

Parish Of Alfrick And Lulsley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 17th January 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present:

Mrs C Williams, - Chairman.

Mesdames; S Tolley, S Clarke, S Young (District Councillor).

Messrs; P Attwood, P Brown, P Gilbert. R Jackson, G Lowe, P Tebbit, C Smith (County Councillor), G M Brewin (Clerk).

Apologies: J Guise (District Councillor),

Visitors: Six members of the public.

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting:

The clerk read a letter from a parishioner, who was unable to attend, drawing the council's attention to an incident at Lulsley on 10th January when a large dog which was not under its owner's control attacked and killed a small terrier causing severe distress to the dog's owner who had to carry the mortally wounded animal some distance to her home and then on to a vet. The writer expressed his serious concern that this was not the first instance of this dog attacking other dogs and he considered others including children walking with dogs in the area were at risk of attack. He asked for the support of the council in resolving this matter.

The clerk said that on receipt of this letter he had reported it to the local police beat officer PC A Naulls who would be investigating the matter. He was asked to report it also to the MHDC Dog Warden.

The formal meeting began at 7.45pm.

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

All members were present and there were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting on 15th November 2005 circulated in advance were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

3. Matters Arising not covered by the agenda:

The clerk reported that actions from the previous meeting had been completed.

It was agreed to take agenda item 9 next to enable members of the Parish Plan Steering Committee subsequently to leave the meeting.

9. Response to the Draft Parish Plan ; circulated in advance

Mrs Bridget Lewis, chairman of the Steering Committee introduced the draft Parish Plan and answered detailed questions on it. It was agreed to endorse the draft plan to enable consultation with various organisations to go ahead, with a formal acceptance planned for the February Parish Council Meeting.

4. Reports.

Cllr C Smith reported; Thanks to the opposition from many parish councils to the county council decision to restructure all the highways partnership units across the county the matter had been withdrawn to enable further consultation to take place. He noted also that an appeal had been lodged with DEFRA against the refusal of WCC to designate the footpath through the Alfrick Churchyard as a right-of-way

Cllr Mrs S Young reported; Local Area Agreement: Local Area Agreement is a three year rolling agreement between Central Government and a local area. A local area in this sense is Worcestershire County Council, Worcester City Council, the District Councils, MHDC, Wrye Forrest, Wychavon, Police, Firemen and Ambulance Services
In Worcestershire there are to be six funding blocks, or streams to be developed: Economic success that is shared by all, Improving health and well being, Meeting the needs of children and young people, Communities that are safe and feel safe, A better environment for today and tomorrow, Stronger communities.

As I understand it there is to be one pot of money, and Worcestershire county Council will manage the pooled funds. Grants previously paid to other partners will come to WCC. from 1st April 2006. There will be a Management Group and our Chief Executive is one of them. We are told that this will give us greater flexibility on how these funds are used and will bring funding opportunities for projects which are important to MHDC.

LAA is a rolling agreement and, as it develops, it is expected to include more funding streams and, eventually, could cover all public funding in the County. MHDC involvement will ensure that this Council's interests are protected.

Parish Footpaths Warden. In the absence of a footpath's warden the clerk reported that Cllr G Lowe had offered his services. It was agreed that the clerk should write to WCC Footpaths Office endorsing Mr Lowe for this role.

5. Financial Matters

- a) Approve payment - R Thomas, Lengthsman Acct. £785+vat- £922.38
- b) Approve payment - WCALC, Training for Councillors - £30.00+vat -£35.25
- c) Approve payment - Clerk's Salary & Expenses (3 months) 590.20, 108.72, - £698.92
- d) Approve payment - B Salter, War Memorial Surroundings Grass Cutting 1/2 yr - £30
- e) Approve payment - (Parish Plan expenditure) Centremaps - OS Map of Parish, -£30+vat - £35.25
- f) Approve payment - (Parish Plan Expenditure) R Jackson printing costs - £52.50
- g) Consider grant to Sphere Bus - 2nd annual payment - £100
- h) Consider grant to MH CAB. - £75
- i) Confirm Budget for 2006/7 circulated in advance and Precept for 2006/7; £6250

All agreed

- j) Adopt a formal Council's Asset Register and decide on storage of Deeds.

The clerk said that the council did not have a formal list of assets and it would be useful to have a clear statement of the council's assets. The proposed document - see appendix-a was accepted.

The clerk was asked to obtain a current replacement value for the War memorial for insurance purposes.

It was agreed that the Deeds currently with the clerk should be sent to the council's solicitor for safe keeping.

6. Planning Matters

- a) Consider a proposal by Cllr R Jackson regarding the granting of the planning appeal for affordable houses at Leigh Road; 'That this council uses every endeavour to persuade MHDC to insist that the features which made the second approved scheme less obtrusive are retained'.
After a considered discussion this was agreed. The clerk was asked to write to the heads of MHDC Planning and Housing departments and also the site developer asking for their help in this matter.
- b) Note the clerk's delegated decisions;
05/01659/FUL, Conversion etc Stable End Garage Leigh Road Alfrick - 'No Comment' returned
05/01665/FUL, 6/LBC Extension, Dove Barn, Crews Hill - 'No Comment' returned
05/01830/FUL,01831/LBC, Extension etc, Upper House, Alfrick - 'No Comment' returned
05/01832/FUL, Barn Conversion - Knapp Farm - 'No Comment' returned

7. Correspondence & Publications Received

Details are attached to the agenda. The clerk drew members' attention to the following items;

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WCC | Tree Warden Scheme; There was no parish Tree Warden at present. It was agreed that the clerk would advertise this |
| MHDC | Public Speaking at Devt Control Meetings; Revised details are available for members' information. |
| WCC | CD of Transportation & Development Control Guide; Available for information as required. |
| WCC | Restructuring of Highways Partnership Units; As previously mentioned. Agreed that the clerk would Respond as appropriate. |
| MHDC | SPD Re-Use of Rural Buildings - Appraisal; For information when appropriate. |
| MHDC | SPD Re-Use of Rural Buildings - Consultation Draft; For information when appropriate. |
| WCALC | Events - Spring 2006. The clerk will circulate copies to members. |
| NALC | Questionnaire; Agreed the clerk will respond. |
| WCC | Update - Appeal - Churchyard Path, Alfrick; Any further responses to be made by the end of January. |

8. Committee to review the local housing situation

The committee had concluded its deliberations according to its original terms of reference. See appendix-b

After a discussion on a proposal by Cllr R Jackson it was agreed to establish an informal working group with the following objectives;

- a. To determine the scope and specification of a Parish Design Statement and report to the Parish Council on the process and timescale required to produce such a document.
- b. To inform the review of the next Local Plan with parish-specific issues
- c. To strengthen and maintain contact with MHDC planning and housing departments
- d. To address objectives 1 to 3 of the original resolution establishing the committee viz;
 - 1) *Review the prospects for changes in the population of the Parish by considering the implications of both social and open-market housing, by discussing need and provision with existing residents, landowners, the planning authority and other interested parties.*
 - 2) *Review the potential of building land becoming available both within the development boundary and as exception sites outside the boundary*
 - 3) *Review the Development Boundary and if considered acceptable make proposals for changes.*
- e. To instigate a communication strategy better to inform the council of the workings and deliberations of the group. Membership of the group would be; Cllrs P Brown, P Gilbert, R Jackson, G Lowe, P Tebbit

9. Response to 'AWARDS FOR ALL' PROGRAMMES - circulated in advance

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs S Tolley would review the possibilities of an application under this scheme. The clerk will provide details of equipment available.

10. Review progress to Quality Parish Status.

Cllr P Brown reported that a meeting had been arranged with a member of WCALC on 6th March. The clerk would start the qualification course in February. We need a proper Contract of Employment and also a Person Specification for the clerk together with a formal Grievance Resolution Procedure. These would be circulated for approval at the February meeting.

11. Local Minibus Service

Cllr Mrs C Williams reported that the last committee meeting had been cancelled at the last minute. Existing funding would see the operation through to December 2006 and further support was being investigated. Cllr Mrs S Clarke reported that sales of prepaid tickets were increasing.

12. Parish Lengthsman Scheme.

The clerk advised that the support of the Highways Partnership to repair some drains had enabled the Lengthsman to make considerable improvements at Green Street and near Alfrick Court. Funding for the next financial year was awaited.

13. Items for the next meeting.

See 8, 9, 10, 11, Above.

14. Confirm the date of the next meeting;

Tuesday 21st February 2006

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chairman.....