**MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held via Jit.si Video Conferencing on Monday 8 March 2021

**Present**: Christopher Langley (CL) Chairman, Nick Rose (NR), Ruth Clark (RC), Robin Gilbert (RG),

 Christina Joyce (CJ), Will Palmer (WP), Bill Vaudrey (BV), Mal Ward (MW).

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

**Members of public**: One

1. **Open Forum**: No concerns were raised
2. **Apologies for absence**: Tim Giles
3. **Declarations of member’s interests in any items on this agenda:** None
4. **Approval of minutes of meetings**: The minutes of the meetings held on 14 December 2020 and 15 February 2021 (planning) were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**: None
6. **District Councillor’s Report**: All councillors had been sent an electronic copy of the March newsletter. JM reported that he has been lobbying the planners regarding the Change of Use application at The Swan Public House ensuring that they investigate the situation thoroughly. He has made the officers aware of the seriousness of the loss of the pub and will help in any way that he can in the future.
7. **Alderton Parish Council/Ramsholt Parish Meeting – To discuss proposal to make these a joint council:** JM explained that Ramsholt does not have a Parish Council but is run with a Parish Meeting which has one meeting each year. Some residents have contacted him because they feel they are not being represented and do not feel part of the democratic process. The proposal is to combine the two councils which would then be called Alderton and Ramsholt Parish Council and would have an extra councillor who is resident in Ramsholt. Any extra expenses would have to be covered by increasing the precept. Discussion took place and then a vote was taken. Result – 3 for, 5 against. In view of this JM stated that the proposal would not be pursued any further.
8. **The Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill – To decide if Parish Council wishes to back this Bill –** although there are certain aspects of the Bill which some councillors do not agree with it was decided to back the Bill at this stage.
9. **Finance: (i) to finalise budget for 2021/22 -** The Budget (copy attached) for 2021/22 was approved. The clerk reported that there is £19,025 in the current account and £3857 in the savings account which is restricted funds. **(ii) to approve payments** – The items on the attached list were authorised and the payments made since the last meeting noted.
10. **Planning applications: DC/20/5226/LBC and DC/20/5225/FUL – Detached garage/workshop (existing building to be removed), Cedar Court, Hollesley Road, Alderton -** This had been dealt with via email and ratification was given to the decision agreed that the Parish Council has no objections as this would, in fact, improve the area.
11. **Allotments –** **To discuss renewal of lease of land from Flagship** – The chairman explained that half of the allotments are on land owned by the Parish Council and half are on land leased from Flagship Housing Group Ltd at a peppercorn rent of £1 per annum. All councillors agreed to renew the lease when it becomes due in May 2022.
12. **Save our Swan – to receive update:** MW stated that there is still a potential buyer in the pipeline and he will know more next week. CJ reported that she has been trying to raise awareness on social media and there has been a crowd funding page set up. People should be encouraged to contribute even a small amount.
13. **Village Hall – (i) to discuss installation of TV and wi-fi:** MW has had an on-site meeting with a supplier of a TV and sound bar and this is waiting to go ahead. A grant of £1,000 has been awarded by DC James Mallinder from the East Suffolk Enabling Communities Budget. However there is a problem with the supply of wi-fi because the village hall is in a low position with tall buildings either side. The Community Internet Company (CIC) who have overseen installation of wi-fi in other local village halls is liaising with Fibre Wi-fi to keep the cost of this down. The chairman thanked MW for all his work on this project. **(ii) – to approve employing professional cleaner to make Covid secure:** This was agreed.
14. **Recreation ground – (i) To discuss erection of shelter:** Councillors had been sent pictures of possible structures and a line drawing of an extension to the pavilion before the meeting. After discussion it was decided that this would be too expensive. The chairman asked that if anyone had ideas for a project to improve facilities in the village to raise it at the next meeting. The chairman thanked NR for his extensive work on this subject**. (ii) To approve slight alteration of boundary adjacent to Beach House:** The trustee of the recreation ground has been consulted and has given permission. CL stated that the original conveyancing document shows the west boundary as straight, the alteration proposed will therefore restore the original boundary. The owner of Beach House will pay all costs involved. After discussion the majority of councillors agreed to this. CJ to write to Mr Shrimpton (owner) setting out all conditions to be met.
15. **Beach Lane – to discuss possible repairs:** The PC received an email from Cllr. Andrew Reid (SCC Highways) stating *“ I can now confirm that according to our records Beach Lane is a private street and the section referred to is not registered at Land Registry. We have no information regarding**ownership*….*The best outcome is if the residents get together to organise their own work with our approval of their specification.”*  A resident present at the meeting also stated that his solicitor has been unable to find who owns the land but he has private vehicle access. CL has obtained an estimate for the section from the main road to the entrance of the recreation ground to be made stable and install drainage, this would cost £5,000. CL stated that he would continue to look into this.
16. **Matters to be brought to the attention of the council:** RG stated that apart from the black sacks of rubbish which had been collected during the litter pick a lot more items had been added to the pile outside the pavilion. The clerk explained these were items that had been previously fly-tipped behind the containers. This would all be collected by Norse the following day. CL thanked the two Duke of Edinburgh volunteers for their continued support.
17. **Date of next meeting**: Due to Coronavirus restrictions the village hall cannot be used for meetings until after 17 May 2021. In view of this a new date of Monday 24 May at 7 p.m was set for the Parish meeting followed by the Annual meeting of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m

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