

ATTENDING: Alec Davis, John Wood, Chris Shill, F. Towell, H. Towell, Cllr Chris McFarling (District and County Councillor), Meg Humphries (Clerk)

Min. Ref	Item and details	Action
125. 22/23	<p><b>1. To receive apologies for absence.</b>            Cllr Haslam sent his apologies due to travelling. Cllr Heys chaired the meeting in his absence.</p>	
126. 22/23	<p><b>2. To note any declarations of interest relating to the agenda.</b>            None.</p>	
127. 22/23	<p><b>3. To approve the accuracy of the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 02.02.23.</b> Approved; signed by Cllr Heys.</p>	
128. 22/23	<p><b>4. Public forum.</b>            At this point, Cllr Heys updated the meeting on a significant development in the road crossing matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Heys has been advised that Cotswold Oak will be putting in 4 dropped kerbs as originally proposed. Cotswold Oak argued that the parish council had failed to meet their half of the agreement, although the meeting noted that the parish council had done what was required but the process had been severely delayed by a lack of response from Gloucestershire Highways. Cllr Heys expressed extreme disappointment at Highways for this delay in response, and the remarkable weakness of response.</li> <li>• Cllr Heys noted that Cotswold Oak did initially offer above and beyond what was required of them, and the offer seemed genuine, which Cllr Heys felt made it even harder to lay the blame anywhere else but Highways. However, it was also noted that the fact that FoDDC was content with a 'gentlemen's agreement' put the parish council in a very difficult situation and a weak negotiating position. Cllr Heys intends to write to the county council CEO and possibly Mark Harper and Department for Transport too.</li> </ul> <p>At this point, this item was paused to allow Cllr McFarling to give his report and leave the meeting due to other meetings he is committed to tonight.</p> <p>Alec Davis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queried the planning notification about the withdrawal of the application to remove Condition 17. Cllr Heys clarified this is a reversal of plans to install an enhanced crossing.</li> <li>• Reported that a tractor got stuck on Clanna Road because of a car parked on the road. The car had to be moved by force.</li> <li>• On another occasion the police visited to get a pub patron to move their car, which was obstructing the road.</li> <li>• Queried whether the speed sign was working. Cllr Burlton confirmed that it is.</li> </ul>	

129.  
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**5. To receive/note any reports from the county and district councillors for the parish.**

- Cllr McFarling supports Cllr Heys' intention to write a letter and recommended providing as much detail as possible.

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Cllr McFarling then gave an update covering the following points.

- **County Council:** Agreed the 23/24 budget recently, with a 4.9 % increase.
  - This includes a new e-bike hire scheme and secure bike storage at various sites.
  - It also includes £100,000 funding for a Restoring Our Rivers fund.
  - There was also a significant budget increase for public rights of way (an extra £100,000 across the county.)
- **District council:** Agreed the 23/24 budget recently, with a 2.99% increase. The Green group put in an amendment to tweak the investment strategy to divest from fossil fuel, but this was unfortunately lost.
- **Parish:** Cllr McFarling continues working with Severn Trent Water. STW advise that flooding of the roads and Tudor cottages was due to a blockage at a manhole upstream (notably not the Clanna Road development). STW confirms this has now been cleared, so the system should operate properly. STW is also planning to clean upstream and adjacent to Tudor Cottages to remove fat deposits. Cllr McFarling is pushing for flow monitors to be installed.
- **Clanna Road Development:** Planning Enforcement is visiting the site frequently, with the next visit planned for Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr McFarling has been advised that the windows will comply with the conditions and that dropped kerbs will be installed. The development is nearing completion. Cllr McFarling has asked the enforcement officer to send a report following Monday's visit.
- Cllr McFarling is interested in devising a circular route (start and finish in the village), using the public rights of way network, which locals and visitors can enjoy. The whole route will need to be made accessible, and if it can take in any heritage and habitat features, even better. even better.

**Questions:**

Alec Davis asked when a new pumping station might be expected in the village. Cllr McFarling advised that there is some investment in the pipeline and speculated that the timeline may be around 2025-2030 timings. He assured Mr Davis that Lydney and the surrounding area is a focus for upcoming work.

Alec Davis listed several outstanding issues with the Clanna Road development, including no cycle storage, problematic gas tank position, street lights, and the site entrance being 'an eyesore'. Also, his garden is now flooding and it was not before. Mr Davis complained that FoDDC had not meaningfully responded to villagers' questions or reacted to issues on site.

Mr Wood added that the infiltration pond's positioning and lack of barrier raised child safety concerns.

Cllr McFarling noted these comments and assured Mr Davis and Mr Wood that Planning Enforcement was aware of all matters raised.

<p>130. 22/23</p>	<p><b>6. Planning.</b></p> <p><b>a) To consider: P0089/23/LBC: Alvington House (Formerly Colne Mill), Swan Hill: Repair of structural defects including beams and joists, strip and recover roof, remove cementous render and re-render using lime, alter external staircase, replace rotten joinery items, remove and replace inappropriate C20th features to include some windows and doors, internal refurbishments and alterations. Erection of biomass plant room.</b> Considered. No objections.</p> <p><b>b) To receive any planning updates.</b> Two notifications were received after this meeting's agenda was published, as follows:</p> <p>i) P0257/23/TCA: 8 Duncastle Court, Main Road Alvington: Walnut in the back garden, reduce by approximately 2m or to nearest suitable pruning point in accordance with BS3998:2010, and remove small leaning and failing fruit tree. Considered. No objections.</p> <p>ii) The withdrawal of P1533/22/FUL: Land Off Clanna Road Alvington: Removal of Condition 17 (provision of approved pedestrian crossing before occupancy of dwellings) relating to P1772/18/APP. Noted (relates to the update given in item 2).</p>	
<p>131. 22/23</p>	<p><b>7. Village.</b></p> <p><b>a) Coronation celebrations: to report any progress on planning an event.</b> The date of the event is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr Powell is in discussions with a catering company. Cllr Heys asked for donations of any spare pallets (8-9 needed) for lighting the beacon. It was agreed that a flyer/newsletter would be produced, to (among other things) promote the Coronation / Summer Fun events.</p> <p><b>b) To note updates on village/parish improvement matters.</b> The content of the meeting pack was noted, with the following additional matters raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting thanked Mr Davis for the public rights of way updated report. Clerk to link to this report from Facebook.</li> </ul>	<p>MH</p>
<p>132. 22/23</p>	<p><b>8. Sports Field.</b></p> <p><b>a) To agree to commission the annual RoSPA play area safety inspections for both village play areas for £150+VAT.</b> Agreed.</p> <p><b>b) Alvington Summer Fun 23/07/23: event planning progress.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Powell confirmed that a catering van has been committed to the event.</li> <li>• Cllr Heys has written to previous vendors inviting them to attend.</li> <li>• Anna Mcloughlin has volunteered to approach craft/arts, so the Clerk will send the booking information to Anna so she can do this.</li> <li>• Clerk to produce a vendor booking form and an event poster.</li> <li>• Cllr Heys will convene event planning meetings between now and the event.</li> </ul> <p><b>c) Alvington Coronation Celebration: event planning progress.</b> Duplication of 7a, covered above.</p>	

	<p><b>d) Pavilion project: to receive any updates.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Heys has agreed the spirit of an agreement with the neighbouring farm to allow access to water supply over their land. The Clerk will approach the solicitor to draw up an official agreement, without the reference to snow access.</li> </ul> <p>Following assertions over an existing pipe, Cllr Heys suggested digging a trench over the entrance to try to find it, potentially at around an 800 mm depth). While doing so, Cllr Heys proposed also removing the two or three trees erroneously planted along the entrance, to allow the farmer emergency access to their field. Cllr Heys suggested 18<sup>th</sup> March at 9 am. Agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the council would need three quotes for digging a trench and getting the water supply in place. Clerk to liaise with Cllrs Powell and Heys to invite quotations.</li> <li>• And contact electricity companies to do their bit too (supply needs to go in while the trench open). Cllr Heys to contact relevant companies for quotes.</li> <li>• Cllr Powell will also contact Severn Trent Water.</li> <li>• Once quotes are in, will then be in a position to draw down the s106 monies.</li> <li>• Chris Shill will send information on past water supply quotes to Cllr Powell.</li> </ul> <p><b>e) To receive any other reports on the sports field.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the moment the Sports Field gate is locked more than normal to mitigate the risk of damage.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>133. 22/23</b></p>	<p><b>9. Churchyard.</b></p> <p><b>a) To consider commissioning a tree survey to cover risk assessment and professional recommendations for all trees in the churchyard.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Powell proposed that the council appoint TrunkArb for this task. This was seconded by Cllr Thompson and agreed unanimously. It was agreed to take any costs for this from the council's tree fund.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) To receive updates on any churchyard matters.</b></p> <p>A churchyard tidy was scheduled for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2 pm. John Rogers has offered to remove rubbish resulting from the tidy.</p>	
<p><b>134. 22/23</b></p>	<p><b>10. Highways.</b></p> <p><b>a) Pedestrian crossing: to receive any updates.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass crossing demonstration on 20<sup>th</sup> February: Cllr Heys reported on the excellent turnout and good media coverage; he thanked all involved.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) To note public comments about parish highways priorities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These comments were noted from the meeting pack.</li> <li>• There was a short discussion on street lighting, with a sense of there being scope for adding more street lights in a sensitive manner, which would also provide a visual cue of the 30 mph limit. However, it was noted that this is very much in the hands of Highways, although the parish council can lobby for change.</li> <li>• It was noted that the 'gateway' to the village from Aylburton was lacking; it has no big square yellow signs as Aylburton does. Therefore it was felt there was scope for overhauling this gateway.</li> <li>• The many comments on the parking situation on Clanna were noted, and the meeting was hopeful that the proposed double yellow lines (currently in public consultation) would help with this.</li> <li>• The meeting discussed the potential for traffic calming measures on Garlands Road.</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>c) To note any updates on Highways matters.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drains on the A48 between Alvington and Aylburton have now been cleaned.</li> </ul>																						
135. 22/23	<p><b>11. Finance.</b></p> <p><b>a) Dog bins: to approve a change in service provider, from Merlin Waste to Forest Equipment Services.</b> Approved.</p> <p><b>b) To approve the payments for March 2023:</b> Approved as follows.</p> <table> <tr> <td>M Humphries</td> <td>Clerk Pay Feb 2023</td> <td>337.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merlin Waste</td> <td>Dog Bins collections Feb 2022</td> <td>52.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FoDDC</td> <td>Green waste licences 23/24 (Cheque)</td> <td>150.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Humphries</td> <td>Expenses: Stamps</td> <td>10.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Humphries</td> <td>Expenses: Land Registry</td> <td>12.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>c) To note the receipt of income received since the last meeting.</b> Noted as follows.</p> <table> <tr> <td>09/02/23</td> <td>Bank interest</td> <td>6.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10/02/23</td> <td>Cricket Club – field hire 2022 part 2</td> <td>100.00</td> </tr> </table>	M Humphries	Clerk Pay Feb 2023	337.98	Merlin Waste	Dog Bins collections Feb 2022	52.00	FoDDC	Green waste licences 23/24 (Cheque)	150.00	M Humphries	Expenses: Stamps	10.88	M Humphries	Expenses: Land Registry	12.00	09/02/23	Bank interest	6.91	10/02/23	Cricket Club – field hire 2022 part 2	100.00	
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136. 22/23	<p><b>12. To note correspondence for information.</b> Noted.</p>																						
137. 22/23	<p><b>13. Council</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive the Clerk’s Report.</b> Noted.</p> <p><b>b) To approve the provisional meeting dates for the civic year 23/24.</b> Approved. Clerk to invite community groups to the Annual Parish Assembly. The Clerk handed out election application forms.</p> <p><b>c) To assign the safety checks for Q1 of 2023/24.</b> It was agreed that Cllr Thompson would carry this out.</p> <p><b>d) To receive councillors’ reports and items for future agendas.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elections are coming – Clerk to advertise the upcoming vacancy and invite anyone interested to get in touch.</li> <li>• Cllr Powell reported a small landslide on private land on Clanna Lane, near Nupend Farm. Noted.</li> </ul> <p><b>e) To note the date of the next council meetings: Full Council: Thursday 6th April 2023, 7.30 pm at Alvington Memorial Hall.</b> Noted. The Annual Parish Assembly will be held at 7.30 pm on this date, directly followed by the April Full Council Meeting.</p>																						

Meeting closed: 9.14 pm

Signed:..... (Chairman)

Date:.....