

ALVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 17th JANUARY 2017

Present: Councillor N Ashley (Chairman)
Councillor S Shucksmith
Councillor A Graves
Councillor G Cummings

Apologies: Councillor R Wahlberg
Councillor D Buckley

In Attendance: Councillor D McNally

Clerk: Mrs S McFarland

The Chairman opened the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Wahlberg and Councillor David Buckley.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2016, having been circulated prior to the meeting were read, approved, proposed by Councillor Shucksmith and Seconded by Councillor Cummings and signed by the chairman as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Road Condition:- Councillor McNally was able to report that he believes Alvingham has been included on the list for forthcoming haunching.

Footway Lighting:- Councillor Ashley asked Councillor McNally if he could provide the meeting with any indication as to when the bulbs would be changed. Councillor McNally thought the more inefficient lights would be replaced first but could not offer any idea which these were. It was noted that there are several footway lights around the village which are not working. It was agreed the clerk would report these to the Council.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Councillor Cummings reported that he has still not received confirmation that he is a signatory on the bank account despite having returned the requisite forms some time before Christmas. Councillor Ashley indicated that the bank had in fact been in touch with him and have asked him to go into the bank to complete an authorised signatory form. He confirmed he would attend to this as soon as he is able.

PRECEPT

Councillor Cummings confirmed that he has studied all of the parish council records and has split the precept into 2 areas being the fixed costs which are necessities and the optional costs. The necessary costs will remain the same as in the previous year, namely, Admin costs £724, Hall Hire £120, Insurance £150 and Audit fees £10. The optional costs are Grass Cutting £500 and Donations of £550.

Regarding the donations made these consist of £25 to CAB, £25 to Lindsey Blind and £500 to Alvingham Village Hall. Following discussion with the Chairman of the Village Hall committee it was reported that the village hall is in a healthy state financially. It is well supported by the Social club and the numerous private bookings they have each year. They do not have any major projects in the pipeline which require additional funding. Accordingly the question was raised whether the Parish Council should continue to donate £500 per annum to the Village Hall or whether this money could be saved and put towards some other alternative needy causes which are of similar benefit to the whole village. Consideration was given to the possibility of reducing the precept by this amount but as this would only save on average £5 per household.

The Parish Council is now responsible for funding election costs. However, it was confirmed that this only extends to Parish Elections which are a rare occurrence and is unlikely to become a financial burden.

The cost of cutting the grass in the church yard remains unchanged at £500. It was noted however that Mr Jackson who cuts the grass does considerably more than just the church yard grass as he also cuts all the way along the canal pathway which he does entirely voluntarily. The Parish Council extended its sincere thanks to Mr Jackson for his good-natured services in this regard. Consideration was given to whether there was any additional funding available from Lincolnshire County Council to help with the cost of cutting the grass. It was queried whether the footpath along the canal might be regarded as amenity grass in which case LCC would take responsibility for cutting it. Councillor McNally did not think it would fall into the category of amenity grass however.

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed by Councillor Shucksmith that the precept should remain the same as in the previous year but rounded up to the nearest round figure being £2000. This was Seconded by Councillor Graves and unanimously agreed. Councillor Cummings duly completed the necessary paperwork which will be submitted to East Lindsey District Council by the Clerk.

CORRESPONDENCE

****See attached**

Councillor Cummings has kindly agreed to attend the Broadband summit which is being hosted by Victoria Atkin MP on Friday 20th January. He has collated information from residents of the village as to the speeds currently being obtained. He will provide a report on the summit and whether we can expect any improvement in internet speed at the next meeting.

Correspondence received from Lincolnshire County Council regarding the current level of grass cutting for the Village's verges has been received. Due to funding cuts the grass verges will now only be cut once per year by Lincolnshire County Council except for grass near to junctions or areas of poor visibility which for safety reasons will be cut more frequently. The farming community within the village have taken it upon themselves to ensure that the verges remain cut for which the Parish Council extended their heartfelt thanks.

An E mail has been received suggesting a community clean up could be arranged. Whilst initially this was met with enthusiasm it was soon dismissed owing to the fact the village does not have a litter problem.

OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

The process of Co Opting Councillor Cummings was completed with the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Clerk will file the necessary papers with East Lindsey District Council.

The speed limit warning sign is currently not working. It is thought that the batteries need re charging and the limit may be set incorrectly. Councillor Shucksmith will take steps to attempt to fix the sign.

Discussion took place about the possibility of raising funds to install a foot path along Yarburgh Road. Councillor McNally did not think funds would be forthcoming from LCC for such a project considering the current economic climate. It was thought such a project would be prohibitively expensive for the Parish Council to raise sufficient funds on their own, given the lay of the land as the road sits higher than the adjoining fields. Council McNally did report that he knew of another local Parish who were funding the cost of a footpath themselves. He will attempt to find out the cost of the project.

Councillor McNally reported that the Council's budget was due to be set next month. He anticipates that it will go up by 4%.

NEXT MEETING- Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 7th March 2017 at 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm