

Parish Of Alfrick And Lulsley

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 28th March 2006 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Alfrick.

Present:

Mrs C Williams, Chairman.

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

Messrs; P Attwood, P Brown, P Gilbert, R Jackson, G Lowe, P Tebbit, G M Brewin (Clerk), D Fowler (Parish Tree Warden).

Apologies: C Smith (County Councillor). J Guise (District Councillor),

Visitors: One member of the public.

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting:

There were no matters raised by the public attending.

The formal meeting began at 7.35pm.

The Chairman welcomed David Fowler the new Parish Tree Warden to the meeting.

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

All members were present. Prejudicial interests were declared in affordable housing matters by Cllr P Attwood (resides opposite a site) and Cllr Mrs S Tolley (owns land adjacent to a site). Personal interests in affordable housing matters was declared by Cllr Mrs S Clarke (Relative a prospective purchaser) and Cllr Mrs C Williams (Relative a prospective purchaser).

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting on Tuesday 21st February 2006 circulated in advance were approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman. (A correction to Item 11 was noted, for 'grievance' read 'complaint' - noted and initialed)

3. Clerk's report on actions from previous meetings

The clerk reported on actions from the previous meeting - A replacement value for the War Memorial was awaited. The Lengthsman had completed clearing the drains at Hill Road/Ravenshill Green

4. Reports.

Cllr Mrs S Young reported:

Worcestershire Telecare.

The annual report was sent to me reminding me of the useful service they provide. This is a service provided for the elderly who wish to maintain their independence in their own home. Telecare consists of smart sensors placed around the home linked to a social alarm unit and monitored 24 hours per day, 365 days per year by a Monitoring and Response Centre enabling swift action to be taken should an incident occur. MHDC web site. or telephone 0845 130 1469.

Older People's Strategy.

A consultation document has been sent to councillors for comment The sub title is 'Independent Living for Older People' - bringing together Housing, Health and Social Care. One section is comments on Older People living in Rural Area as follows; The population in rural areas is disproportionately affected by ageing. People over 65 form 18% of the rural population compared to 15% of the urban population. The more rural a particular area is, the higher the proportion of older people. Overall the number of older people living in the countryside is rising with the average age of someone living in the countryside being older than their urban counterpart. The evidence suggests that urban dwellers tend to move to rural areas like Worcestershire on retirement. At the same time younger people leave rural areas for career or educational needs. The consultation lasts until April 2006.

Malvern Hills Transport Group.

The Malvern Hills Transport group is due to end in its present form on 1st April 2006. The group is made up of several partners, The Countryside Agency, County and District Councils and Community First. This was set up to improve transport in rural areas. The members wish to carry on and it was proposed and accepted, that the Transport Officer of Malvern Hills District Council will take on the administration of the re-formed group.

Cllr G Lowe; Parish Footpaths' Warden reported.

I have just taken over this role from John Goldsmith, it is a volunteer post; we are put forward by the Parish Council, and appointed by Worcester County Council. We are therefore one of their representatives and as such are covered by such things as health and safety legislation. There is a need to pick up the paperwork from John Goldsmith and the setting out of projects will take some time. We have 29 km of footpaths and 5 km of bridleways which is one of the highest densities in the county. Generally our paths are quite good especially the well used ones, but problems do occur such as broken stiles, fallen trees and undergrowth.

David Fowler; Parish Tree Warden reported.

Tree wardens are volunteers who play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. They work closely with their local community to gather information about trees in the parish, and can look out for trees that are diseased or becoming dangerous through decay. At present he is due to attend an introductory course at WCC and will start formal work after that.

5. Financial Matters

- a) Approve - payment; Subscription to Local Councils Review, £14.00 - Agreed
 - b) Approve - payment; Subscription WCALC, £190.79 + vat £216.70 (less £5.88 for early payment) - Agreed
 - c) Approve - payment; Wells Masonry, - War Memorial Cleaning £510 + vat £599.25 - Agreed
- The clerk was asked to write to the local branch of the British Legion advising them of the work which was part-funded by their donation.

6. Planning Matters:

- a) Respond to; 06/00328/FUL Garden Shed - 3 Council Houses, Lulsley - Agreed 'No Comment'
 - b) Respond to; 06/00335/FUL Conversion of Garage, Stable End Alfrick -Agreed 'No Comment'
 - c) Respond to; 06/00290/FUL Replacement Dwelling, Coney Gore - Agreed 'No Comment'
 - d) Respond to; 06/00344/FUL,345/LBC Replacement Greenhouse - Lulsley Court - Agreed 'No Comment'
- e) Report from Cllrs R Jackson, P Tebbit and P Gilbert on discussions re Leigh Road site.
Cllr R Jackson reported that the developer's proposals regarding landscaping etc were the best that could be expected under the terms of the planning approval and recommended acceptance of these. It was agreed that he would consult residents local to the site for their opinions and if there is agreement report this to Festival Housing.
- f) Consider proposing a name for the development at Leigh Road. (ref correspondence 21/2/06)
Cllr R Jackson said that the group had looked at the old Tithe Map and the particular field had been known as 'Chapel Meadow'. This seemed an appropriate name and was agreed by all. The clerk would write to Festival Housing accordingly.

7. Consider proposal by Cllr P Tebbit, churchyard path issue, copy circulated in advance.

Cllr P Tebbit introduced his proposal, see appendix (a). Cllr P Brown who is also a Churchwarden of St Mary Magdalene, Alfrick said that the Parochial Church Council would be writing to the Parish Council on this matter. (The clerk advised that this letter had not yet been received)

After some discussion it was agreed to delay further consideration of this issue until the next meeting by when it was expected the correspondence would be available.

8. Proposed by Cllr Jackson; "A review of the process, timescales and outcome of the offer by Messrs Brooke to make a donation to Community funds contingent on this being made known at the Upper House Planning Inquiry"

Cllr Jackson was concerned that the council's scheme for delegation was not sufficiently democratic and robust to deal with substantial issues such as the matter set out in his proposal.

After a discussion the clerk was asked to produce the relevant papers for guidance, consult Worcestershire CALC Chief Executive Pat Edwards and report to the next meeting.

9. Correspondence & Publications Received

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

23/02	NALC	Journal March 2006
01/03	Rekk Shelters	Guide to Youth Shelters
03/02	cc David Scott Architects	Landscaping at Leigh Road Development
07/02	David Scott Architects	Landscaping at Leigh Road Development
08/03	Tetlow King Planning	Offer of Funds re Upper House Development
17/03	NALC	Grant towards Clerk's Training
27/03	MHDC Planning	Policy Documents for use and review
27/03	MHDC Planning	Enforcement Policy

The clerk had made a reply under the delegation procedure to Tetlow King Planning on the Offer of Funds re Upper House Development, see appendix (b).

10. Parish Plan - report on allocation of portfolios and launch plans

The Chairman reported on the informal meeting of councillors with the chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Committee on 7th March and highlighted the various aspects of the plan that would be pursued by councillors. see appendix (c). The clerk said that a final claim for £750 had been submitted to the Countryside Agency's agents and it was expected that this would be granted. The printing costs of the final plan had yet to be determined but they should be close to the funds that remained in the committee's account. He suggested that the council could launch the Parish Plan at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 9th and this was agreed.

11. Report from the informal group on Housing and Planning matters - Cllr R Jackson

This group had held a very productive informal meeting, see appendix (d). He expected to introduce a formal proposal at the April meeting of the council.

12. Response to 'AWARDS FOR ALL' programmes - Cllr Mrs S Tolley

Cllr Mrs S Tolley is reviewing possible projects under this scheme together with WCC Youth Agencies. An open consultation session could be a way forward and she suggested a discussion on this be held at the April meeting of the council.

13. Review progress to Quality Parish Status.

a) Cllr P Brown reported on the meeting with WCALC on 6th March. Most of the QPS requirements were in place already and it should be possible to produce the application for QPS status in the Spring of 2007. A key requirement not currently running was that of a regular Parish Council Newsletter to the whole electorate. The clerk had produced a draft first issue and this was given to members. It was agreed to go ahead with this, see appendix (e).

b) The Contract for the clerk required some minor changes and would be considered at the next meeting. The Person Specification for the Clerk and Formal Complaints Resolution Procedure for the Council were agreed and signed by the chairman. See appendices (f) & (g).

14. Local Minibus Service

Cllr P Attwood reported that the costs of the minibus were set to rise substantially under a new operating arrangement and there was considerable concern as to the viability of the service. It was agreed to discuss this in detail at the next meeting.

15. Parish Lengthsman Scheme.

The clerk reported that although outstanding work had been done he was still waiting for the invoices for it. If possible these would be submitted to WCC Highways Partnership before the financial year-end as funding for 2006-7 had not yet been confirmed.

16. Items for the next meeting.

See 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 Above.

17. Confirm the date of the next meeting;

Thursday 27th April 2006 (Note not the normal 3rd Tuesday due to the closeness of the Easter Bank Holiday)

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman...

Date...