

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm in Alvington Memorial Hall, Knapp Lane, Alvington, GL15 6BJ**

**Present:** Councillors: Burlton, Heys, Macharg, Powell and Thompson.  
County and District Councillor – Chris McFarling.  
Aylburton Parish Councillor Mark Topping.  
5 members of the public.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

- a) **Resolved 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.  
Apologies received from Clerk.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a) **Resolved 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. No interests declared.  
*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 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024.  
Approved, Cllr Powell, seconded, Cllr Macharg.  
b) **To consider** any questions arising from those minutes. **There were none**

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

**Resolved to receive and note** report from Chris McFarling who attended the meeting.

- Written report submitted.
- FODDC implementing Council Tax increase on empty houses, Alec Davies noted this is not working in Wales and is being looked at again. Cllr McFarling to bring investigate and bring is to the table in formal cabinet.
- Pauper burials – District Council will be covering these going forward.
- Highways, and double yellow lines at Clanna Lane. Not yet delivered and not getting responses to emails and unable to call team to get update. Cllr McFarling reiterated it has been signed off just awaiting implementation.
- Barnage Lane – flooding by stream – still waiting for action and this is likely to be in 2024/25.
- Manhole cover, water spouting out 4 inches, this has been reported. Cllr Burlton confirmed drain outside Blacksmiths Arms has sunk again and has been reported.
- Active Travel Grant Scheme - to encourage pedestrian travel – applications close end of October, there is up to 15k to be awarded and could potentially be used for a pavement around The Globe/grassed area.  
**Action** for Cllr Heys to investigate.
- Progress status on Build Back Better grant – **Action** Cllr Heys to follow up.

**5. PUBLIC FORUM**

Chris Shill – Churchyard grass has not been cut for a month and asked has the PC enquired as to whether contractor will renew for next year. Noted Clerk has been trying to contact but no response – **Action** to ask Clerk to try again for churchyard and Garlands Road. Cllr McFarling confirmed his PC use a contractor in Cinderford who works for 16 other parishes – **Action** for Cllr McFarling to send details to Clerk. **Action**, Cllr Heys noted we need to see if we need to refresh the grass cutting contracts.

Chris Shill – Church clock has not been ringing, noted this could be because bell ringers had forgotten to reactivate after disabling for ringing session. If continues after next ringing session, **Action** for Cllr Heys to pick up with Terry Jones who maintains clock. (15/10 subsequently resolved).

John Wood – Asked who to contact re abandoned cars in village – details given and John to report.

John Wood – Outflow pipe at Globe flowing onto road, **action** for Cllr McFarling to ask street warden to investigate.

Alec Davis – Noted a project is underway to open old churchyards due to capacity issues. **Action** for Clerk to investigate if this could affect us given the PC look after the currently closed churchyard financially.

Alec Davis – Noted 5 power cuts in July – 8/10 incidents a year – responses from provider is that it is not their fault. Cllr Powel commented that this is due to a high voltage line problem and repair scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> October.

Alec Davis – Planning application for change of windows at Bloomery court has been passed despite drawings not being accurate.

Alec Davis – Noted that local farmers not clearing public footpaths. Alec has written to contact at District Council.

Alec Davis – Noted Gloucester County Council Glos council has recently fined builders for working outside agreed hours. This did not happen at Bloomery Court development.

Alec Davis - Grass cutting is not being completed on junctions which could be dangerous. Cllr McFarling reported checks are undertaken and junctions get cut this Autumn.

## 6. **PLANNING**

- a) To consider – further comment for P1347/23/OUT Land Off Knapp Lane - APP/P1615/W/24/3348567 Appeal.**

Parish Council previously commented 'No objection' to this application which has now gone to appeal.

**Resolved** - No objections again this time.

- b) To consider - P1125/24/TCA - Oak Barn Church Lane Alvington Gloucestershire GL15 6BQ [P1125/24/TCA | T1 - Large eucalyptus, fell due to significant and long term hosting of ganoderma applanatum which significantly decays heartwood seriously compromising the strength of the main stem of the tree. Replanting TBC, likely Silver Birch or native broadleaf species. | Oak Barn Church Lane Alvington Gloucestershire GL15 6BQ \(fdean.gov.uk\)](#)**

Note – Extension of deadline date to 7<sup>th</sup> October agreed with planning officer.

**Resolved** - No objections.

- c) To consider - P1060/24/FUL – Woolaston Court, Main Road, Woolaston. [P1060/24/FUL | Regularise the use Class E \(b\) and the associated historic building development for the café and decking \(retrospective\) | Woolaston Court Main Road Woolaston Gloucestershire GL15 6PJ \(fdean.gov.uk\)](#)**

**This application was sent to Alvington Parish Council as the property is on the border. Woolaston Parish Council is the principle Parish Council.**

**Resolved** - No objections.

- d) Resolved to note - P0984/24/TPO 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. | Clanna Caravan And Camp Site Clanna Country Park Clanna Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6AN (fdean.gov.uk). **Permission granted.****

- e) Resolved to note - P0953/24/TCA Lime (T1) - Crown lift on roadside to 6 metres to remove obstructing branches making contact with adjacent property. The Rag Cottage Church Lane Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6BH. **Permission granted.****

- f) Resolved to note - P0870/24/FUL Replacement of three first floor rear windows. 7 Bloomery Court Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6FH. **Permission granted.****

- g) P0870/24/FUL – 7 Bloomery Court. Resolved to note email from Planning Officer:**

*In light of the recent comments from the Parish Council in relation to the above case, I just wanted to let you know that I have followed up the point regarding the stairwell. The Building Control department have confirmed that they were consulted and are satisfied that adequate provision is made for means of escape in this case.*

**h) ANY OTHER PLANNING UPDATES**

Alec Davis asked why had District Council stopped sending letters re planning applications. Cllr McFarling noted this was due to costs and there should be a notice on site.

Alec Davis commented pipe at Bloomery Court is still running water into road, what is being done. Action for Cllr Heys to look back over minutes to see what was agreed.

**7. VILLAGE**

a) **Resolved to note** no updates on village/parish improvement matters.

**8. SPORTS FIELD**

a) **Resolved to approve** – Parish Council to enter into an agreement for a temporary toilet on the Sports Field @ £440 plus VAT for one year – cost to be reclaimed from each of the two football clubs and the cricket club.

Proposed, Cllr Powell, seconded, Cllr Burlton. **Action** for Sports Field Committee to reach out to football teams to repay PC funds.

b) **Resolved to receive** any other reports on the Sports Field.

Cllr Heys – Fund day raised £1059.00 – had to spend more on food due to burger van hired not available on day. Volunteer from Cricket Club cooked and went well, agreed for PC to do own burgers next year. did good job and will do next year. Date to be end of June 2025. Try to go for end of June. Working with football teams on projects, toilet and laying some hardcore.

Sports Field Committee is working on a number of projects with teams using the field.

Cllr Powell confirmed he has potentially sourced gravel to improve car park surface at £7.00 per tonne with Will Martin to lay. Agreed for Cllr Powell to negotiate for purchase up to £200.00 with approval being sought at the next meeting.

Cllr Powell confirmed quote received from electricity company to install electric to Sports Field. They have suggested this goes underground which has resulted in a quote in excess of £30k. This would utilise the whole amount of Section 106 funds. **Action** for Cllr Heys to contact District Council to release this. **Action** for Cllr Powell to go back to electricity company to see why not go overground at a suggested substantial reduction in costs. Cllr Powell thought this as due to fact there was not an appetite for phase 3 cables to be put overhead but will report back.

Toilet on sports field. Suggestion made that the parish council renew the contract to keep the toilet on field and invoice the various clubs who use the field for cost. **Action** for Cllr Powell to contact clubs to discuss.

**9. CHURCHYARD**

a) **Resolved to receive** updates on any churchyard matters.

**Action** for Cllr Powell to ask Will Martin if still happy to help with gravel/path enhancement in churchyard.

**10. HIGHWAYS**

a) **Resolved to receive** updates on road safety matters.

b) **Resolved to note** any updates on highways matters.

Cllr Mark Topping – Aylburton Parish Council. Aylburton PC would like to apply for a TRO to change speed limits in village to keep speed 20 mph along High street and adjoining roads. Cost of TRO is 15k and would be agreed by consultation with the village. Aim is to have a cushion of 40 mile per hour zone from Sandford Road and then 20 miles an hour into Aylburton. Noted that in Wales, casualties reduced by 20% due to introduction to 20 mph zones. Aylburton PC will struggle to implement a 20mph zone unless it is requested as part of a bigger scheme and asked whether Alvington PC would consider doing a similar scheme and submitting 1 application. Cllr Topping stated they are unable to change speed from 30mph to 20mph if average speed in the village is 35mph and upwards, to get 20 mph zone, we need average speed 8 mph. If both PC's complete a joint application, costs of £15k may be able to be split.

Cllr Heys commented that average speed in village has historically been an average of 34mph and we would need evidence of community support.

Cllr Burlton reminded the PC that we recently received an email from Highways saying 20mph zones would not be likely to be agreed, and to try a crossing, but we have also had feedback that a crossing would not be feasible and to try a 20mph zone, which is contradictory.

Cllr McFarling stated the Police have resources to test speed through village at no cost and we could investigate this.

Cllr Heys noted we would have to check when the last speed count was completed.

In summary, this is a positive suggestion and if this is a route to reducing speed in Alvington we would be happy to pursue this. **Action** for Cllr Heys to check when last survey completed and if we need another, to reach out to Cllr McFarling. Cllr Topping noted that if the last survey was within 5 years, Alvington PC could use those records. Cllr Topping to report back before the end of the year.

**Action** for Cllr Heys to investigate whether this could be covered under the Active Travel funding application as if speed was reduced to 20 mph it would encourage residents to walk and cycle more frequently.

## 11. FINANCE

### a) **Resolved to approve** payments for October 2024.

C Hinton	Clerk Pay September 2024	£300.50
HMRC	Income Tax Q2	£225.40
PATA Payroll Services	Payroll Q2	£31.05
Forest Equipment Services	Dog Bins – Q2 2023	£158.40
Forest Equipment Services	Dog Bins – April 2024	£57.60
Forest Equipment Services	Dog Bins – August 24	£57.60
Thrings	Deed of Easement	£347.60
Gail Thompson	Reimburse – Fun Day Expenses	£39.83

### b) **Resolved to note** the receipt of income received in September 2024.

Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	£24.11
Chase Farm	Fun Day Stall	£10.00
Cash	Fun Day	£1059.40
FODDC	Precept	£5275.00

### c) **Resolved to note** at the time of preparation of the agenda, a further £147.60 has been paid towards the fitting of showers for the football club.

Proposed Cllr Powell, seconded Cllr Burlton.

## 12. CORRESPONDENCE

**Resolved to note** correspondence for information.

## 13. COUNCIL

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

### b) **Resolved to receive** Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

**Action** for Cllr Thompson to approach Meg Humphries to see how to access the IT we used previously to design flyers. Meg to see how access packages

Cllr Heys reported he will be speaking to football team re field rental queries raised.

### c) **Resolved to note** the date of the next Full Council Meeting – **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30pm**

**The meeting concluded at hrs**