

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th September 2024 at 7.30pm in Alvington Memorial Hall, Knapp Lane, Alvington, GL15 6BJ

Present: Councillors: Burlton, Heys, Macharg, Powell and Thompson.

Officers: Carol Hinton (Clerk).

County and District Councillor – Chris McFarling.

4 members of the public.

1. ATTENDANCE

a) **To receive** apologies for absence from those councillors unable to attend. **All present.**

b) **To consider for acceptance** those apologies received with reasons for absence.

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.

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 11th July 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded Cllr Burlton.

b) **To consider** any questions arising from those minutes. **There were none.**

4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLOR McFARLING

There was no written report from Cllr McFarling.

Both the County and District Councils were due to meet in the following week.

Cllr McFarling had been approached by Severn Trent Water who want to establish better relationships with local councils. He has had 3 meetings with them where he has stressed that action is needed. They had acknowledged the long standing problem at Tudor Cottages, particularly rainwater run-off which may require flow monitors on pipes. This will be in their 5 year plan 2025-2030. Does this mean that something will be done? Severn Trent acknowledged there are several issues to be addressed in Alvington. Cllr McFarling has asked if Alvington can be a test case which will be considered.

Discharge into the Severn and Wye rivers – 30% toxicity caused by raw sewage. Cllr Burlton suggested people monitor excess discharges through Severn Trent storm over flow map – he will share details.

<https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/storm-overflow-map/> Cllr McFarling stated that new sewers may be required. Alec Davis – 100 houses have been built in the village since 1963 which has added to the sewer problems.

Bloomery Court – following the planning application refusal, the developers can either rectify problems which would be difficult, or reach an agreement to compensate residents.

Highways – Contractors are not performing as they should. There are flooding problems in some areas because drains have not been cleared. These should be cleared by mid autumn.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

John Wood – does Cllr McFarling have an update on the proposed fishery plant at Lydney? Cllr McFarling has looked into the harvesting of the eels which are endangered however, DEFRA have confirmed that because of the unique tidal flow in the Severn estuary there are more glass eels than can properly mature thus producing a surplus which can be harvested without causing harm to the species. The planning application is ongoing.

Also – there is a noisy manhole cover on Swan Hill. Cllr Burlton had already reported this but it had been deemed not noisy enough. He has now reported it again.

Chris Shill – how had the cricket club season gone? Cllr Powell reported that it had been a record season and the club had been promoted.

Alec Davis – A Coleford Job Centre user had reported that on contacting them the operator informed that they were based in Nottingham.

At a fire in the village the fire appliance couldn't get to the hydrant outside The Globe – noticed all of the hydrants in village have now been painted yellow.

Nothing appears to have done about the Japanese Knotweed.

The mobile phone signal seems to have become worse in the village.

A black SUV has been driving along Clanna Road at speed – drivers need to be aware of pedestrians and horses.

6. PLANNING

- a) Resolved to note - Appeal number APP/P1615/W/24/3345402 - P1332/23/FUL - Severn Lodge, Church Lane, GL15 6BQ.** The deadline for further comment was 26th August 2024. No further comments received from councillors and no further comment submitted.
- b) Resolved to note - P0068/24/DISCON Clanna Garden House Clanna Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6AJ Discharge of condition 04 (foul and surface water drainage) and 05 (site investigation of the nature and extent of contamination) relating to planning permission P0405/24/FUL.** The deadline for further comment was 4th August 2024. No further comments received from councillors and no further comment submitted. **Permission granted.**
- c) Councillor Powell declared an interest in this item. As the item was only to be noted, he did not leave the room.**
Resolved to note - P0847/24/FUL Barn 1 Barnage Road Alvington Gloucestershire GL15 6AG Conversion of existing barns to form one new dwelling and a new home office/sun room with associated hard and soft landscaping (resubmission of previous consented planning application P1645/17/FUL) The deadline for further comment was 16th August 2024. No further comments received from councillors and no further comment submitted.
- d) To consider - P0870/24/FUL - 7 Bloomery Court Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6FH. Replacement of three first floor rear windows.**
 Ed ? resident of 7 Bloomery Court explained the reasons for the application in that the only ventilation in the room is a sky light that cannot be used when raining. Also, that if there was fire in the stairwell there is restricted means of escape. The windows will still be opaque and the tilting will only allow a view into their own garden, although a latch would allow them to be opened fully in an emergency. Mr ? has reported the safety concerns to the Planning Enforcement.
Resolved to respond:
 The Parish Council is concerned that the plans and descriptions submitted should be consistent in terms of the opening mechanism of the window. The Parish Council also has submitted numerous comments about this site and the design of the building and site. In this instance we are particularly aware of the owners concerns regarding whether the stairwell provides the safe fire escape from the first floor stipulated in the plans. We strongly encourage the District Council Planning Enforcement Team to investigate this. The Parish Council recognises the concerns of both the applicant and close neighbour and recommends that alternative solutions to the application be should be considered in terms of vents, fans and alternative window opening designs.
- e) Resolved to note - P0922/24/AG Glebe Farm Lower Common Aylburton Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6DX Application for determination as to whether prior approval is required for further details.** The deadline for further comment was 20th August 2024. No further comments received from councillors and no further comment submitted. **Decided – no permission required.**
- f) To consider - P0953/24/TCA The Rag Cottage Church Lane Alvington Lime (T1) - Crown lift on roadside to 6 metres to remove obstructing branches making contact with adjacent property.**
Resolved to support the application.
- g) To consider - P0984/24/TPO Clanna Caravan And Camp Site Clanna Country Park Clanna Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6AN Horse Chestnut covered by T2 of Tree Preservation Order number DFTPO 195.** Undertake a crown lift to approximately 6 metres (20 feet) above ground level. All branches growing down vertically would be removed and no major limbs cut.
Resolved to support the application.
- h) Resolved to note - P0485/24/FUL Barn Lodge Church Lane Alvington Gloucestershire GL15 6BQ Replacement of garage door.**
Permission granted.
- i) Resolved to note - P0065/24/DISCON Duncastle Farmhouse Main Road Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6AT Discharge of condition 03 (window design details) relating to P1206/23/LBC.**
Permission Granted.

j) ANY OTHER PLANNING UPDATES

Cllr Burlton reported that the refused self-build project at Oak Barn Farm, Knapp Lane has gone to appeal.

7. VILLAGE

- a) **Resolved to note** updates on village/parish improvement matters. **There were none.**
 b) **To consider** setting of appropriate fees for rental of allotments for future new allotments holders only. **Not Considered – already considered in July.**

8. SPORTS FIELD

- a) **Resolved to note** – Pavilion Project – Fun Day report.
 Thank you to all who attended. The burger van did not turn up and thanks to a last minute effort to buy the food, personal barbecues were used and £227.90 was taken. £1039.40 to be banked. 3/5ths footfall compared to last year. Overall profit will be around £800.
- b) **Adverse Possession Registration**
To consider quotations for Land Registry compliant drawing of land as required by Things from:
 i) Magnolia Square Surveyors, London - £175 plus VAT. Total £210
 ii) Anthony Brookes Surveyors Ltd, Thornbury - £395 plus VAT. Total £474.
 Note – unable to obtain third quotation.
Resolved to approve quotation from Magnolia Square Surveyors for £175 plus VAT. Proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Macharg.
- c) **Resolved to note** – Deed of Easement now completed.
- d) **To receive** any other reports on the Sports Field.
 With an increased number of sports teams using the sports field, the issue of dog mess not being cleared is becoming more of an issue. Perhaps more forceful signage asking for dogs to be walked around the perimeter and not on the playing areas, and for them not to urinate on the play equipment should be introduced. Councillors discussed the possibility of a designated, fenced dog walking area which may be practically difficult. Cllr Burlton has additional signs to put up.
 Cllr Powell - Alvington Star have their first competitive league match in 50 years – kick off 1pm on Saturday. They have pushed the shower arrangements in the container but there is a need to press on with the pavilion project. The cricket club continue to cut the grass. A second cricket team may be required next year as there are too many players interested for just one. Several of these are young players.
 Also – still no reply regarding the electricity. Cllr Burlton to email as well. Cllr McFarling will also email as County and District representative. Cllr Heys – the Section 106 monies need to be utilised.

9. CHURCHYARD

- a) **To receive** updates on any churchyard matters. **There were none.** Clerk to chase R Morgan regarding grass cutting at Garlands Road play area.

10. HIGHWAYS

- a) **Resolved to note** - Will Martyn agreed as snow plough operator and Highways to arrange collection and delivery of equipment.
- b) **To receive** updates on road safety matters.
 Cllr Burlton reported that responses regarding speeding in the village appear to be going round in circles with the latest suggestion going back to community speedwatch. Cllr McFarling stated that the County Council is resistant to 20mph speed areas. Perhaps the Parish Council should concentrate on 'quiet lanes' with signs saying the space is shared with pedestrians, cyclists and horses.
- c) **Resolved to note** any updates on highways matters. No change.
- d) **To consider** – Email from Build Back Better Scheme reference grant of £2k awarded 2022, and which has not been claimed, for the pedestrian crossing.
Resolved – Clerk to email outlining what has been done and that the Parish Council has done all it can, having spent the amount of the grant (evidence to be sent) and Cllr McFarling to be copied in to support.

11. PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE

- a) **Resolved to approve** suitability of cover of Insurance Policy with Clear Councils and that it meets the Parish Council's requirements.

- b) **Resolved to approve** renewal of Parish Council Insurance Policy with Clear Councils. Year 3 of a 3 year Long Term Agreement to 30th September 2025 @ £512 per annum (including Insurance Premium Tax and administration fee).

12. FINANCE

- a) **Resolved to ratify** payments made in August 2024.

C Hinton	Clerk Pay July 2024	£300.70
Forest Equipment Services	Dog Bins	£57.60
Alvington Memorial Hall	Hall Hire	£202.50
Thrings Solicitors	Professional Svces Deed of Easement	£2853.00

Proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Burlton.

- b) **Resolved to approve** payments for September 2024.

C Hinton	Clerk Pay August 2024	£300.50
Forest Equipment Services	Dog Bins – July	£57.60
C Hinton	Reimburse – Instaprint	£41.43
Gail Thompson	Reimburse – Temp Events Notice	£21.00
RJ Morgan	Grass Cutting – Churchyard July	£114.00
Clear Councils	Council Insurance	£512.00

Proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Burlton.

Bank payments to be authorised by Cllrs Burlton and Thompson.

- c) **Resolved to note** the receipt of income received in July/August 2024.

Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	£38.87
M Rogers	Fun Day Stall	£10.00
Top Utility Solutions	Fun Day Stall x 2	£20.00

- d) **Resolved to note** progress of the Internal controls checks for Q1 24/25.

- e) **Resolved to note** at the time of preparation of the agenda £870.65 has been paid towards the fitting of showers for the football club.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note correspondence for information.

14. COUNCIL

- a) **Resolved to receive** The Clerk's Report.

- b) **To receive** Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

Councillors agreed to postpone the race night until spring 2025. Quiz night to be held 16th November 2024.

Clerk to book the hall.

Next year Fun Day to be earlier – provisionally Sunday 29th June 2025.

Cllr Macharg – to donate £50 for surplus drinks etc.

- c) **Resolved to note** the date of the next Council Meeting – **Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.30pm**

The meeting concluded at 21.28hrs