

## ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023, directly following the Annual Council Meeting, Alvington Memorial Hall

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

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

Min. Ref	Item and details	Action
<i>The meeting opened at 7.40 pm, following the Annual Council Meeting's closure.</i>		
014. 23/24	<b>1. To receive apologies for absence.</b> None.	
015. 23/24	<b>2. To note any declarations of interest relating to the agenda.</b> None.	
016. 23/24	<b>3. To approve the accuracy of the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 06.04.23.</b> Approved; signed by the Chairman.	
017. 23/24	<p><b>4. Public forum.</b></p> <p><b>Alec Davis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bloomery Court:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The works on site continue.</li> <li>○ Expressed discontent with FoDDC Planning and Enforcement.</li> <li>○ Verges nearby are damaged due to deliveries.</li> <li>○ Concerns that the attenuation ponds aren't built to acceptable standards.</li> <li>○ Paving slabs on site should be permeable but apparently are not.</li> <li>○ The site's land has apparently been raised more than permitted, or moved from one property to another without a specific licence.</li> <li>○ Allegedly water's being pumped from the site into the road drains.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mobile phone signals: Vodafone is switching off its 3G signal by end of 2023. AD expressed frustration at worsening service and concern for those without a 4G phone.</li> </ul> <p><b>John Wood:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swan Hill potholes: They seem to crop up as quickly as they're filled. Clerk intends to follow up with Highways.</li> <li>• Footpath FAL 14: The farmer has ploughed and drilled the field and cut away the footpath so it's unreasonably narrow. This was done on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May; the farmer has 2 weeks to put it right, and after that it can be reported to PROW.</li> </ul>	
018. 23/24	<p><b>5. To receive/note any reports from the county and district councillors for the parish.</b></p> <p>The meeting congratulated Cllr Chris McFarling on being re-elected at district level.</p> <p>Cllr McFarling (district and county council representative) gave a report in person</p>	

	<p>covering parish, district and county news and actions he's taken.</p> <p>Cllr McFarling also responded to previous comments on potholes, clarifying the situation at Highways and the need to prioritise because of scarce resources. Cllr McFarling and other members are putting pressure on Highways to improve their pothole response. Highways crews don't appear to be reliably following behind utilities companies to ensure any trenches are properly filled and sealed. Cllr McFarling will discuss this with Highways area rep Nathan Choat. Cllr Heys also raised the surface issue on Court Lane, where following Gigaclear works, the side of the road is now eroding, and making a narrow lane even narrower.</p> <p>Cllr McFarling is chasing up the Clanna Traffic Restriction Order.</p> <p>Bloomery Court: Cllr McFarling has contacted the local flood authority, and Senior Flooding Engineer Laurence King. They intend to visit the site, and they have noted enforcement officers' internal report, which does say there have been some issues with drainage. If it transpires that the flood risk has increased due to the development, FoDDC will look at asking developers to make it right somehow.</p> <p>Public rights of way: The meeting advised that a kissing gate would be very welcome where FAL14 meets the road, and Cllr McFarling took note and will chase this up with Jeff Wheeler.</p> <p>Winter resilience – GCC are preparing for winter 2023/4 and encouraging all parish councils to review their winter action plans. Cllr McFarling offered to play a role in facilitating this. It was agreed to review the winter action plan at the September full council meeting. Cllr McFarling will send further information beforehand.</p> <p>Transport interchange hubs – consultants are currently looking at potential locations for these, and £1.2m has been invested. The county council is encouraging people to switch to low-carbon modes of transport, so these hubs could allow people to walk/cycle then pick up a bus for instance. Cllr Heys outlined some barriers to transport decarbonisation in Alvington and offered to send the data to Cllr McFarling. Cllr McFarling is championing the case of rural locations not just cities, for the benefit of not only for rural residents but visitors to rural locations, e.g., tourism/daytrips.</p> <p>Chris Shill asked whether there were any plans for a Chepstow bypass, because currently there are issues with the bottleneck resulting in gridlock, frustration and pollution, and this will only worsen. Discourages tourism too. Cllr McFarling responded that it's long been discussed but the £110-£160m cost would need to be shared equitably, and it would affect Thornwell residents, so a lot of people will say they don't want it. Easy to say, hard to install. Cllr McFarling suggested that decreasing single-occupant cars and promoting connectivity could improve the situation, and he agreed that the issue of Chepstow traffic is something that needs looking at.</p> <p>Cllr Burlton highlighted the potential for a convenient connection between Newport Buses' service to Chepstow with the bus up the A48. He will send details to Cllr McFarling for information.</p>	
<p><b>019. 23/24</b></p>	<p><b>6. Planning.</b> <b>a) To receive any planning updates.</b></p>	

	<p>The meeting noted the application P0513/23/TPO: 29 Clanna Country Park, Clanna, Alvington, Lydney. Fell Lime tree covered by T4 of DFTPO 195; due to the presence of a dangerous V fork where the two main stems meet, frequent shedding of dead limbs, and root system causing structural damage to adjacent drives and paths. Plant a replacement tree (species tbc); no objections.</p> <p>No other updates.</p>	
<p><b>020.</b> <b>23/24</b></p>	<p><b>7. Village.</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive a report on the Coronation event on 6th May.</b></p> <p>The event raised just under £400 gross, before expenses. Cllr Heys thanked Cllr Burlton for lighting the soggy beacon, and thanked Cllr Powell and Cllr Thompson plus other volunteers for running the bar. The event went well and received good feedback from the community.</p> <p><b>b) To note updates on village/parish improvement matters (see meeting pack).</b></p> <p>Noted, with the following additional points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alec Davis advised that Jeff Wheeler (PROW officer) has confirmed he will investigate the issues Mr Davis has raised, plus Mr Davis is liaising with Cllr McFarling over a priority list of locations of kissing gates, which Cllr McFarling is hoping to fund.</li> </ul> <p><b>c) To consider registering the piece of land historically known as Alvington Green.</b></p> <p>Cllr Heys advised that the Land Registry wants all unregistered land registered by 2030. There are a few unregistered plots in the parish which are public open space – including Alvington Green. Cllr Heys suggested taking advice on whether these should be registered, and the meeting agreed for the Clerk to ask the solicitor.</p> <p>Cllr Heys asked Cllr McFarling if FoDDC had any support available for land registry costs. Cllr McFarling advised that this was unlikely. He added that people may object to common land being ‘owned’ by any entity, even a parish council.</p>	
<p><b>021.</b> <b>23/24</b></p>	<p><b>8. Sports Field.</b></p> <p><b>a) Alvington Summer Fun 23/7/23: event planning progress.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerk to send the current pitch booking list to Cllr Heys</li> <li>• Cllr Powell will contact Chase Farm.</li> <li>• The Clerk will contact Taurus Crafts regarding the loan of their market stalls.</li> <li>• Cllr Heys invited any opportunities to share the event flyer with any online groups, and he will also talk to Andrew Liddington about promotion.</li> <li>• The next fun day planning meeting will be on Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7 o clock at the Blacksmiths Arms.</li> <li>• Cllr Thompson has booked two portaloos for the event. Cllr Burlton suggested locking the units either side of the event to avoid any mishaps.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Pavilion project: to receive any updates including the following:</b></p> <p><b>i) To approve indicative costs of drawing up a legal agreement relating to facilitate water supply to the new pavilion (work to be done by Thrings, the parish council's solicitor).</b></p> <p>Cllr Heys has sent a copy of the deeds to the solicitor. Indicative costs for agreement are £1750-£2000 + VAT. It was agreed unanimously to proceed with drawing up the agreement.</p> <p><b>ii) To receive an update on agreeing the field’s boundary with the neighbouring orchard.</b></p>	

	<p>Cllr Heys reported that following much discussion with landowners, it seemed likely that an agreement would be drawn up to recognise the true boundary while keeping both areas functional. There would be no material cost to the council for the agreement, and it wouldn't change land availability for sports – plus it would bring the discussion to a conclusion. Registration of the sports field would be a crucial step, however, hence the next item.</p> <p><b>iii) To consider registering the Sports Field with the Land Registry.</b> It was agreed that the Clerk would seek information (including costs) on registering the Sports Field.</p> <p><b>iv) To receive an update on arrangements for electricity supply.</b> Western Power had still not responded to contact from Cllr Powell, who plans to contact the CEO next.</p> <p><b>v) To receive an update on arrangements for water supply, including groundworks.</b> Ben Lewis has now been instructed and will carry out the work.</p> <p><b>vi) To agree comments on hall plans.</b> Cllr Heys thanked the councillors for their comments on the plans (sent via email) and asked for any further comments. Cllr Burlton highlighted that the proposed air source heat pump may not be well suited as it would need to run all the time, but the hall would only be used periodically.</p> <p><b>vii) To discuss sourcing builder quotes.</b> Cllr Heys confirmed that one builder's quote was in progress, and two more were needed. The tender info pack needs to have building regs diagrams in it. The Clerk will circulate the pack and invite quotes in time for the September meeting.</p> <p><b>c) To receive any other reports on the sports field.</b> Cllr Heys checked the trim trail's wobbly post, which needs further inspection and remediation. Cllr Heys and Alan Haslam are working on fixing the trim trail drum.</p>	
<p><b>022.</b> <b>23/24</b></p>	<p><b>9. Churchyard.</b> <b>a) To receive updates on any churchyard matters.</b> Clerk to follow up with TrunkArb regarding a survey date.</p>	
<p><b>023.</b> <b>23/24</b></p>	<p><b>10. Highways.</b> <b>a) To note any response to the parish council's letter to Gloucestershire Highways.</b> The letter has been acknowledged with an email from Pete Bungard's office, and a reply from Jason Humm or his team was promised.</p> <p><b>b) Road safety: to receive any updates including partnership work with Aylburton Parish Council.</b> Cllr Heys has been in discussion with Aylburton Parish Council, who are looking into a TRO to reduce the speed between the villages to 50 mph, and to convert both villages to 20mph, as well as removing the dual carriageway at the east end of Alvington, to stop speeds increasing prior to entering the village. Cllr Burlton has created a map which allows for collaboration and for users to draw on it, to aid discussions and agreements.</p> <p><b>c) To note any updates on Highways matters (see meeting pack).</b> Noted, plus: Cllr McFarling highlighted the fact that Aylburton has an ANPR camera. This was partly funded by the Gloucestershire Speedwatch fund. Cllr Burlton highlighted that there may be value in average speed checks. Cllr Heys noted that the steps besides the Swan up to Woolaston playing field are very muddy and need scraping off.</p>	

024. 23/24	<p><b>11. Finance</b></p> <p><b>a) Pavilion: to agree to submitting the building regulations diagrams to FoDDC for approval once agreed.</b> Proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Powell, approved unanimously.</p> <p><b>b) To note the 22/23 year end reports as follows:</b></p> <p>    i) <b>22/23 Expenditure: Budget vs Actual.</b> Noted.</p> <p>    ii) <b>22/23 Income: Budget vs Actual.</b> Noted.</p> <p>    iii) <b>22/23 Key Figures.</b> Noted.</p> <p>    iv) <b>22/23 Reserves.</b> Noted.</p> <p><b>c) To approve the payments for May 2023:</b> Approved as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="284 539 1273 824"> <tr> <td>M Humphries</td> <td>Clerk Pay April 2023</td> <td>£337.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Morgan</td> <td>Churchyard grass April 2023</td> <td>£228.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Morgan</td> <td>Garlands Rd grass April 2023</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Humphries</td> <td>Flyers – reimbursement</td> <td>£35.73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Thompson</td> <td>Portaloo hire – reimbursement</td> <td>£135.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Thompson</td> <td>Event licence – reimbursement</td> <td>£21.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C Shill</td> <td>Kiosk paint – reimbursement</td> <td>£60.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M Humphries</td> <td>Printer ink – reimbursement</td> <td>£29.99</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>d) To note the receipt of income received since the last meeting.</b> Noted as follows:</p> <table data-bbox="284 904 1289 972"> <tr> <td>11/04/2023</td> <td>Bank interest</td> <td>£19.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/04/2023</td> <td>FoDDC precept part 1</td> <td>£5000.50</td> </tr> </table>	M Humphries	Clerk Pay April 2023	£337.98	R Morgan	Churchyard grass April 2023	£228.00	R Morgan	Garlands Rd grass April 2023	£20.00	M Humphries	Flyers – reimbursement	£35.73	G Thompson	Portaloo hire – reimbursement	£135.00	G Thompson	Event licence – reimbursement	£21.00	C Shill	Kiosk paint – reimbursement	£60.60	M Humphries	Printer ink – reimbursement	£29.99	11/04/2023	Bank interest	£19.88	21/04/2023	FoDDC precept part 1	£5000.50	
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025. 23/24	<p><b>12. To note correspondence for information.</b> Noted.</p>																															
026. 23/24	<p><b>13. Council</b></p> <p><b>a) To receive the Clerk’s Report.</b> Noted.</p> <p><b>b) To note arrangements for giving notice of / advertising for the councillor vacancy.</b> The Clerk advised that the vacancy notice will be displayed for 14 days, after which the council can take applications for co-option at the July meeting.</p> <p><b>c) To receive councillors’ reports and items for future agendas.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Thompson advised that she has now finished the Q1 safety inspection, and the only issues were the trim trail post and the dog bin losing its base. Both issues are in hand.</li> <li>• Cllr Powell reported that heavy rain had caused some areas of bank to collapse on Clanna. He and Will Martyn removed some of the soil.</li> <li>• Cllr Heys advised that there was a large cable in a layby on Clanna, and the rubber is deteriorating, and metal is now exposed. Ownership not known.</li> </ul> <p><b>d) To note the date of the next full council meeting: Thursday 1st June 2023 at 7.30 pm.</b> Noted.</p>																															

Meeting closed: 9.35 pm.

Signed: ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....