

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5th December 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.
3 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.

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 3rd October 2024.
b) **To consider** any questions arising from those minutes. **There were none.**
Proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Powell.

4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT / COUNTY COUNCILLOR MCFARLING

Resolved to receive and note report from Chris McFarling who may attend the meeting.

Cllr McFarling had sent report on County Council and District Council activity.

Lydney flooding – he had visited on Sunday. The DC had provided 2 x containers for damaged goods which will be picked up for free. Lydney TC had closed the bridge for safety inspection but it had been crashed into by car as well. He is challenging that the Environment Agency did not open the flood gates in Lydney. Flood prevention measures that have been carried out in the upper Forest areas helped contain around 50% of the water temporarily which helped reduce the amount of water through Lydney. This project is ongoing and there is a lot that farmers and landowners can do.

Cllr McFarling has been trying to work with the Environment Agency regarding sewage / drainage on Swan Hill. Members of the public reported sewage backing up into houses. He will visit May to explain.

Bloomery Court – Cllr Heys – tractors are still going between houses which farmer claims is allowed. Cllr McFarling says it is not and will look into. The DC enforcement team is short staffed. It was discussed that during the floods the main road through the village was flooded right across and there would have been no emergency access. Keith Haylock – the relevant agencies don't talk to one another. Cllr McFarling – the Lydney Flood Forum has multi agency input and it has been able to obtain the funding for the work in the upper Forest.

Double yellow lines – delayed but should be painted soon.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Keith Haylock – the timber on the outside of the Bloomery Court new builds is going black and is not aesthetically pleasing for the village.

Alec Davis – was told a prospective purchaser at Bloomery Court had been told retrospective planning permission could be obtained.

Alec Davis – what is the email address of the FoDDC CEO? Cllr McFarling – this is not made public.

Alec Davis – 70% of gardens covered in new builds so water can't drain away.

Alec Davis – 2 more gates installed at Park Farm.

Alec David – has the archaeological report from Bloomery Court been published? Cllr Burlton – it had not been paid for so will not be released.

Alec Davis – are the new electric recycling vehicles any good? Cllr McFarling – they are excellent. Can do a full round before recharging. No air pollution or emissions.

Alec Davis – deepwater at Longbridge (Barnage Road) before the floods. Pictures sent to Highway and noted.

Cllr McFarling – road closure planned for 5-7 March 2025.

6. PLANNING

Cllr Powell declared an interest in items a) and b).

a) **Resolved to note** - 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 \(fdean.gov.uk\)](#)

Permission granted.

b) **Resolved to note** - 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

<https://publicaccess.fdean.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SCWVORHIIBQ00&prevPage=inTray>

Permission Granted.

c) **Resolved to note** - P0847/24/FUL - Barn 1 Barnage Road Alvington Gloucestershire GL15 6AG Conversion of existing barn to a single dwellinghouse.

[P0847/24/FUL | Conversion of existing barn to a single dwellinghouse. | Barn 1 Barnage Road Alvington Gloucestershire GL15 6AG](#)

Permission Granted.

d) **ANY OTHER PLANNING UPDATES**

Councillors to send comments to the Clerk re: P1387/24/FUL – The Meadows, Alvington, by 11th December Application received after agenda published.

7. VILLAGE

a) **Resolved to note** Paul Smooker no longer able to carry out monthly defibrillator checks – new volunteer required. No volunteers at present – to be sought as soon as possible.

b) **Resolved to note** purchase of replacement defibrillator pads at a cost of £146.34 (including postage and VAT) have been ordered as an emergency measure by the Clerk following a report that the pads were missing. This price includes a spare set of pads as recommended by the Ambulance Service so that after use the defibrillator is immediately back online. Note – the defibrillator has been registered as ‘inactive’ until the pads have been received.

c) **Resolved to note** updates on village/parish improvement matters. **None.**

8. SPORTS FIELD

a) **To consider** – purchase of gravel to improve car park surface at £7.00 per tonne with Will Martin to lay and up to a maximum of £200.

b) **Resolved to approve** – Cllr Heys to apply to draw down S106 monies of £32,571 for the installation of power at the sports field as per quotation from National Grid of £31,136.59 and assorted previous expenditure. Quote for electricity supply to be agreed at an extraordinary meeting once monies agreed.

c) **Resolved to approve** renewal of annual membership of Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association at a cost of £50 (no VAT). **Proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Thompson.**

d) **Resolved to note** update from Clerk on vandalism to the trail equipment. Claim for replacement equipment to be submitted to the insurers – quotation for replacement now received. Keith Haylock asked if CCTV cameras could be installed on the field – may be considered in future.

e) **To receive** any other reports on the Sports Field.

Cllr Powell reported that there will be 2 cricket teams in the league next season – the 1st team up 2 leagues. Alvington Star will have a ladies team next season.

9. CHURCHYARD

a) **To receive** updates on any churchyard matters. Grass contract for next year needs to be agreed.

10. HIGHWAYS

a) **To receive** updates on road safety matters. **None.**

b) **To note** any updates on highways matters. **None.**

Keith Haylock asked Cllr McFarling who the roads contractor used by Glos CC is. Cllr McFarling – Ringway. He had not been the only one to oppose the recent motion to extend the contract and considers their work not to be adequate. There is recourse and £0.5m in fines were issued to them last year.

11. FINANCE

a) Resolved to ratify payments made in November 2024.

C Hinton	Clerk Pay October 2024	£300.50
Forest Equipment Services	Dog Bins – Sept 24	£57.60
Alvington Memorial Hall	Fun Day Hall and Bouncy Castle Hire	£40.00

Proposed by Cllr Burlton, seconded by Cllr Thompson.

b) Resolved to approve payments for December 2024.

C Hinton	Clerk Pay November 2024	£300.50
Forest Equipment Services	Dog Bins – Oct 2024	£57.60
Community Heartbeat	Replacement Defib Pads	£146.34
RD Heys	Timpsons	£25.00

Proposed by Cllr Macharg, seconded by Cllr Powell.

c) Resolved to note the receipt of income received October 2024.

Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	£22.89
RD Heys	Cricket Club donation	£33.80
RD Heys	Cricket Club Donation	£6.00

Proposed by Cllr Macharg, seconded by Cllr Thompson.

Cllr Macharg to pay in £50 for surplus Fund Day food and drink.

d) Resolved to note the receipt of income received November 2024.

Lloyds Bank	Bank Interest	£28.68
RD Heys	Fun Day	£10.00

Proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Macharg.

e) Resolved to note Lloyds Bank will be changing the Treasurer's Account to a Community Account from 14th January 2025. This account will incur a monthly fee of £4.25 with further charges for electronic transactions (the first 100 in a month are free), paying cash or cheques in or out and some credit receipt transactions.

f) Resolved to note Build Back Better grant of £2000 has been approved for payment.

g) Internal controls checks for Q2 24/25: to assign to a member. Cllr Thompson.

12. BUDGET 2025/2026

a) Resolved to approve budget proposals for expenditure for 2025/2026. (Attached as page to minutes.)

b) Resolved to approve precept amount to be requested from the District Council of £10,736.

Proposed by Cllr Heys, seconded by Cllr Thompson.

13. CLERK SALARY

Resolved to approve increase of salary for Carol Hinton, Clerk, from 1st April 2024 to £4718 per annum (pro rata full time rate £29,093) as per 2024/25 NJC National Pay Award, and to pay from that date.

Proposed by Cllr Heys, seconded by Cllr Thompson.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Resolved to note correspondence for information.

15. COUNCIL

a) Resolved to receive and note the Clerk's Report. **Proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Powell.**

b) Resolved to note resignation of Clerk from 31st January 2025 and advertising of post.

c) To receive Councillors reports and items for future agendas.

Cllr Powell – snow warden now Will Martin.

Cllr Burlton – now leaving the Council. Cllr Heys thanked him for all his hard work. Cllr Burlton had been frustrated by the lack of action taken after reports from the Parish Council.

d) Resolved to note the date of the next Full Council Meeting – **Thursday 6th February at 7.30pm.**

The meeting concluded at 21.35hrs

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 Budget 2025-6 for Full Council Meeting 05/12/24

	23/24	24/25	25/26		
23/24 precept requirement (exp minus	£ 9,667.08				3.57%
24/25 precept requirement (exp minus	£ 10,160.00				5.10%
25/26 precept requirement (exp minus	£ 10,736.00				5.67%
EXPENDITURE	£ 10,607.08	£ 11,100.00	£ 11,676.00	INCOME	£ 940.00
Sports Field	£ 775.00	£ 910.00	£ 420.00	Bank interest	£ 340.00
Mower maintenance	£ 465.00	£ 500.00	£ -	Field hire	£ 600.00
Annual safety inspection	£ 180.00	£ 190.00	£ 200.00		
Sports field maintenance	£ 80.00	£ 170.00	£ 170.00		
GPFA subscription	£ 50.00	£ 50.00	£ 50.00		
Village	£ 886.00	£ 990.00	£ 691.00		
Grasscutting (A48 verges)	£ 150.00	£ -	£ -		
Dog bin collections	£ 676.00	£ 650.00	£ 691.00		
Village maintenance	£ 60.00	£ 340.00			
Churchyard	£ 2,406.00	£ 2,160.00	£ 2,170.00		
Grasscutting - churchyard + Garlands	£ 2,266.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00		
Green bins	£ 140.00	£ 160.00	£ 170.00		
Council	£ 5,740.08	£ 5,940.00	£ 6,595.00		
Hall hire	£ 170.00	£ 200.00	£ 240.00		
Staff	£ 4,275.08	£ 4,500.00	£ 4,500.00		
Expenses	£ 200.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00		
Payroll services	£ 115.00	£ 115.00	£ 115.00		
GAPTC subscription	£ 170.00	£ 175.00	£ 180.00		
External audit	£ -	£ -	£ 240.00		
Internal audit	£ 180.00	£ 185.00	£ 190.00		
Training			£ 300.00		
Insurance	£ 480.00	£ 495.00	£ 520.00		
Professional services	£ -	£ -	£ 40.00		
Website	£ 150.00	£ 170.00	£ 170.00		
Pavilion	£ 500.00	£ 600.00	£ 800.00		
Trees	£ 200.00	£ 500.00	£ 900.00		
Road Crossing	£ 100.00	£ -	£ 100.00		