

Parish Of Alfrick And Lulsley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 18th January 2005 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present:

Mrs C Williams, Chairman.

Mesdames S Tolley, B Hickling (County Councillor)

Messrs; P Brown, A Biggs, P Gilbert, R Jackson, G Lowe, J Guise (District Councillor), G M Brewin (Clerk).

Apologies:

Mrs S Clarke, S Young (District Councillor), Messrs L Higginson, J Goldsmith, (Parish Footpaths Warden).

Visitors: Fourteen members of the public.

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

Parishioners raised the matter of a planning application for the site of the Village Hall made by Mr T Mason and criticised the lack of proper consultation and discussion. With the agreement of the chairman Mr Mason explained the reasons for his action. After discussion members of the council agreed that they would wait to see the official confirmation of the application before calling a meeting to obtain a public response.

The formal meeting began at 8.20pm.

The chairman asked the clerk to write formally to Mrs S Young expressing the council's sympathy on the death of her husband.

1. Apologies for absence from members and members' declarations of interest.

The apology from Cllr Mrs S Clarke was accepted. The clerk was asked to write to Cllr L Higginson to ask him for an indication as to when he would be able to attend council meetings.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2004 circulated in advance to members were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3. Matters Arising not covered by the agenda:

The clerk was asked to provide information on Compost Bins and include this on the council web-site.

4. Reports.

a) Cllr Mrs B Hickling reported as follows;

Acknowledged Excellent Council; Worcestershire County Council has been striving for Excellence over the past two years. The Audit Commission declared us an "Acknowledged EXCELLENT Council" just before Christmas - on 16 December. This has been achieved with strong support from local people and commitment from both staff and Councillors to provide excellent services.

Joint Council Tax Leaflet; A project is underway to produce a Council Tax Leaflet with the District Councils. We hope to deliver this with the 2005/6 accounts. This is an important step forward resulting in better understanding and communication with residents together with efficiency savings.

Safety First; 100 school children from across the Malvern District will descend on the Three Counties Show Ground to learn about issues surrounding their safety. County Trading Standards Officers will be on hand to teach children about the laws in place to protect them and what to look out for when buying toys.

b) Cllr J Guise reported as follows;

The District Council was undertaking extensive planning and training to enable the work of licensing local premises to be undertaken following the introduction of the new licensing act.

Work was in hand to give parish councils a greater input into the renting of affordable houses and a policy document would be circulated for discussion in the near future.

Great progress has been made in recycling waste in the district council's area. Recycled waste measured 22.8% moving towards a target of 25% with 2.07kg per head of the population compared with the national average of 2.00kg.

Mr Paul Leopold of Lulsley had been appointed a member of the MHDC Standards Board.

c) In the absence of the Parish Footpaths Warden the clerk reported as follows;

There had been some difficulty due to the weather in starting the contractor but work was now in hand as planned.

5. Financial Matters:

a) The council accepted the request from the village hall management committee to pay £12 per session for the use of the hall in future beginning in the new financial year.

b) Confirm Precept for 2005/6; This was confirmed at £4995.

c) Approve payments -

Clerk's salary - £557.70, and expenses, £59.69 (3 months)

Grass Cutting (War Memorial ½ yr) £20

Parish Plan expenses; Hire of eqpt - £10, Printing etc £17.20, Refreshments £ 16.93

All approved.

d) Confirm quotation for work on Jubilee Plantation - £275. Agreed.

6. Planning applications and decisions

04/01202/OUT Affordable Homes - Upper House - Footpaths, No Comment

04/01959/FUL Affordable Homes - Leigh Road, Objection as before.

04/01946/FUL Portacabin in Ravenshill Woodlands Reserve, No Comment.

The clerk reported on the decisions above made under the delegation procedure. All were confirmed.

7. Parish Lengthsman Scheme

The clerk reported that work no work had been invoiced since the last meeting. Cllr Lowe reported that the work done on the drains in the Old Storridge area. There was a need for further work in clearing gullies. The clerk would agree this with the contractor.

8. Parish Plan - update;

Cllr P Gilbert reported on the activities of the Parish Plan Steering Committee. The committee had held two meetings, on 9th and 11th January. (minutes attached - appendices - a&b). The clerk reported on the young person's consultation held on January 15th in the Village Hall. This had been very successful and the views of some 15 young people were being reviewed and incorporated into the collected data.

9. Local Minibus Service - update

The chairman reported on the latest meeting of the management committee. There had been some initial problems in the run up to Christmas and a new timetable would be in operation from 4th February. It was noted that there was some misunderstanding in the parishes as to the purpose of the bus service; it is for all and not just schoolchildren.

10. Correspondence & Publications Received

Details of correspondence received since the last meeting are recorded with the agenda. The clerk drew members' attention to the following;

24/11	Learning + Skills	Strategic Review, available for consideration
25/11	W-CALC	Second special employment bulletin; The clerk would give the chairman details.
08/12	R A Colley	Complaints re footpaths and kerbs; These are being resolved.
08/12	W-CALC	Standards Committee, Councillor Refresher Course; commended to members.
20/12	WCC Highways	Gritting Routes information; also on the council's web-site.
03/01	Mr G Brooke	Copy letter to Alfrick Church ref Footpaths; An application has been made to turn this into a formal 'right of way' by a member of the parish.
06/01	W-CALC	Employment Briefing 15/02, linked with 25/11 above.
06/01	W-CALC	Councillor Refresher Course 3/02, 17/02, 10/03, ref 8/12 above, details to the chairman
07/01	W-CALC	Training Courses 2005; The clerk proposed to attend as appropriate.
17/01	WCC	Footpath Diversion; legal notices would be on the council's notice boards.
18/01	MHDC	Licence Fox & Hounds renewal; no objection raised.

11. Revised Standing Orders from W-CALC

Members had reviewed these. It was confirmed that they would supersede the existing orders.

12. Report on the Parish Council 'surgery' Saturday 13th November;

Cllrs P Brown and P Gilbert had been available on 8th January but there were no parishioners attending. The consultation on 12th March would be covered by Cllrs P Gilbert and A Biggs. The clerk was asked to ensure maximum publicity for this.

13. Any Other Business;

The condition of Commonfield Lane was raised. The clerk will write to the Highways Partnership asking for action. The Bus Shelter at Alfrick Pound had been refurbished by the Horticultural Show Committee. The clerk was asked to write and thank them.

14. Date of the next meeting;

February 15th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall Alfrick.

The meeting closed at 9.57pm

Chairman