**MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held via Jitsi Video Conferencing on Monday 14 December 2020 at 7 p.m

**Present**: Christopher Langley (CL) Chairman, Nick Rose (NR), Robin Gilbert (RG), Tim Giles (TG), Will Palmer (WP), Mal Ward (MW)

**In attendance**: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk: James Mallinder (JM) District Councillor

**Members of public**: One

1. **Open forum:** No points were raised
2. **Apologies for absence**: Ruth Clark, Christina Joyce. **Not present**: Bill Vaudrey
3. **Declarations of member’s interests in any items on this agenda:** None
4. **Approval of minutes of meeting**: The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**: The clerk stated that the problem with allotment plot 9 was now resolved and all plots have been let.
6. **District Councillor’s report:** The District Councillor’s monthly newsletter had been distributed to all councillors. JM reported that there has been another fall on the cliffs in front of Bawdsey Manor. He is liaising with PGL and Bawdsey PC regarding this.JM brought the planning application for a permanent campsite in Ramsholt to the attention of councillors. After discussion it was decided that the Parish Council should write to East Suffolk planning department pointing out their concerns.
7. **Finance**: - **(i) to discuss budget and set precept for 2021/22** The clerk reported that payments made were well within the budget set for the current year. A proposed budget for 2021/22 (attached} had been sent to all councillors and this was agreed. It was decided not to increase the precept for the coming year. **(ii) to approve transfer of restricted funds from Current account to Business Savings account –** It was agreed to transfer a total of £3270.94 to the Business account as this is restricted income received from the Community Infrastructure Levy. **(iii) To authorise payments -** The payments as per attached were authorised and payments made since last meeting noted.
8. **Planning – to ratify decision re application DC/20/3863/FUL at Bluebells, 2, The Street, Alderton. Single storey rear extension and single storey front porch** – There were no objections.
9. **Village Hall – to receive report on maintenance carried out:** NR reported thata wall mounted automatic hand gel dispenser has been fitted to the wall in the entrance lobby. The overflow in the disabled person’s toilet has been fixed and the hand dryers have been cleaned. One water heater has been replaced.
10. **Play Equipment – to receive safety inspection report:** RG reported that the annual safety inspection carried out in October by Playsafety Ltd highlighted that all wooden items are suffering from slight damage possibly caused by a strimmer resulting in some rot. All items are medium risk with no immediate risk causing danger. However, councillors should bear in mind that the equipment will need attention in the next year or so. RG will arrange a date for a work party to paint the equipment in the Spring.
11. **Save our Swan – to receive update –** MW has contacted Mr Gary Miller to find out if anyone has shown any interest in purchasing The Swan. GM replied that the current situation with Coronavirus has been a particularly tough time for the pub trade and any interested party has been put off by the remoteness of The Swan. MW has also written to Tom Kerridge who has recently had a television series on saving rural pubs to ask if he would feature The Swan. MW received a reply stating that he has enough projects at the moment.
12. **Entrance to recreation ground – to discuss proposal from resident:** Mrs Mary Owles has purchased a strip of land between the recreation ground and Watson Way. She wishes to make this into a garden and at present the exit from the recreation ground cuts right across the middle of the land. Mrs Owles therefore proposes to block the current exit and create a new one at the east end of her land. All councillors agreed to this in principle provided that Mrs Owles has this written into her deeds as a right of way and also erects a gate. The chairman asked Mrs Owles to let the parish council have the plans when they were drawn up.
13. **Improvements to village facilities – to discuss**: A poll had been held amongst councillors regarding various ideas which had been put forward for improvements to facilities in the village. The favourites were to build an undercover area on the recreation ground, and to supply an outdoor electricity point and tap near the pavilion. NR was asked to draw up a plan for the undercover area. It was also felt worthwhile investigating the cost of installing a Smart TV in the village hall which MW agreed to do.
14. **Beach Lane - to investigate ownership and upkeep**: The Land Register has been checked and there is no indication as to who owns Beach Lane. There is a problem with the drainage which causes a large puddle to form near the entrance to the surgery car park. The edge of the road is breaking up at the end of Beach Lane. JM will contact Highways to see if they will help with this.
15. **Christmas greetings – to discuss sending cards to residents** – It was agreed to send a Christmas card to the elderly residents in the village. It was also decided to send a card to thank those who had taken part as volunteers to help others during the Coronavirus pandemic. The clerk will deliver these. NR acknowledged the receipt of a certificate sent to the Parish Council by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk in recognition of the “Outstanding service to the community during the Covid-19 Pandemic” and thanked the clerk for co-ordinating the volunteers and requests for help during this period.
16. **Litter Picking – to agree a date**: 7 March 2021 was agreed.
17. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** –(i) WP reported that he had still had no response from Highways regarding the 30 mph signs in the village but he will chase them again. (ii) The clerk stated that East Suffolk District Council wishes to hold an election in the village hall on 7 May 2021 but a questionnaire to ascertain suitability in light of the Covid-19 situation has to be completed. (iii) WP told councillors that he had received a number of positive comments about the Christmas tree at the entrance to Mill Hoo. The chairman thanked everyone involved in setting this up.
18. **Date of next meeting** – 8 March 2021

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m

**These are draft minutes which will be verified at the next meeting**