

ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 6th April 2023, directly following the Annual Parish Assembly, Alvington Memorial Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Alan Haslam (Chairman)
Cllr Richard Heys (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Nick Powell
Cllr Nathan Burlton

ATTENDING: Alec Davis, John Wood, Chris Shill, Gary Baseley,
Keith Haylock, Cllr Chris McFarling (District and County Councillor), Meg Humphries (Clerk)

Min. Ref	Item and details	Action
<i>The meeting opened at 8.09 pm, following the Annual Parish Assembly's closure.</i>		
001. 23/24	1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr Thompson sent her apologies. Accepted.	
002. 23/24	2. To note any declarations of interest relating to the agenda. Cllr Haslam advised that he would not vote on item 6b as he is the applicants' neighbour, and the trees in question overhang his garden.	
003. 23/24	3. To approve the accuracy of the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 02.03.23. Approved; signed by Cllr Heys as the chair of that meeting.	
004. 23/24	<p>4. Public forum. Gary Baseley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCC Highways has issued report on the Swan Hill A48 retaining wall as result of Mr Baseley's Freedom of Information request. Lots of information has been redacted. GCC's opinion now seems to condemn felling the trees above the wall, although it was GCC who requested the felling. There is little sign of deterioration revealed by the two surveys carried out in April 2021 and February 2022. Short term recommendations are for repointing and the top layer of stones being resecured. Ownership is still debated. • Talk of additional street lighting down Swan Hill to enforce the 30 mph speed limits. Currently there is just one streetlight on that stretch. Mr Baseley advised that he is in a dispute with Western Power because the streetlight's cable is stapled to front of his house. He would like it removed, but WPD is saying this means losing the streetlight altogether. <p>Alec Davis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloomery Court Plot 1: there is water coming out from under the house's foundations. The run-off is creating surface water near Garlands Road. Mr Davis thinks two more drains need installing to resolve this. • Mobile signal has got worse for Mr Davis, and he suspects this is because of more buildings. Cllr Powell advised that the EE mast is out of order currently. • Mr Davis had sought updates on the traffic regulation order (TRO) on Clanna. The process is waiting on FoDDC confirming consultation dates. • Raised the outstanding Swan Hill potholes and Garlands Road potholes. • Advised that Tudor Cottages flooded again Saturday 1st April. • Asked the parish council whether they would consider contributing some funding towards some more kissing gates. At this point Cllr McFarling 	

advised that the PROW officer Jeff Wheeler has a healthy fund, and Cllr McFarling can contribute, so there would be no cost to farmer or parish council. Cllr McFarling asked Mr Davis to send him his 'top six' locations for kissing gates.

- NDP: The plan's scope runs to 2026, so Mr Davis reminded the council to allow time to prepare a successor plan.
- Finally, Mr Davis remarked that he was looking forward to opening his windows again in 2023 without any risk of dust, noise and language as Bloomery Court nears completion.

Keith Haylock:

- The road surface all the way down from Beanhill Farm is an issue, and the culvert coming down from the farm is a major issue. Severn Trent Water say it's the local flooding authority's responsibility.
- All the drains on Clanna are blocked.
- Resurfacing Clanna has created some huge puddles, including one outside Mr Haylock's house which is 10 ft x 3 ft and 3 inches deep.
- There is a lot of rubbish and debris on Clanna, including silt from flooding, and Mr Haylock feels GCC need to clean this up.
- The builders on the Bloomery Court site had confronted a neighbour, claiming she had an illegal culvert on her land. She felt intimidated, and now keeps her doors locked. She has photos and videos evidencing unacceptable behaviour. She has written to Tony Pope and received no reply. Cllr McFarling advised that he would look into this.
- Expressed soil contamination concerns due to the purportedly illegal height of land built up at Bloomery Court.

John Wood:

- Swan Hill: the surface is still poor. Cllr Haslam conveyed GCC's actions so far on this. Mr Haylock suggested that the surface water is the cause of the poor road surface, so the water issue needed fixing first.

005. 23/24 5. To receive/note any reports from the county and district councillors for the parish.

Cllr McFarling gave a select summary of local matters. He highlighted that the scope was narrower than usual due to being in the pre-election period.

- Cllr McFarling complimented the parish council, which he feels is run very well, with good relationships and communications.
- He expressed his frustration in the very slow progress of important matters in the village, such as the ones that follow.
- Sewage flooding at Tudor Cottages: Severn Trent has spent £38,000 on an overflow pipe at the location, but this measure is only useful when it's emptied regularly. Flow monitors have now been installed. He noted that the sewer system is Victorian but trying to cope with modern demands.
- Bloomery Court: Cllr McFarling acknowledged that this development has been exceedingly difficult. He advised that the enforcement officer is broadly content with the development but won't sign it off until the windows meet planning standards. As expected, the developers have now installed the required dropped kerbs to meet inspector conditions. Mr Davis asked Cllr McFarling about flooding on site, and Cllr McFarling stated that the developer states it is as before, although other parties strongly dispute this.
- Road crossing: Cllr McFarling noted the unacceptable delays and lack of

	<p>response from the county council. He advised that some of the officers responsible for this have now left. He reflected that the way forward could be to challenge national guidance so rural communities benefit from best safety practices. He expressed his commitment to collaborating with officers, not fighting them.</p>	
006. 23/24	<p>6. Planning.</p> <p>a) To consider: P1245/22/FUL: Land Off Clanna Road Alvington. Variation of Condition 8 (Landscaping Scheme) of P1772/18/APP to allow relocation of LAP to accommodate the gas farm, change entrance road from block paving to tarmac and provide area for gas delivery.</p> <p>The council agreed to submit comments conveying various objections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tarmac roadway is unnecessary and is less porous than the originally proposed block paving. • The tarmac roadway is unnecessary as the farmer has access to the field from other points. • The attenuation ponds lack safety measures. <p>Cllr Haslam also suggested getting flooding engineer out to look at the realities. Mr Haylock said he'd be happy to meet with the engineer.</p> <p>b) To consider: P0416/23/TCA: Bwthyn Bach Main Road Alvington: Cut back overgrown hedgerow trees consisting of Hazel, Damson and Thorn by approximately 1.2 metres to boundary fence, in order to prevent failure onto footpath and neighbour's gardens.</p> <p>No objections.</p> <p>c) To receive any planning updates.</p> <p>Cllr Heys summarised the contents of a complaint letter to Pete Bungard, highlighting Highways' poor engagement on the road crossing. All members present signed it, and the Clerk will send it on to Cllr Thompson for signing before it goes to Mr Bungard.</p>	MH
007. 23/24	<p>7. Village.</p> <p>a) Coronation celebrations: to report any progress on planning an event.</p> <p>Cllr Powell reported that he was in the process of identifying a caterer. Other arrangements are under way.</p> <p>b) To note updates on village/parish improvement matters (see meeting pack).</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Chris Shill has offered to repaint the phone kiosk. It was agreed that the parish council would pay the £60.60 for the specialist paint.</p>	
008. 23/24	<p>8. Sports Field.</p> <p>a) To consider quotations for groundworks relating to electricity and water connection to the pavilion.</p> <p>Ben Lewis was selected to conduct the groundworks.</p> <p>b) Alvington Summer Fun 23/7/23: event planning progress.</p> <p>Cllr Heys suggested 26th April as a provisional event planning meeting date, in the Blacksmiths Arms. He will email event group to confirm.</p> <p>c) Alvington Coronation Celebration: event planning progress</p> <p>Addressed above in 7a.</p> <p>d) Pavilion project: to receive any updates.</p> <p>Cllr Powell has contacted the electricity company three weeks ago and has</p>	

	<p>received a holding email but was waiting on a reply.</p> <p>e) To receive any other reports on the sports field.</p> <p>It was noted that during the Easter holidays some young people had built a den behind one of the sports field containers, and leaned the redundant slide against the container too.</p> <p>Cllr Heys has purchased timber for repairs to the trim trail.</p> <p>Cllr Powell has replaced the lock on the inner gate.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson found in the Q1 safety inspection that the first upright on the trim trail seemed wobbly and asked for another member to look at how to resolve this.</p>																									
009. 23/24	<p>9. Churchyard.</p> <p>a) To receive updates on any churchyard matters.</p> <p>None.</p>																									
010. 23/24	<p>10. Highways.</p> <p>a) Road safety: to receive any updates.</p> <p>There was a discussion on a proposed joint TRO with Aylburton for reduced speed limits – 20 mph in both villages, and 50 mph for the stretch in between, with a 40 mph stretch to transition into the village. There was also a discussion on whether removing the westbound passing place would improve safety.</p> <p>It was agreed to progress with the proposal's initial stages. It was noted that it may cost about £15,000 in total.</p> <p>b) To note any updates on Highways matters.</p> <p>Noted from the meeting pack.</p>																									
011. 23/24	<p>12. Finance.</p> <p>a) To approve the appointment of GAPTC as the internal auditor for 2022/23 at a cost of £180.</p> <p>Approved.</p> <p>b) To receive Cllr Powell's report on the Internal Controls checks for Quarter 3 of 2022/23 and confirm arrangements for the Quarter 4 checks.</p> <p>Cllr Powell reported that he had completed the checks and found everything to be in order. Cllr Heys to conduct the Q4 checks.</p> <p>c) To approve the payments for April 2023:</p> <p>Approved as follows.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>M Humphries</td> <td>Clerk Pay March 2023</td> <td>337.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merlin Waste</td> <td>Dog Bins collections March 2022</td> <td>52.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PATA Payroll</td> <td>Services for Q4 of 2022/23</td> <td>25.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GAPTC</td> <td>Subscription for 2023/24</td> <td>172.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martyn & Son</td> <td>Mower servicing, March 2023</td> <td>372.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>d) To note the receipt of income received since the last meeting.</p> <p>Noted as follows.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>09/03/2023</td> <td>Bank interest</td> <td>15.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14/03/2023</td> <td>Fun Day pitch fee SH</td> <td>10.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14/03/2023</td> <td>Fun Day pitch fee BD</td> <td>10.00</td> </tr> </table>	M Humphries	Clerk Pay March 2023	337.98	Merlin Waste	Dog Bins collections March 2022	52.00	PATA Payroll	Services for Q4 of 2022/23	25.80	GAPTC	Subscription for 2023/24	172.06	Martyn & Son	Mower servicing, March 2023	372.00	09/03/2023	Bank interest	15.00	14/03/2023	Fun Day pitch fee SH	10.00	14/03/2023	Fun Day pitch fee BD	10.00	
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012. 23/24	<p>12. To note correspondence for information.</p> <p>Noted.</p>																									
013. 23/24	<p>13. Council</p> <p>a) To receive the Clerk's Report.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>b) To receive councillors' reports and items for future agendas.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson's safety inspection comments highlighted the bin at Garlands Road, which currently is not being emptied. Cllr Thompson's full safety check report is in progress.</p> <p>c) To assign any actions in preparation for the Annual Council Meeting on</p>																									

<p>11th May. The Clerk will make arrangements via email. d) To note the date of the next council meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Council Meeting: Thursday 11th May 2023, 7.30 pm at Alvington Memorial Hall. • Full Council: Thursday 11th May 2023, directly following the Annual Council Meeting. Please note, May's meeting is one week later than usual due to elections taking place on 4th May. <p>Noted.</p>	<p>MH</p>
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Meeting closed: 9.42 pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date:

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