**ALDBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on

**Monday September 3rd 2018 at 8.0pm**

**in Aldbury Memorial Hall**

**Minutes**

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Eggar and were accepted by the Council.

County Cllr Hollinghurst and Borough Cllr Mills had also sent their apologies.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr McCarthy declared an interest as Chairman of HAPTC

1. **Minutes of meeting on 6th August 2018 to be signed as a true record**

Cllr McCarthy proposed that the minutes of the meeting on August 6th were accepted as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Juniper. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

1. **Review Actions List**

Cllrs reviewed actions from previous meetings and the actions log was updated.

1. **Aldbury Pond**

Cllr Moore updated on work to the pond. Phase one had been completed and a site visit had taken place with CMS who had confirmed there were no services beneath the pond. CMS had suggested the APC website should have a dedicated pond page which the Clerk agreed to set up **(Action).** CMS had asked for a pond specification to use when talking to contractors. The PWG had met to discuss CMS’ proposals. CMS had provided maps showing water flows in the village. Aldbury sits in the valley with the pond as a low point, which is something the village will have to live with. Cllr Moore stated that an independent survey of the village drainage system would need to be undertaken prior to commencing phase two of the work. It was agreed that Cllr Moore would bring costed proposals to a future council meeting. Cllr Juniper commented that the PWG need to push Herts CC for the information that had been requested on drainage as this is the responsibility of Highways. He said that a list of questions had been given to Highways and if the answers weren’t forthcoming a face to face meeting would be pursued.

Cllr Moore suggested the Council put signs up around the pond, as well as in Outlook, on the website and noticeboards explaining that the pond is a work in progress. It was agreed that Cllr Moore would draft something and circulate to Cllrs for approval **(Action).**

Cllr Moore had spoken to the chair of Pitstone PC about mitigating the impact of surface water from Bucks. He was going to raise this at the next Pitstone PC meeting with the aim of setting up a cross council and county meeting. Cllr Moore had spoken to County Cllr Hollinghurst who was hoping to attend. County Cllr Hollinghurst had now seen APC’s response to the Herts flood consultation. County Cllr Hollinghurst had said he would be happy for APC to put in another bid for funds from his locality budget.

1. **Footpaths**

Cllr Tollinton reported that overgrowth had caused an obstruction along the Percy Crow footpath. She had spoken to residents but had dealt with the obstruction. She said that the path was just too narrow at the tennis court end - footpaths should be 1.5 metres. She would ask Clayton Rae, DBC Countryside Access Officer to come and look at the path. She also said that the fence was becoming dangerous. The Council discussed whether the fence was actually required. It was agreed that Cllr Pearce would follow up with the landowner whose fence it is, once Clayton had been out **(Action).**

Cllr Brady reported that the gate near the entrance to Church Farm is still broken. Cllr Pearce agreed to follow up with the landowner **(Action).**

A member of the public said that the resurfacing work recently completed on the footpath running from Stoneycroft was not good with lumps of concrete causing trip hazards. The Clerk agreed to follow up. **(Action)**

1. **Allotment Tenancy Agreement**

The Clerk reported that the invoices for 2018 rent had been sent out along with the allotment tenancy agreements with a deadline for return of the agreements and rent to be paid by September 30th.

Some allotment holders had mentioned that the perimeter of the allotments was overgrown, it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Tollinton would meet to walk the perimeter with the Council’s grounds contractor. **(Action)**

Cllr Tollinton said that it was the intention to form a committee of allotment holders who would then take on a management role of the allotments, reporting to the Council. The Clerk and Cllr Tollinton would be attending HAPTC training on allotments management at the beginning of October and would report back to the Council with proposals following that session. Cllr Tollinton reported that the Cllrs on the allotment working group would also be looking at new signage, the mowing of all areas of the allotments and the vacant plots.

Two allotment holders who were present at the meeting raised a number of concerns they had with the tenancy agreement which they weren’t happy to sign. The Council agreed that these concerns should be put in writing to the Council and that no action would be taken regarding not signing the agreement until the comments had been received and reviewed by Cllrs.

1. **APC Grants 2018**

The Clerk outlined the process from previous years and Cllr Juniper proposed that the same process be followed for 2018/19; this was seconded by Cllr Pearce. A closing date of October 31st was agreed with decisions being made by the Council at the November Council meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft an advert for the October edition of Outlook and contact previous recipients with the 2018/19 application form **(Action)**

1. **Planning Matters**

**1.The following planning applications were discussed**

**4/01927/18/FHA – 24 Malting Lane, Aldbury**

Demolition of existing small porch & replacement with a larger porch

NO OBJECTION

**4/01945/ROC – Newground Farm, Newground Road**

Variation of Condition2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 4/02062/17/MFA

NO OBJECTION

**4/00558/18/OTD – Access improvements to Tring Station**

Cllr McCarthy commented that this had first been discussed by the Council in April. The Parish Council weren’t being formally consulted on the plans. The DBC website has more information, including a plan showing where the new lifts and footbridge will be positioned. Work is expected to start in October 2018 and to last between 12-18 months before completion. Cllr McCarthy had spoken to the Area Station Manager about the need for effective communications. Cllr Juniper asked whether car parking would be affected. Cllr McCarthy reported that car parking would not be specifically affected but there would inevitably be some disturbance in the locality of the railway station while the work was being carried out.

**2. Planning Decisions made by Dacorum BC**

**4/01202/18/FHA – Stoneridge, Malting Lane, Aldbury**

Extend garage roof over carport, roof extension to include enlargement of existing and new dormer window to west elevation, 3 velux windows to east elevation and alteration to steps

GRANT

**4/01545/18/LBC & 4/01544/18/FHA – 17 Stocks Road, Aldbury**

Replacement of existing 2-storey and single storey rear extension with new 2-storey rear extension, internal & external alterations & repair

GRANT

1. **Finance**

The Clerk had circulated the monthly budget monitoring and cashflow monitoring statements which were noted by Cllrs.

1. Cllr Moore proposed a resolution to make the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Pearce:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| M Walters | £230.00 | July/August Mowing |
| Forde & McHugh | £50.00 | Additional amount to match with invoiced amount |

b) The Clerk reported that the Council’s Chiltern Society Membership was due for renewal at a cost of £30. Cllr Pearce proposed the membership be renewed and the payment approved; this was seconded by Cllr Moore.

1. **GDPR**

The Clerk reported that the GDPR privacy statement and policies were now on the APC website. She said she would update at the next meeting regarding PC encryption.

1. **Canal Bridge at Tring Station**

Cllr Juniper reported that both CRT (Canal River Trust) and Herts Highways had been approached about the canal bridge at Tring Station which requires repairs to the fencing and both organisations had said it wasn’t their responsibility. Cllr Juniper said he thought APC now had four options: 1) no nothing and leave the temporary fencing in place; 2) pressure Herts Highways due to safety concerns; 3) identify the landowner; 4) resolve that the Parish Council should repair the fence themselves.

Cllr McCarthy commented that no one at Tring Station had complained about the temporary fencing. He said it was squarely the responsibility of Herts CC and the issue should be escalated. It was agreed that Cllr Juniper and the Clerk would follow the issue up with Herts CC. **(Action)**

1. **Alteration to Luton Flight Path**

Cllr Juniper reported that parishioners had approached Cllrs to say they felt that more aircraft were flying over the village and asked whether there had been a change in flight paths. Cllr Eggar had approached Luton airport to ask about flight paths but had yet to receive a response. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the airport with a Freedom of Information request. **(Action)**

A member of public asked whether the Council had been involved in the Luton Airport Expansion consultation. The Council discussed whether it was their role to be involved in campaigning against the expansion. Cllr McCarthy said the Council need to think carefully about their role in such campaigns and the level of commitment that might be required.

1. **Request to use Recreation Ground for Event**

The Clerk had received a request from a company to use the recreation Ground on 14th September for an event. The Clerk had circulated the request to Cllrs and added more detail from discussions with the event organisers. Cllr Pearce proposed the Council allow the Rec to be used subject to checking with the Aldbury Sports Club, a commitment that no fireworks would be used and a donation to the pond fund of £1,500; this was seconded by Cllr Juniper.

1. **Warden’s Report & Matters arising**

The Warden’s report for August had been circulated and was noted by Cllrs. The Warden had replaced one of the posts at the Rec. The Clerk said she would be following up regarding supplier meetings about the playground.

1. **Correspondence**
* An email had been received from a resident regarding the potential for flooding in Stoneycroft. Cllr Juniper said that the Pond Working Group were already aware of the issues raised and had most of them covered. It was agreed that Cllr Juniper would respond to the resident and that Cllr Moore would follow up with the landowner concerned. **(Action)**
* The Clerk had received correspondence from CDA Herts inviting APC to become a member. It was agreed not to take up membership.
* A letter from Herts CC regarding the Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan: Call for sites 2018 was noted by Cllrs.
* The Clerk had received an email from Herts CC regarding grit for the winter, it was agreed that providing the bins in Malting Lane were filled, no further grit was required.
* The Clerk had received two emails from a resident regarding the Ashridge parking proposals. (see below under public participation)
1. **Meeting open to the Public**
* Two residents had attended the meeting to express their concerns about the proposals for future parking at the Ashridge Estate. There had been a suggestion that the Old Dairy field might be suggested for parking and the residents, whose properties were close to the field had been concerned and commented that there was a restricted covenant on this old meadow. They had subsequently received an assurance from Ashridge that they wouldn’t be trying to lift the covenant and they would be looking for other options. The residents said they weren’t happy with the response they had received from the Clerk of the PC for which Cllr Brady apologised.
* A resident asked whether the Parish Council was doing anything for the WW1 centenary. Cllr Juniper said that there had been an exhibition in 2014 and he thought that the organisers might be doing a smaller version in the church this year.
1. **Any Other Business and to consider items for agenda of next meeting**
* Cllr Moore reported that Dacorum had issued a consultation on dog fouling and public space protection issues.

As there was no further business the meeting closed at 10.20 pm

**Next Parish Council meeting – Monday 1st October 2018**

**Aldbury Parish Council website –** [**www.aldburyparish.org.uk**](http://www.aldburyparish.org.uk)**.**