

Alvingham Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 3rd December 2018

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

Clerk: Mrs S McFarland

Apologies: Councillor D Buckley
Councillor A Bridges

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked all those in attendance

Apologies

Apologies had been received prior to the meeting from Councillors Buckley and Bridges and were duly recorded.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th September 2018 having been circulated prior to the meeting were approved and proposed by Councillor Cummings and seconded by Councillor Graves and signed as a true record by Councillor Ashley.

Matters Arising

We had received an indication from the Highway department that the road surface along Church Lane would be looked at. This is to be followed up as nothing has yet been done.

The potholes along the road to Louth at Keddington will also be followed up as the response received from the highways department regarding this has been unsatisfactory.

In relation to the water supply to the Mill pond the draft letter prepared by The Clerk was considered and amended as required so that this can now be submitted to the environment department.

Councillor Shucksmith gave his permission for his details to be passed on to the other Parish Clerks who share the speed sign so that we can hopefully get into a rota for moving the sign between the 4 parishes. It is not clear who has the sign at present.

Planning

There have been 3 planning applications since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

The first in relation to Louth Water Recycling Centre has already been approved.

The second in relation to an extension to Rose Cottage Church Lane was met with no objections from the Parish Council.

In relation to the third, an extension to The Barn Church Lane Councillor Ashley's family interest in the application was noted and his views will not be taken into consideration. Concerns were raised as to the size of the extension given from the councillors' recollections the originally planning was approved strictly on the understanding the dwelling would not exceed the footprint of the original barn. The Clerk will check the position in relation to the conditions imposed and forward an appropriate response to East Lindsey in relation to this.

Treasurers Report

Councillor Cummings reported that the balance in the bank account stands at £2729.58. A cheque was approved and signed for the Clerk's payment.

Correspondence

Mr & Mrs Skill of Highbridge Road had sent a letter with regard to the state of the road outside their property. Councillor Ashley indicated that he would have a look at the problem and report back so we can then consider the best course of action to help with this.

PKF Littlejohn the accounts auditors are seeking a payment of £40 + VAT as a result of them having to chase a document. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed the level of service received from this organisation did not match that provided by the previous auditors who had supplied a pack of documents to enable easy compliance. It was agreed by all councillors that it seemed most unreasonable that this charge had been applied and that no one was happy for it to be paid.

We had received an offer to supply a grit bin for the parish. Discussion took place as to the advantages and disadvantages of having a grit bin, where it could be sited and whether it would be of any significant benefit to the villagers. It was decided that it would not greatly benefit the village for the number of occasions on which it might be used.

Precept

Discussion took place as to what the precept should be for the coming year. It was felt that there was no real need for an increase. Parish Council costs have been reduced a little. However it was agreed that the funds saved could be put to a good use which benefits the village at some point in the future, therefore it was felt it would be prudent to keep the

precept the same as last year at £2000. This was proposed by Councillor Cummings and unanimously agreed.

Other Relevant Business

Councillor Cummings asked what the situation was in relation to the grass cutting. It is understood that Mr Jackson who cuts the grass at present has sold his tractor. Councillor Ashley has spoken to him as is assured he intends to continue to cut the strip running towards North Cockerington and near to the school but not the path along the canal. It was agreed we are providing a service in keeping the canal grass short as it is a nice walk. It was hoped the traffic moving on foot along the canal will keep the grass sufficiently short. If it does not we will have a look for an alternative person who has the appropriate equipment to cut this stretch of grass for us.

There have been further issues with the service from BT in relation to FTTP broadband. There have been further incidents of residents being without any broadband service for several weeks due to mix ups by BT/Openreach. Councillor Cummings is going to take this up with BT management.

We have had reports that the safety barriers on both Highbridge and Abbey Road are broken. This will be reported to the Highways department as it is their responsibility to fix them. The Clerk will attend to this.

Next meeting

Tuesday 22nd January 2019

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm and thanked everyone for attending.