

ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Almeley Parish Council held on 14 May 2014 in Almeley Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Mrs Price (Chair), Mr Glyn-Jones, Mr Hope, Mr Plummer, Mrs Jones, Mr Skyrme.

1. APOLOGIES for absence: none were received.
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 March 2014 were approved and signed.
3. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.
 - a. Lengthsman Scheme. Mr Peter Watts has started work in the parish and submitted details of work carried out. An application form for a grant to support the work has been submitted to Balfour-Beatty, but no reply had been received.
 - b. Replacement bin, West View, Almeley. It was noted that the bin is in a bad state of repair and has not been emptied for some time. It was agreed that those responsible for emptying that bin and one in Woonton should be contacted and asked to empty the bins. Mr Plummer agreed to contact those who empty the bin in Woonton.
4. CORRESPONDENCE
 - a. Letter of resignation as a Parish Councillor from Mr Kevin Powell. It was noted that no requests for an election had been received, and the Parish Council was now able to co-opt a replacement for Mr Powell. The Electoral Office, Herefordshire District Council, has agreed that a quorum for future meetings may be reduced to three, instead of the previously agreed four. Mr James Edwards had expressed interest and it was agreed that he should be co-opted to fill the vacancy.
 - b. Letter from Mrs Finlayson expressing concern that sheep had been taken across Spearmarsh Common, including the roped-off cricket area. She asked that the person concerned should be aware of her concerns. It was noted that no permanent damage had been done to the Cricket Pitch.
 - c. Letter from the Cricket Club seeking a donation towards work undertaken on Spearmarsh Common. It was proposed by Mr Hope, seconded by Mrs Jones that £300 should be donated.
5. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. Mr Hope reported that 2,500 houses have to be built in Herefordshire. Sites have been proposed for a number of houses, some of which were in appropriate, e.g. building on sites subject to flooding. The District Council, rejecting some applications, had lost on appeal, which was costly to the ratepayer.

Mr Glyn-Jones raised the problem of small holders because of proposals to sell off small holdings, which will have an impact on the Parish. Mrs Jones reported that NFU and TFA had organised meetings to raise concerns about the future of tenants. Small holdings had been visited and options discussed. These included: continue as

now; sell all holdings or go into partnership with others. No decision will be made before the general election next year. It was agreed that tenants needed to be given assurances about what is happening to enable them to make plans for the future. Young people will be particularly affected because of uncertainty about their future. Mr Hope commented that a survey is being conducted to agree a possible solution to the problem.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN. Mr Glyn-Jones reported that the questionnaire had been collated. There had been 167 responses. Mr Tony Hill had worked through all the responses, and produced a document indicating the results, which will be reported to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting. Mr Glyn-Jones commented that support and guidance from residents will be required when the Neighbourhood Development Plan is prepared.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS.

a. It was noted that £511.24 has been deducted from the Parish Council Account by the Public Works Loans Board. The outstanding balance is now £3,802.

b. It was proposed by Mr Glyn- Jones, seconded by Mrs Jones and agreed unanimously that the following accounts should be paid:

- i. Hire of Village Hall £18.00.
- ii. Annual Insurance Fee AON - £484.64
- iii. Payment for lengthsman: £198.75.
- iv. Clerk's salary and expenses: £1,63.70
- v. Paper copy plans supplied by District Council Planning Department: £48.00
- vi. Mr Peter Watts, Lengths man, £198.75

8. PLANNING MATTERS

Noted the following planning applications to which no objections had been raised:

- i. The Meadows, Almeley. Demolition of existing side extension and construction of new extension.
- ii. Land at the Old Shop. Proposed cottage – outline planning application.
- iii. Proposed single storey garage with vehicular access, East Cottage Almeley. This application has been approved by Herefordshire Council with conditions.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.45pm.