

ALVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 5th October 2023, 7.30 pm at Alvington Memorial Hall

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

ATTENDING: Alec Davis, Alex Turner, Chris Shill, Suzanne Joignant,
 Jenny Bates.

Min. Ref	Item and details	Action
069. 23/24	1. To receive apologies for absence. Meg Humphries (Clerk) sent her apologies due to illness. Accepted.	
070. 23/24	2. To note any declarations of interest relating to the agenda. None.	
071 23/24	3. To approve the accuracy of the draft minutes of the Full Council Meeting on 07.09.23. Cllr Thompson proposed approval, Cllr Burlton seconded, approved unanimously, and signed by the Chairman.	
072. 23/24	<p>4. Public forum. The following parishioners provided the following updated remarks and questions.</p> <p>John Wood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swan Hill and road from Alvington to Aylburton is pitted with potholes and rutting. Cllr Heys confirmed this has been reported and there are plans to repair the road once drain works has been completed. • Enforcement has requested remediation work at Clanna Lodge; however, it was noted that there is a lack of communication between enforcement and the community; the community is not made aware of action or inaction on outstanding cases. Cllr Hey confirmed feedback has recently been received on several matters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rubbish at Cross stores, this has been closed due to planning permission being sought in 2021 – Cllr Heys has asked for this to be reopened. b) Knapp Lane wall, this has been closed as it was not deemed a danger to traffic. The PC originally commented that this wall has not been built in line with the NDP, Cllr Heys has asked for this to be reopened. c) Land beside Rag Cottage. This is ongoing. d) Bloomery Court. Sign off has not yet been sought so nothing to enforce at this point. Cllr Heys took an action to chase enforcement team. <p>Suzanne Joignant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corner of Knapp Lane, approaching the Church, reduced visibility due to foliage. Asked if a mirror could be installed. Cllr Burlton confirmed Highways are not happy to install a mirror. Cllr Heys to raise the issue with Village Hall Committee. <p>Alec Davis provided the following updates, remarks and questions:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted no update received on the following matters: kissing gate installations, Garlands Road resurfacing, Cross Stores rubbish situation, Clanna Road development, yellow lines outside the Globe, Chepstow bypass. • Alec commented that it was not clear what value the development of Bloomery Court had added to the village. Cllr Burlton commented that we have dropped curbs, play equipment and S106 monies. • Tractors accessing field behind Bloomery Court are leaving a large amount of maize and mud on the road which is causing potential danger. Tarmac is also being churned by tractor tyres. • Alec also requested that we chase an update regarding the possibility of the adding of a new Councillor. • Drain covers outside Duncastle Court and Blacksmiths Cottages are rattling. Action for Clerk to report. <p>Cllr Burlton thanked Chris Shill for strimming the grass on the Main Road.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>MH</p>
<p>073. 23/24</p>	<p>5. To receive/note any reports from county and district councillors for the parish. Cllr Heys read Cllr McFarling’s report which included the following:</p> <p>Forest of Dean District Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Council cabinet meeting on September 14th, 2023, at 5:30 pm is available online, relevant items included: • An updated service level agreement (SLA) for Forest of Dean and Wye Valley Tourism (FDWVT) to allocate additional funding of £10,000 for supporting the visitor economy. Approved. • The potential implementation of a 100% premium for second homes and reducing the term for charging empty properties. Approved. <p>Agenda for cabinet meeting Thursday 12th October contains the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of legal services. • Local Plan Strategy High Level allocations and framework for housing and other land uses. This will come to full council on 19th October. • Thirty Percy funding for climate change/community engagement posts and carbon reduction pathway works. (If approved, this will mean a £250,000 resource for two years to engage people, communities, businesses and organisations (like PCs) with how they can benefit from contributing to reducing carbon footprints.) • Public participation encouraged. <p>Gloucestershire County Council: GCC Full Council meeting on September 13th addressed five motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent summit on flood prevention and resilience. Approved. • Restrictions on hunting with dogs on council land. Sent to environment Scrutiny Committee for debate. • Foster carer recruitment efforts and the need for more foster parents. Approved. • A thank-you event for hosts and organizations supporting refugees. Approved. • Inquiry into train ticket pricing structure. Not determined – deferred. 	

	<p>Meeting recordings will be available online, and outcomes of approved motions will be reported in the next meeting if relevant.</p> <p>Highways/Footpaths: Ongoing projects and issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garlands Road pavement refurbishment (first phase in progress, funded by HLF). Programme date to begin works 16th October 2023. • Double Yellow Lines on Clanna Road, near A48 junction. Public consultation has finished, Cllr McFarling to chase. • Japanese Knotweed (JK) eradication cost challenges; consideration of a parish council precept of £500 and possible matching funds. Discussed under point 6. • Swan Hill. CCTV jetting carried out. STW pipe has damaged the highways system and they have been informed. When all utility works have been carried out, resurfacing will take place. Hopefully overnight in February 2024. • Cleared blocked Clanna culvert. Hope to clear debris again but need to check works necessary (relocation of culvert) once a visit has taken place, ideally when the road is flooded. • Assessment pending for the pavement from Swan Inn towards Woolaston. • Urgent repair needed for the exposed pipework on Court Lane. Work expected w/c 9th October. • Follow-up on Garlands Rd white lines. Cllr McFarling to chase progress on this. • Footpath work. Cllr McFarling understands that works are underway. <p>Enforcement catch-up</p> <p>Enforcement catch-up discussed in section 4. Cllr Heys to respond to Enforcement.</p> <p>Contact Information: Parishioners are encouraged to contact Cllr Chris McFarling with any issues or queries at: Email: chris.mcfarling@gloucestershire.gov.uk / chris.mcfarling@fdean.gov.uk Phone: (01594) 5312255 (answerphone)</p>	
<p>074. 23/24</p>	<p>6. Funding Japanese Knotweed removal on public land. a) To agree to set up a designated fund which is added to yearly to cover costs over time. Potentially to be match funded by county council Highways Local Fund.</p> <p>It was agreed this was a good idea with the proviso that funds contributed to project should be spent in Parish. Cllr Burlton felt it would be useful to have a public information campaign showing parishioners how to eradicate the Knotweed from their properties. Clerk to respond to Cllr McFarling asking for clear conditions on how the funds will be allocated and spent and suggest a public information campaign.</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>075. 23/24</p>	<p>7. Archives: To approve storage arrangements for historical minutes with Gloucestershire Archives.</p>	

	Options discussed - donating ownership of minutes or retaining ownership and pay a fee. It was agreed to donate ownership of the minutes to Gloucestershire Archives. Proposed by Cllr Macharg, seconded Cllr Powell.	
076. 23/24	<p>8. Planning:</p> <p>a) To consider planning application P0092/23/DISCON: Ordnance Cottage, Main Road, Alvington, Gloucestershire: Discharge of Condition 3 (external facing materials) relating to planning permission P0087/17/FUL.</p> <p>No comment.</p> <p>b) To consider planning application P1206/23/LBC: Duncastle Farm, Main Road, Alvington: Listed building consent for the construction of new En-suite and dressing room, replacement windows and proposed external and internal alterations & refurbishment, along with reconstruction of outbuilding.</p> <p>No comment</p> <p>c) To receive any other planning updates</p> <p>No further comments</p>	
077. 23/24	<p>9. Village.</p> <p>a) To consider the winter action plan and how to improve. Cllr Burlton has mapped out the parish's grit bins and submitted on an interactive map which is also accessible by Highways. Bins have been refilled today.</p> <p>Alec Davies pointed out that FoD Council will provide further grit bins at no further cost. PC to consider where more are needed in the village and apply.</p> <p>b) To note updates on village/parish improvement matters (see meeting pack). No further comments.</p>	All
078. 23/24	<p>10. Sports Field.</p> <p>a) Flier to be created and distributed. Alec Davies thought it would be useful to have useful contact numbers added to flier due to number of new residents in the village. Action for PC to add this to flier.</p> <p>b) Pavilion projects: to receive any updates. Cllr Powell has spoken to the head of sales (D Harris) at Reecer Containers who has invited the PC to have an initial chat, Mr Harris suggested they could also help with the electricity calculations. PC to ask Clerk to put a pack together to obtain a quote. Calculations are required before the PC can proceed any further with the electricity company. Ben Lewis can dig a trench when required.</p> <p>It was noted with thanks that £2,500 had been received from the wind turbine fund.</p> <p>c) Sports field registration: To review the solicitor's amended letter of engagement and terms of business (as circulated to all members via email) for first registration of the sports field. Additional costs noted, Cllr Burlton proposed, Cllr Powell seconded. Cllr Heys to speak to Heather and John Rogers.</p> <p>d) To receive any other reports on the sports field.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>MH</p> <p>RH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass cutting – Cllr Powel confirmed he had received criticism from field users for cutting the grass when dogs were using the field. It was agreed that should this happen again, the gate to the field will be locked when grass cutting takes place. Dog bins. Cllr Burlton to investigate what campaigns the PC could use to encourage dog waste to be disposed of responsibly. Alec Davies asked if we had enough dog bins in the village, it was agreed there was and they are now being emptied more regularly since moving to new contractor. Paint tins currently located on sports field will be removed. 	NB																								
079. 23/24	11. Churchyard. a) To receive updates on any churchyard matters. Clerk to confirm if we have received any quotes for the work required.	MH																								
080. 23/24	12. Highways. a) Road safety: to receive any updates including partnership work with Aylburton Parish Council. Cllr Heys confirmed has written to Brian Watkins at Highways following the last meeting. He will chase response. b) To note any updates on Highways matters (see meeting pack). Noted.	RH																								
081. 23/24	13. Finance. a) To ratify the payments made in September 2023: Ratified as follows. <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Meg Humphries</td> <td>Clerk Pay September 2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£337.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Morgan</td> <td>Grass – Churchyard September 2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£114.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alvington Memorial Hall</td> <td>Hire of bouncy castle for fun day</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PATA</td> <td>Payroll services Q2 of 23/24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£25.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BHIB / Clear</td> <td>Insurance premium for 23/24</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£491.09</td> </tr> </table> b) To note the receipt of income received since the last meeting. <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>11/09/2023</td> <td>Bank interest</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£30.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22/09/2023</td> <td>FoDDC – Precept payment (pt 2 of 2)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£5,000.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27/09/2023</td> <td>A & W Cricket Club – Pitch hire 2023 (pt 1/1)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£140.00</td> </tr> </table> Cllr Burlton proposed, Cllr Powell seconded.	Meg Humphries	Clerk Pay September 2023	£337.98	Richard Morgan	Grass – Churchyard September 2023	£114.00	Alvington Memorial Hall	Hire of bouncy castle for fun day	£40.00	PATA	Payroll services Q2 of 23/24	£25.80	BHIB / Clear	Insurance premium for 23/24	£491.09	11/09/2023	Bank interest	£30.36	22/09/2023	FoDDC – Precept payment (pt 2 of 2)	£5,000.50	27/09/2023	A & W Cricket Club – Pitch hire 2023 (pt 1/1)	£140.00	
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082. 23/24	15. To note correspondence for information. Noted.																									
083. 23/24	16. Council a) To receive the Clerk’s Report. Noted. b) To receive councillors’ reports and items for future agendas. None at this time. c) To note the date of the next full council meeting: Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 7.30 pm. Noted.																									

Meeting closed: 8.50 pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: