

ALVESCOT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th February 2016

Present : Mike Honour (MH), Richard Munro (RM), Justine Garbutt (JG) Becky Hird (BH)
Members of Public: R Lewin (RL) , M Farley (MF), P Barling (PB), C Allen (CA), C Godwin (CG), M Lane (ML)

ACTION

93 **Apologies for Absence:**

Andy McIntyre (AM),

94 **To Receive Declarations of Interest:**

BH- declared an interest in 5 Thorpes Field and advised she would not be participating in any discussion.

95 **Adjournment for Public**

R Lewin: Car park funding, what is the progress. The School cannot provide any funding as they can only use their resources for educational purposes.

RL: The school raise funds elsewhere they should

donate them, easy option to say they cannot be used. PC should go back to them again. There has been a response from the Village Hall, David Waters spoke to MH and was told not to do anything. VH are in favour of helping. The communication has not been good, how much are the VH asked to fund. 1/3 with school and PC but now school cannot fund.

MF: It should be funded from the precept. Clerk- we cannot put such an expense directly onto the precept. It is the duty of the Council to run a balanced budget and such an increase could not be justified. PC's are under increasing pressure to take over responsibility for general maintenance following changes from OCC and we have to prioritise how the Precept is spent. We do not yet know if there will be any grasscutting grant this year, we are waiting confirmation from OCC so it may be we have to fund from our reserves.

RL: £12k to spend on the car park, three quotes should have been obtained. 3 were received but first was twice the amount and was discarded. Money had been wasted fighting Carterton West and this could have been used to surface the car park.

How can PC decide to use fete monies to cover car park expenses. The PC are only involved so they can use the Insurance and the playground. When the fete committee resigned, after many years, the PC did not want to see it fold so three Councillors took on the task of organising the fete and gathered more volunteers. The fete is not automatous there is a link. The PC are not taking it away they are helping. The car park has come from the Parish Plan as being an important village asset that needs maintenance, the school and village hall do not want to take responsibility and the PC cannot afford to although we have paid for it to be patched twice. This may not have been handled well but will be discussed again at the Fete open meeting. Last year the fete made £4k year before £3.4k The aim is to raise this to £5k this year and so everyone will still receive £1k. There is provision to make the extra by selling more raffle tickets.

ML: Concerns have been submitted from himself and other residents of Thorpes Field, they support the change of use to a garden but have a problem with the parking. This is 18m long and is gravelled. The front of the house is also gravelled over so there is parking for up to 7 cars. Work vans have been parked there and have been cleaned which runs off to the drain. There was a tree removed which did not have permission. There is also a hot tub which has a sound system and lights. It has a detrimental impact of the area, and he has had an impact on the child friendly community. Approx ¼ of the garden is being used for car parking, he is running a business from the property and there are covenants in place to prohibit this

96 **Minutes of Last Meeting**

96.1 Minutes of meeting 20th January were accepted and signed

15 | Signed

Date

- 96.2 Minutes of Fete meeting 25th January were accepted and signed
- 96.3 Clerk has contacted Ron Spurs and asked if he can help with liaising with the RAF to cut the perimeter path.

- 97 Item 14.2 on the agenda- the Fete was moved up as members of the public were present.
 - 97.1 Fete- Need to clarify the situation with the school. The authority to make decisions hadn't been communicated in the best way. BH- Sam King suggested the four original benefactors have £1k and the residual goes to the car park.

JG: In the long term funding from OCC will be cut further and there will always be village projects needing money. CLP will bring other items to the fore and this seems a reasonable solution. School Governors were quite adamant that there is no funding- this needs to go back to the Fete Committee. Clerk will contact VH committee and get some clarification. If £4.5k is raised then only £500 will go to car park and this will take a long time. We have already spent money on improving the car park so funding will need to be found from somewhere. This will be taken back to the fete committee to be discussed; it was unfortunate that Finance was at the end of the meeting and some people had to leave early. At the next meeting this will be talked through again.

All members of the public left the meeting.

- 98 **Planning Applications: RM**
 - 98.1 Rectory Farm 15/04148/FUL- withdrawn
 - 98.2 5 Thorpes Field, 16/00205/FUL awaiting decision. As BH has advised she will not take part in the discussion, PC reply will have to be discussed at a further meeting.

- 99 **Community Led Planning: (CLP) & Local Plan (LP): RM/JG**
 - 99.1 RM to write completed draft by end of February/March
 - 99.2 LP- Has gone back for consultation. There is a Garden City proposed at Eynsham with 15000 houses.

- 100 **Playing Field: MH**
 - 100.1 No report

- 101 **Traffic & Highways -**
 - 101.1 Potholes in Mill Lane have been looked at by OCC but still not filled. Contact again. Clerk has raised a complaint. An email has been circulating from a private company asking to take on the contract for cleaning road signs. No agreement has been made yet between them and OCC.

Clerk

- 102 **Environment & Conservation: AM**
 - 102.1 No update

- 103 **Countryside & Footpaths:**
 - 103.1 McCracken- quote received for clearing footpath between The Old rectory and the bridge which there have been complaints about. Quote was £320. This was accepted and will be carried out at the best time. Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for the footpath between the pub and the War Memorial.

- 104 **Communication: AM**
 - 104.1 No report

- 105 **Village Hall Rep: BH**
 - 105.1 BH reported there was a site meeting for the shed last week. RL stated that the Village Hall had agreed to fund 1/3rd of the cost for the car park resurfacing. Quote £6500. This had been agreed at the last meeting but was not shown in the minutes. Clerk will contact D Waters to clarify.

- 105 **Finance**
 - 105.1 Cheque list and accounts balance circulated and agreed. Cheques were signed.
 - 105.2 Quote received from Complete Weed Control. This will be accepted but tennis court will

not be needed.

105.3 Clerk asked to give figure on how much was spent with Richard Anstis (2010)

106 **Village Matters**

106.1 Car Park: Decision was taken that the car park will be maintained as is. We may put another lay of gravel on the top. After that we will look to renew the surface.

106.2 Fete: RM will attend the next meeting and address the committee as to why the decision was taken by the PC.

106.3 Litter Pick: AM was not present. It is presumed that all is in place and date has been advertised for 19th March. Equipment will need collecting from WODC. Fete equipment will be looked at at the same time.

107 **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be on 16th March 2016