

ALVESCOT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER 2016

Present: Mike Honour (MH), Richard Munro (RM), Justine Garbutt (JG), Dennis Govan (DG), Becky Hird (BH), J Harter (JH), M Ergatoudis (ME), K Govan (KG), M Farley (MF), R Mawle (RMa), M Hussey (MDCH), S Barling (SB), S Morris (SM) C Barnett (CM)

116 Apologies for Absence:
None

117 To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest
Local Plan- MH

118 Adjournment for Public Participation
SB- Yellow planning signs have been erected for planning at Park Farm, this is a major development and there should be a public meeting. This application has been put in just before Christmas so there is no time to comment. SB has several things to say and wants to know if PC will hold a meeting or not. PC have a deadline of 6th January to comment, if we can get an extension then we have time to hold it or not we cannot risk not commenting. The date on the yellow signs is not 6th January so PC do not need to comment before then.

JH- He has lived in the village for 10 years- he is getting older and cannot run the yard for much longer as is. He has been approached by the developers which would mean he can have some stability for his family. He is sensitive to the village and wants the application to be done sympathetically as he will still be living here. He also wants to ensure there is affordable housing to meet the needs of the village. He is quite willing to delay the application by a few weeks to allow a village meeting. The application was going to be made earlier in the year but some of the surveys took longer than expected it was not aimed to be put in before Christmas.

MF - Application for school extension. He is worried about the traffic. JG It is of importance to the community the PC have addressed the traffic in their comments to WODC.

SB – Questions on the precept. How much are the reserve funds? £1900 has been put aside for the car park. % increase in the precept is high between 11.3-8.3%. The car park should be paid for from reserves and the precept should not go up. Fireworks- not necessary in the overall budget, it makes a loss each year. An entrance fee should be charged.

School planning application- If the school expands it will use the playground to a greater extent so they should be charged for using the facility, especially as less than 20% of village children are at the school.

KG- only item used by herself in the playground is the tennis court and it is always covered in leaves.

MDCH- as Chair of playing fields sub-committee; funding for the MUGA originally came from various sources including WREN , but ¼ came from WODC grant for sports equipment- balance from PC. The condition on the WODC grant was that it was open for all to use. Leaves are a problem. MDCH and Fraser Spence spend their weekends clearing leaves off when able and it has been much better this year, R Ma has also helped. The MUGA cannot be locked as when you do children climb over the netting which makes for more difficult repairs. There are no grants for maintenance so this has to be funded by PC.

119 Minutes of Meeting:

119.1 Minutes were accepted and signed

119.2 OCC footpaths will not be reporting back until the New Year
No response on e mail addresses from the last Forum

120 Planning Applications:

120.1 16/03258/FUL 1 Thorpes Close – approved

120.2 16/03585/ St Peters Infant School – approved. Conditions have been put on traffic management.

120.3 16/04045/FUL Park Farm – awaiting decision. As a Parish Council we have to respond on planning policy. We have a clear policy on encouraging modest development in the village as long as it is in scale and character. This Policy come forward as a result of the Community Led Plan and expresses the views of residents. There are concerns, as on any development, about flooding and sewage at the bottom of Lower End. After 2007 there was a clear plan from WODC on how to address some peripheral highway water and the failure of the pumping station with capacity and power problems. There is a bend in the pipe that has been highlighted which is causing a restriction and Thames Water have not addressed either problem. JH and ME have both expressed they are willing to discuss the solution and highlight this to WODC. The flood risk assessment was based on a low flood risk area this may need to be more detailed for local issues.

Resources: there is a large open area- who will be responsible for this in the future.

The corner of the development abuts Oakey Close- have these residents been approached. Some screening will be required.

Archaeology and Ecology surveys may require some further investigation.

Commitment and management plan: this has not raised movements of heavy vehicles which will need to be done outside school hours. Also how much traffic will be using Lower End.

Affordable housing- CLP mechanism is to protect affordable housing so that people with a connection to Alvescot will be given priority. We will ensure WODC enforce this.

Clerk will investigate an extension to the deadline, if successful we will hold a public meeting in January and defer our comments until then.

JG asked if the Councillors could visit the site before the meeting. Clerk will liaise with JH.

121 Local Plan and Plan A

Updated list has been circulated:

121.1 1.1- Letter with comments on Local Plan can be sent. All agreed.

121.2 9.1 -Thames Water letter to be sent. All agreed.

121.3 6.1 – War Memorial. Clerk has received all quotes for the memorial plaque. The cost of sighting a large piece of stone next to the memorial would be £495 plus VAT. The cost of sighting this into the adjacent wall would be £260 + VAT. The later option was preferred as long as we have permission on the owners of Alvescot House. It is understood this has just been sold so we will need to wait for the new owners to move in.

121.4 4.2 – Speedwatch. MF reported he has been in contact with PCSO Colin Daniels and is awaiting pricing for setting this up. It was thought to be advantageous to invite the PCSO to the next meeting. If this is proceeded by a Village meeting this will be deferred until February.

122 Car Park – DG:

The school has agreed to contribute all of the money given to them by the Fete committee in 2017 to resurface the car park and the Village Hall are now saying they will only match the money the school contributes. There are two actions which need to be followed: one short term filling in the holes with gravel and using the £1k donated by the Fete 2016, the remainder of the money will be held towards the 2nd option of a more permanent solution as requested by the village. Tarmac would not be out of place in the village and it can be made to look more aesthetically pleasing. The Clerk has added £1900 to the precept for this year, if agreed, so this will go some way to the end solution. It was agreed, as the Parish Council seem to be taking the lead on this project that D Govan will form a Car Park committee, within the rules of the Parish Council, to investigate the options available. It was thought that a representative from school and village hall needed to be on the sub-committee. The details will be confirmed at a later date.

123 Finance:

123.1 Cheques paid list was circulated and approved. Cheques were signed.

123.2 Precept Figures- Clerk has re-issued the precept figures. These now include the cost of the War Memorial plaque and an extra £1900 for the Car Park. The Clerk as RFO addressed some of the comments made in public participation. She cannot let the village run at a deficit. The precept contains the income and expenditure predicted for 2017/18 and these item need to be covered. We are still facing additional charges from Oxon Together and a reserve needs to be held onto. An estimate has been added for cutting the Alvescot bend the quote has not yet been received.

BH stated that the fireworks made a profit this year. There was a record number of people attending and the donations on the gate were up considerably. If we introduce an entrance fee less people will come. It was agreed that there are certain activities the PC put on for the community and these will be upheld. There is £100 to be saved on the cricket net total, which would just balance the accounts if it was kept to £12k. An estimate is included for the Groundsman, R Mawle kindly contacted the Clerk and offered to take over the job temporarily until March to give us time to find someone. The Council thanked RMa for his kind offer and MH and MDCH will contact and meet with him in the New Year to hand over the tools. JG- we have some sympathy with putting the precept up but there are an increasing amount of tasks the PC is being involved in which need funding. We can talk about dipping into our reserves for some projects but the balance needs to be maintained. All agreed the Precept will increase to £13k

- 124 Joint Meeting with WODC – JG
Thanks to JG for attending the meeting. A summary has been circulated.
- 125 Future Meetings:
Next meeting will take place on 18th January 2017. This will have a reduced agenda as it will be preceded by the Village meeting if an extension is allowed on Park Farm planning application.