

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 14 MARCH 2023 AT 7.00 PM

HELD AT VICARAGE COTTAGES BARN, COLN ST ALDWYNS

Present: David Hicks-Beach, John Reeves, Carol Bond, Will Perkins, Helen Forbes (on zoom), Ian Powell and parish clerk Clare Brignall. Also present Alun Davies

DRAFT MINUTES

1. The Council received no apologies.
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. The Council approved and signed the minutes of the last meeting, held on 8 December 2022.
4. The Council heard from Alun Davies of Barking Mad Dogs about ideas for reducing dog waste on the roads. Mr Davies has noticed an increase in dog faeces on public roads and paths. Potentially people are letting their dogs out of their cars to do their business and there are also some local people who do not want to dispose of faeces. It is a health and safety issue both for livestock and for children. The issue is not a shortage of bins. The district officer for waste said that they try to empty the bins at least once a week. During lockdown dog ownership increased to around 33% of households. Alun wrote in CHEQS magazine about it and he has taken part in litter picks to get rid of what is there now. He feels that if people see dog poo they feel able to allow their dogs to do the same. Alun is going to try to locate some clear plastic containers to go on the side of existing bins with poo bags in them in case people have forgotten them. HF said that people in the village do not pick up after their dogs and we need to make it OK for others to tell people who are doing that to say something. We need to name and shame. There are signs you can put up and particularly useful are signs that indicate what the risk is for livestock. We could possibly put bags on the gate by Yew Tree Lodge and by Stony Path. Mr Davies is prepared to furnish poo bags.
5. The Council reviewed the report from the County Councillor and discussed the sad news that the District Councillor, Ray Theodolou, has died and the funeral is on 28 March at 2 pm.
6. The RFO presented the financial statement for the period 4th December to end February 2022. Cheques 581 to MacVenture for £324.00 for the playground inspection, 582 to Gallagher Insurance for £955.63 for the council insurance and 583 to the Parish Church Council for £727.50 for the mowing were all approved. There has still been no invoice from Mr Robinson for grass mowing. The grass mowing for the church yard was larger than last year because it was for two years. There will be a refund for VAT this month. Other items were within budget.
7. The Council noted that the bank reconciliation as at 14 March 2023 agreed to the amount held in the bank accounts.
8. The Council approved the internal checks for the period of December to February.
9. The Council approved £350 for the clerk's annual expenses.
10. The Council approved a donation to the Citizens' Advice Bureau of £150.
11. The Council to finalised plans for a litter pick on 18 March. The litter pick will start at 9.30 outside Coln Community Stores and DHB to order some more litter pickers.
12. The Council to reviewed the plan of the footpath signs. WP Recommended that we to replace the sign that is broken at the end of the drive to Upper Mill. We need to put a sign opposite Manor Farm indicating the public footpath towards the church and another sign at Little Severalls that is missing. WP will get budgets for a sign for Little Severills, including asking the district council if they could provide signs and one to go opposite Manor Farmhouse (may have to ask Highways if it is possible to attach it to the 30mph no entry sign), and for a sign at the end of the road to Upper Mill. WP will look for wooden finger posts.

13. The Council heard that Peter Hewson is going to fell ash trees on the Aldsworth Road and wants to do that before planting more trees. Williamstrip Estate have been very busy with fencing and have not had time to do it yet. JR asked if we should continue to take guards off one at a time or leave them until they need to come off. DHB said that it is better to keep guards and repair them where possible.
14. The Council discussed participation in the plans for a national hedgehog highway. Council heard about an initiative for all councils to create special gaps in fencing or walls to make it possible for hedgehogs to move freely, asking councils to spend £150 on a box of materials that make it possible to make gaps in walls or fences. Council was not sure how relevant it is in a village, but it would show commitment as a parish to the protection of hedgehogs. Council decided to discuss it with Quenington and Hatherop Councils at the joint meeting on 20 April.
15. The Council discussed progress on speed watch. CMB has put in an application for a free camera but it has not arrived. Council will have to buy a pole and pay running costs. WP circulated an email about it in January. HF will pick it up when she comes back, getting in touch with Bob Passmore. We can work with Quenington and Hatherop over sharing information and signage but we will have to pay for own cameras, installation etc. The costs will have to be included in the precept. We will probably put the first one on the Bibury Road. Daniel Tiffney will know the costs of poles and installations. Council will write to Daniel Tiffney to find out what the timescale is of getting the camera and how long it will take to install. (CMB) We need a designated person in the village to be responsible.
16. The Council heard that the upcoming elections are going to be held in Quenington.
17. The Council discussed progress on finding a new treasurer. Currently we have not found anyone and so we are going to ask a book keeper in Fairford which will cost £25 an hour and have to go on the precept. Ian Powell prepared a list of what things need to be done. DHB to try a few more people in the village before going to the book keeper in Fairford.
18. The Council discussed plans for celebrating the Coronation. DHB to look at getting mugs for the 14 children in the village, and Council decided that there would be a bring your own picnic lunch at the playground on Sunday 7 May. Jacky Sykes's daughter to be asked if she could bring her burger car (DHB). Council will get a keg of beer from the Keepers and some fizzy drinks. There will be bell ringing on 6 May. JR will ask Tescos for ice creams. DHB to discuss with the New Inn. Fancy dress for the children. People will be asked in advance to decorate with flags and bunting and yarn bombing in a message sent to Parvo.
19. The Council reviewed planning applications. The roof around the chimney of the New Inn is not strong enough to support the brick work to hide the flue and to redo the flue would mean shutting down the pub. Mr Henriques is going to look at other options. There were no problems with any other planning applications.
20. The Council discussed the plans for a get together with the councils of Quenington and Hatherop. 20th April. Bring your own bottle.
21. The Council confirmed the date for the AGM and village meeting on 24 May. The following meeting will be on 3 October. (DHB to confirm)

David Hicks Beach
Chair of the Parish Council

Clare Brignall
Clerk to the Parish Council

24 May 2023

