**MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 4 December 2017

**Present**: Christopher Langley (CL) Chairman, Nick Rose (NR), Will Palmer (WP), Alex Mann (AM), Ruth Clark (RC), Robin Gilbert (RG), Diana Loughlin (DL)

**In attendance**: Joy Andrews (JA), clerk:

**Members of public**: None

1. **Apologies for absence**: District Councillor Christine Block (CB), Darren King (DK).
2. **Declarations of member’s interests in any items on this agenda:** None
3. **Approval of minutes of meetings**: The minutes of meetings held on 4 September 2017 and 9 October 2017 were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising from minutes**: 4 Sept – The PSPO re dogs on the beach at Shingle Street has been withdrawn pending further consultation. 9 Oct – The planning application has been withdrawn.
5. **District Councillor’s Report:** CB was unable to attendbut had emailed items to be brought to the attention of the meeting. (i) SCDC consultation relating to the Civil Parking Enforcement in April 2019 closes on 8 December. (ii) Bawdsey Ferry is currently running a dial-a-ride service. (iii) Proposals are being finalised for work on Flood Cell One, wall between Bawdsey Quay and Ramsholt. (iv) The Community Land Trust has met and has drawn up a Statement of Intent to support joint Parish working, this was discussed by councillors. Val Richards has attended a meeting of the Trust representing Alderton and NR agreed to attend also in future. Item to be added to agenda for next meeting to receive their report.
6. **Finance:** The Budget (copy attached) for 2018/19 was discussed and RC pointed out that due to the significant rise in food prices the amount allocated to the Christmas lunch needs to be increased. The clerk stated that the £800 for Data Protection Admin is the ‘worst case’ scenario but felt this should be taken into account. The chairman stated that he felt it necessary to increase the precept and after discussion a vote was taken as to how much the increase should be. The majority of councillors voted for a 5% increase which will bring a precept of £6400 for 2018/19.

**7. External Audit report on accounts for 2016/17:** The clerk read out a summary of the report from BDO (copy attached) which states that the issue of electors rights period during the year not being adhered to had resulted in the annual return being qualified. This was noted by the council and agreed that in future years the elector’s rights inspection period will commence after the accounting statements are approved. No other matters were raised.

**8. To authorise payments**: The items on the attached list were authorised for payment.

**9. Recreation Ground:** i)RG reported that quotes for new play equipment have been received from Sovereign (£16012 swings only) and Suffolk Coastal Norse ( £14196 Sutcliffe swings and cableway). An exemplar grant of £4326.64 has been offered from SCDC with the conditions that an ongoing maintenance plan is produced and an annual inspection by ROSPA will be undertaken. The council agreed to both these conditions and instructed the clerk to proceed with obtaining this grant. It was decided to accept the quote from SC Norse. Ii) RG reported that the majority of the current maintenance work could be carried out by a volunteer work party but it was agreed that SC Norse should be employed to replace matting around the roundabout and slide at an estimated cost of £900. iii) RG reported that a leak in the ladies toilet in the pavilion has been repaired but the pavilion needs complete redecoration, agreed this can be done by volunteers. A quote from Ironglaze for £988 (inc VAT) has been obtained to replace the entrance doors to the pavilion. another quote is needed. iv) The chairman asked RC to prepare a comparison of pros and cons regarding letting the recreation ground to a caravan club and this to be discussed at next meeting.

**10. Joint Wilford Peninsula Parish Councils meeting:** RC and the clerk had attended this meeting and reported on the main points raised, the report had been previously emailed to all councillors. (copy attached)

**11. PGL Meeting:** The chairman and BV had attended a meeting with representatives of PGL at Bawdsey Manor. CL reported that there are no issues with this venture and approx. 120 people will be seasonally employed by the company who will be looking to recruit locally.

**12. Parking:** RC and DL expressed concerns over the parking in Mill Hoo stating that this is likely to get worse with the possibility of younger families moving into bungalows which have been vacated by single people. After discussion it was decided to approach Flagship to see if they could provide an off-road parking area. Clerk to contact.

**13. Village Fete:** i) 7 July 2018 confirmed as date for next year. RC stated that we are desperate for more help and new ideas. It was agreed that 1st. Rendlesham Scouts should be asked to man all entrances and run a stall in return for a donation to their funds. Ii) RC stated that she wished for some money raised at the fetes to go to specific projects. It was agreed that a donation of £500 should be made to Flag of Suffolk towards the fund for a defibrillator for Alderton.

**14. Christmas Lunch/Santa’s Grotto:** RC stated that 30 parishioners are expected for the Christmas lunch and asked for volunteer drivers to transport 4 elderly residents. Village hall to be cleared and reset for Santa’s Grotto Saturday morning.

**15. Allotments:** The clerk stated that the Woodland Trust have free trees and hedging suitable for replacing old hedge removed from between allotments and adjoining field. Clerk to email information to chairman who will decide on best bundles to be requested.

**16.** **Litter Pick:** Sunday 11 March to coincide with surrounding villages as suggested at joint meeting.

**17. Books:** Harry Ulph has kindly volunteered to open the pavilion once a month to sell or exchange books left over from the fete, dates to be arranged.

**18.** **Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council:** DL stated that the football club are abusing the use of the pavilion leaving it cluttered and dirty. Clerk to write to secretary of the club.

**19.** **Date of next meeting:** 5 March 2018

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m

 Signed…………………………………………………………………..

 Date……………………………………………………………………..