

**Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.30pm in Alvington Memorial Hall, Knapp Lane, Alvington, GL15 6BJ**

**Present:** Councillors: Burlton, Powell, Thompson

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk).

5 members of the public.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

a) **Resolved to receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend from Councillors Heys and Macharg.

b) **Resolved to accept** those apologies received with reasons for absence from Councillors Heys and Macharg.

**In the absence of the Chairman the meeting was chaired by Councillor Thompson, Vice Chairman.**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

a) **To receive Declarations of Interest** in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers and in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members. **None received.**

*Interests may be declared at any time during the meeting should they become apparent.*

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

a) **Resolved to approve** as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024, subject to noting amendment to item 9 that Chris Shill was not at the meeting.

b) **To consider** any questions arising from those minutes. **None.**

**4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLOR McFARLING**

**Resolved to note** apologies from Chris McFarling who was unable to attend the meeting or provide a report during the pre-election period.

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

John Wood – An extremely loud bird scarer has been in use from 5am to 10pm in fields just below Church Lane. It has been disturbing for residents and dogs have been scared by it. This has been worse than previous years. Councillors suggested contacting the District Council regarding the noise and will contact the farmer.

Chris Shill – Newport Bus have expanded a route into the Forest, going through Alvington and up to the new hospital in Cinderford. Bus passes can be used on this route. Clerk to share timetable. Also – weed killer has been used on Church Lane by contractor working on Severn Lodge who has since been instructed not to do so. Mr Shill has also spoken to the Council's Church yard mowing contractor who had indicated he may give up after this season. The church yard looks lovely and this would be a shame. Clerk to contact the contractor to express thanks for the good work he does.

Alec Davis – Cotswold Oak have been on the Bloomery Court site for 4 days. Councillor Thompson had been contacted by a resident concerned that the recent refusal of planning permission does not address the concerns raised. She has spoken with Chris McFarling who will pass this to Tony Pope. In summary the refusal cited two issues of impact – the farm access through the site and closeness of the play area to the houses. Sally Dawkins, Bloomery Court resident, reported that contractors on site had been drilling bore holes on site. They are waiting for specialists on compacted (waterlogged) soil to visit to advise and this will be for each property. Ms Dawkins stated that residents will continue to ask questions until the issues are resolved.

Alec David – footpaths in the Parish are worse than ever, some being impassable. The Clerk reported that Lydney Town Council have confirmed that they are not actively seeking to register the footpath along the Severn. Aylburton Parish Council will be contacted again.

**6. FINANCE**

a) **Resolved to approve** payments for June.

C Hinton	Clerk Pay May 2024	£300.50
RJ Morgan	Grass Cutting – Churchyard May	£228.00
ClIr Burlton	Expenses – Dog Bin repair	£ 9.50
Forest Equip. Svces	Dog Bins	£ 86.40

Proposed – Councillor Thompson, seconded Councillor Burlton.  
Councillors Burlton and Thompson to authorise payments.

- b) **Resolved to note** the receipt of income received in May 2024.
- |             |                        |        |
|-------------|------------------------|--------|
| Lloyds Bank | Bank Interest          | £31.38 |
| R Heys      | Donation for Lost Ring | £40.00 |
- c) **Resolved to note** – successful completion of Internal Controls Check Q4 2023/24.

## 7. PLANNING

- a) **Resolved to note** - P0485/24/FUL Barn Lodge , Church Lane, Alvington, Gloucestershire.  
Variation of Conditions f (a textured, multipanel door with metal facing for security, may be fitted in a colour to be agreed) and h (a sectional garage door may be installed. The frame to be hidden from view from outside) to enable replacement with solid garage door relating to planning permission DF.2550/E An extension to the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> May for consultee comments for this was not granted. The application was circulated to councillors with two comments received, so no comment was sent to the planning officer.
- b) **To consider** - P0653/24/TCA - Crinan Church Lane Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6BQ  
T1 - Conifer Fell, due to excessive shading in garden. To be replaced with ornamental tree (species TBC).  
**Resolved** – to support application.
- c) **To consider** - P0550/24/FUL – Barnage Farm Barnage Road Alvington Gloucestershire GL15 6AQ  
To seek permission for the refurbishment of Micro Brewery including the re-cladding of existing walls and roofs, insertion of a mezzanine floor and WC/Shower Room  
**Resolved** – to support application.
- d) **Resolved to note** - P0405/24/FUL Clanna Garden House Clanna Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6AJ  
Change of use of redundant workshop to residential dwelling  
**Permission Granted.**
- e) **Resolved to note** - P1245/22/FUL Land Off Clanna Road Alvington Gloucestershire  
Variation of Condition 1 (Approved Plans) for substitution of proposed block plan to relocate parking spaces and new drainage details plan. Variation to Condition 8 (Landscaping Scheme) of P1772/18/APP to allow relocation of LAP, alter entrance road from block paving to tarmac and provide area for gas delivery. (Retrospective)  
**Permission Refused.**
- f) **ANY OTHER PLANNING UPDATES - None.**

## 8. VILLAGE

- a) **To note** updates on village/parish improvement matters. The Clerk had received a request from Gloucestershire Highways on winter updates. To be considered at the July meeting.
- b) **To consider** setting of appropriate fees for rental of allotments for future new allotments holders only. To be considered at the July meeting.

## 9. SPORTS FIELD

- a) **Pavilion Project - To receive** any updates. Councillor Powell confirmed that funding for the project may almost be there with grants possible from the Football Association, and the Cricket Board. He is still working on the electricity. John Wood and Alec Davis congratulated councillors on the excellent progress so far.
- b) **To receive** any other reports on the Sports Field.  
Councillor Powell reported that he and the Chairman had met with all of the field users to discuss how all may work together which meant each was able to have their say. The conclusion was that the car park needs to be increased in size which is relatively easy to do. It can be made longer with an extra gate where the fence is currently down – this was part of the pavilion planning permission. Councillor Powell has

people available to do the work – he and the Clerk to contact Gloucestershire Highways to ask if spoil from the current Aylburton / Alvington roadworks can be dumped on the site. The Cricket Club will look at putting in nets to shield the cars.

The adult football club want to install temporary showers in the current container changing rooms – not ideal but fairly low cost.

The field will be line marked in different colours to identify different pitches. The children's football team are going to purchase a toilet which they will pay to be emptied monthly.

Councillor Burlton commented that more children seem to be using the field outside of matches. Also – a sign asking to keep the gate clear is required.

#### 10. CHURCHYARD

- a) **To receive** updates on any churchyard matters. It was agreed this is nicely maintained – Clerk to contact grass contractor (item 5 above).

#### 11. HIGHWAYS

- a) **Resolved to receive** updates on road safety matters. Councillor Burlton reported that the Chairman has contacted Highways again regarding outstanding issues.
- b) **Resolved to note** any updates on highways matters. The drain outside of The Blacksmiths pub has now been properly repaired.

#### 12. CORRESPONDENCE

**Resolved to note** correspondence for information.

#### 13. COUNCIL

- a) **Resolved to receive** the Clerk's Report.
- b) **To consider** Internal Auditor's Report. This had been received on the afternoon of the meeting – to be added to the July agenda.
- c) **Resolved to approve** responses to items 1-9 of section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Review (AGAR) 2023/24 as 'Yes'. The Clerk explained that it is good practice to review the Internal Auditor's Report before agreeing the AGAR but that this had not been possible for this year.
- d) **Resolved to approve** signing of the Governance Statement which was duly signed by the Vice Chairman.
- e) **Resolved to approve** the Annual Accounting Statements as shown in the Annual Return and certified and signed by the Clerk, which were duly signed by the Vice Chairman.
- f) **Resolved to approve** signing of Certificate of Exemption (page 3) from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 which was duly signed by the Vice Chairman.
- Resolved to approve** the dates for the period for exercising of public rights to be set as from Monday 1st July to Friday 9th August 2024.
- g) **To receive** Councillors reports and items for future agendas. It was agreed to present a small gift (bottle of wine / chocolates) to those that helped with the beacon lighting.
- h) **Resolved to note** the date of the next Full Council Meeting – **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 7.30pm.**

**The meeting concluded at 2037hrs**