**MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held via Zoom Video Conferencing on Monday 14 September at 7 p.m

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

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

**Members of public**: Three

1. **Open forum**: No matters were raised by members of the public.
2. **Apologies for absence**: None **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 30 June 2020 were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**: (i) CL thanked James Mallinder for arranging the printing of the ‘Save our Swan’ survey. (ii) He also thanked WP for preparing and sending the excellent report to Andrew Reid re the road signage in the village. There has been no response to this but WP will now make direct contact with the department concerned.
6. **James Mallinder was not yet present as he was attending another meeting**. (see below)
7. **Finance:** (i) **To receive reconciliation of bank account** - The reconciliation had been verified by RC and was accepted by councillors. (ii) **To discuss CIL** - £1079.41 has been received from the Community Infrastructure Levy for the period October 2019 to March 2020. It was decided the best use of this money would be for maintenance of the village hall and pavilion. (iii) **To approve payments over £100 -** The payments listed in Appendix 1 were approved and cheques issued since the last meeting noted. (iv**) To review clerk’s salary** – Councillors approved a rise in the clerk’s salary in line with the new NJC rates to be back dated to 1 April 2020. (v) **To discuss online banking** – It was proposed by NR and seconded by RG that APC should make payments online when necessary. Clerk to make arrangements with bank for herself and RC to have authority to do this. Financial regulations to be updated.
8. **Save our Swan –** **to receive report on survey findings and discuss the way forward** – MW reported that only 26% of surveys delivered to households in Alderton and Bawdsey were returned. The absolute maximum amount of pledges made would only come to £80,000 which is far short of the current asking price for the premises. It was felt that if the price was more realistic there would be more interest. CJ reported that the majority of those who completed the survey were in favour of purchasing the pub for the community but even they made qualifications. After discussion the majority of councillors felt that it is not viable to proceed further. However, CJ will consult with the Plunkett Foundation to see if there is a way forward, but Plunkett requires a chairman, secretary and treasurer to be in place before they will offer further assistance. A notice will be placed in the village stores to try to fill these positions.

**James Mallinder joined the meeting and gave the following report –** The September 2020 newsletter had been circulated to all councillors. JM stated that he had attended a full council meeting held recently to discuss Sizewell C. In his speech he highlighted the environmental impact and in particular the pollution which would be caused by the extra traffic on the A12. There may also be negative effects from the increased sea defences which would cause concern for this area. JM announced that from 28 September green bins will once again be collected on the same day as the blue recycling bins.

1. **Recreation ground – to receive report from committee with reference to play equipment –** RG reported that the broken noughts and crosses equipment has been mended. Covid 19 warning signs are in place near the play area. RG stated that Norse were seen to be cutting the grass on the recreation ground on 20 August when this was completely unnecessary and only served to pollute the area with clouds of dust.
2. **Village Hall – to receive report from committee with reference to maintenance –** NR reported that some of the hand dryers and water heaters were not working in the toilets. The disabled persons toilet has no proper overflow and needs urgent attention. NR will arrange to meet with a local handyman to get this rectified. It was agreed that a wall mounted hand sanitizer should be purchased, JM stated there may be a grant available for this.
3. **Youth club – to discuss recommencement** – It was decided that it would not be safe to re-open the youth club at this time but will be discussed again when there is an improvement in the Covid 19 situation.
4. **Allotments – to discuss tenancy of plot 9** – It was decided that the tenancy of this plot should be terminated as the tenant is in breach of rule 5. TG asked if there was a possibility of providing more allotments as there are now 7 residents on the waiting list. The chairman stated that there is no land available.
5. **Internal auditor – to appoint new internal auditor** – CJ informed the councillors that she has asked Dino Khan FCCA to audit the records next year but at the time of the meeting has not received a reply.
6. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council** – (i) A litter pick around the village will take place on Sunday 27 September meeting at 10 a.m on the recreation ground. (ii) RC will organise a Christmas tree for display at the entrance of Mill Hoo, any other celebrations will depend on the restrictions of the Covid 19 pandemic at the time.
7. **Dates of future meetings –** 14 December 2020, 8 March 2021, AGM 10 May 2021

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m

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