**MINUTES OF ALDERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held in Alderton Village Hall on Monday 9 September 2019

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

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

**Members of public**: Two

1. **Open Forum:** No matters were raised.
2. **Apologies for absence**: Will Palmer
3. **Declarations of members’ interests in any items on this agenda:** None
4. **Approval of minutes of meeting**: The minutes of meeting held on 10 June 2019 were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from minutes**: (i) **Storage in the Village hall** – Various options were discussed but no decision made. MW agreed to get a quote for building a long cupboard at the end of the room. (ii) **Christmas lunch** - It was agreed not to continue with the free lunch for the elderly in the village at Christmas as it was felt this was not benefiting the right people. An alternative, perhaps a summer event will be discussed in the future. RC suggested having a Christmas tree at the entrance to Mill Hoo which can be appreciated by all, this was agreed. (iii) **Caravans on the Recreation ground** – further investigative work needs to be carried out, NR agreed to do this.
6. **District Councillor’s Report:** James Mallinder had emailed a newsletter to the clerk which had been forwarded to all councillors. He is holding open surgeries around the district to which anyone is welcome. These will be held in different locations each year. JM stated that he is aware of the concerns over traffic, speeding and transport in the area and is working with County Councillor Andrew Reid regarding this. JM is very interested in the preservation of our natural environment and is working with local farmers regarding bird scaring devices. He reiterated his support for keeping The Swan Public House open and will help in any way that he can. CL raised concern over the new planning arrangements by which parish councils no longer receive written notification and hard copies of planning applications – JM agreed to take this up with East Suffolk Council**. James Mallinder left the meeting.**
7. **Finance: (i) To receive reconciliation of bank account –** a copy of the reconciliation had been circulated to all councillors. The clerk stated that in addition to the balance of £12,904.56 at the bank £250 had now been received from The Swan (donation from running bar and BBQ at the Alderton Show), approx. £3500 is to be reclaimed in VAT, £3450 second half of precept is due in October. (ii) **To approve payments over £100** – the payments on attached list were approved. (iii) The clerk stated that the External Audit report carried out by PKF Littlejohn LLP has been received and will be posted on the notice board and website. It states that “no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met”
8. **Save our Swan – To receive report on Open meeting and discuss the way forward:** Minutes of Open meeting attached. CJ pointed out that the date of 16 February in the minutes should read 6 February. Clerk to amend. The chairman stated that a committee consisting of Christopher Langley, Bill Vaudrey Christina Joyce, Tim Giles, Mal Ward, Elizabeth Mann and Katie Pettitt will meet on Thursday 12 September. Nick Crick has agreed to assist with a business plan and Kate Agazarian will help with fund raising. CL stated that the cost of a valuation of the property will be in the region of £2,000, councillors were not prepared to commit to spending this amount until further investigations into the business have been made.
9. **Village Show (i) To discuss how funds raised should be spent:** RC stated that it is the wish of the Show committee that some of the funds raised should be donated to charity. After discussion it was agreed to share £500 between 3 organisations who have supported The Show, these being Just 42 (youth club), Suffolk Punch Trust and a local explorer scout (European Jamboree). New softer furnishings for the village hall was discussed but it was decided to solve the problem of clearing the committee room first. **(ii) To discuss organisation and nature of future events:** This was not discussed.
10. **Recreation Ground/Play equipment/Pavilion – To receive report from committee:** RG stated that the door of the pavilion is cracked and needs replacing, MW and RG will each get a quote for this. Some of the play equipment needs re-staining and RG will arrange this. Some of the rails between the play equipment are rotting and depending on the results of the RoSPA report which is due in October they will either be removed or replaced. It was agreed to hire a skip for the weekend of 28/29 September to dispose of broken or unwanted items in the containers etc.

**11. Village Hall – To receive report from committee with reference to storage –** This item was dealt with in ‘Matters arising from minutes’

**12. Internal auditor – To appoint a new internal auditor –** CJ stated that she may know someone willing to do this and will make enquiries.

**13. EDF Sizewell C – To receive consultation document:** This had been forwarded to all councillors by email and the clerk has a hard copy if anyone wishes to see it.

**14. Matters to be brought to the attention of the Council: (i**) CJ stated that she has been asked if the pavilion is available for hire on Saturday 14 Sept and what would the charge be – it was agreed that a charge of £10 should be made. (ii) CJ asked permission to hold an ‘End of Summer Event’ on the recreation ground on Saturday 21 September, this was welcomed by councillors. (iii) RC reminded councillors that Alderton are hosting the Joint Parish Council meeting on 24 October and she will not be able to attend. NR confirmed that he will represent Alderton at this. (iv) A member of the youth club has requested wifi in the village hall but this was deemed unviable. (v) Although Will Palmer was unable to attend he had emailed: “ I want to say thanks to the village show fete committee as I thought it was a fantastic event and we really liked the produce and craft exhibition. I also want to thank Robin for his efforts in fixing the children’s play equipment so quickly as it was nice for the children to be able to use it over the summer break”

**15. Date of next meeting** – 9 December 2019

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m

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