

ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Almeley Parish Council held on 28 May 2015 in Almeley Village Hall.

Councillors Present: Mr Hope (Chair), Mrs Price (Vice Chair), Mr Edwards, Mr Hall, Mr Payne, Mr Skyrme.

Mr Clive Skelton, District Councillor was welcomed to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs Tucker.
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 March 2015 were confirmed and signed.
3. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:
 - A. Adopt a telephone kiosk scheme. It was noted that a contract between the Parish Council and British Telecom had been signed confirming that ownership of the kiosks in Almeley and in Woonton had been transferred to the Parish Council. Volunteers would be sought to refurbish the kiosks.
 - B. Rubbish Collection Bins. Mr Payne had provided temporary repair to the bin on Spearmarsh Common. The bin in Woonton was now emptied on a regular basis. It was not possible to repair the bin at the corner of West View, which will need replacement. The average cost of a suitable bin is £300. It was agreed to defer purchase of a bin until the next meeting when Parish Council finances are clear. Money in the account is ring fenced for Neighbourhood Development Plan activities and expenses are due shortly. It was proposed that a more suitable site for the bin at the corner of West View would be on land adjoining the notice board which is the property of Kemble Housing Association; consent for which may be difficult to obtain.
4. CORRESPONDENCE
 - A. A contribution towards purchase, installation and maintenance of a defibrillator for the parish was requested. A defibrillator had been donated to the parish, and the Village Hall Committee of Management had financed the purchase of a box to house the defibrillator, which will be installed in the porch of The Bells. Connection to an electricity supply will be necessary. It was agreed that a contribution towards this might be appropriate; a decision will be made at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
 - B. Letter from Mrs Jean Morris requesting provision of a bus shelter at the corner of West View. Information had been obtained from a number of sources on the cost of an appropriate bus shelter. The average was £4,500, far beyond the resources of the Parish Council. It was agreed, with regret, that it was not possible to meet this request.
 - C. Request for a donation from Almeley Cricket Club. A donation is offered annually, to assist with maintenance of the cricket pitch on Spearmarsh Common. It was proposed by Mr Hall, seconded by Mr Payne and agreed unanimously that a donation of £300 should be made.

- D. Lengths man Scheme. It was noted with regret that Mr Peter Watts, currently lengths man for the parish had resigned. Information had been received from BalfourBeatty about the range of duties appropriate for lengths man, and available funding. It was agreed to recruit a replacement for Mr Watts as the work had been of great value to the parish relating to ditching, hedge trimming and general maintenance.
- E. A letter had been received drawing attention to the noise from apple spraying which was disturbing until late in the evening. It was explained that spraying was essential and that it must be carried out after dark to protect the bee population from hazardous sprays. Spraying was intermittent during the season.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

Mr Glyn-Jones presented an update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan. A Draft of the plan had been sent to Mr Ted Bannister, Forward Planning Officer, Herefordshire Council. His comments were awaited and which will include Environmental factors. A public meeting will be held before a final version is submitted to the District Council for approval.

The Neighbourhood Planning Team has provided information on modifications to Core Strategy Policies in order to give more clarity and certainty to housing delivery in rural areas; but we have been working on objectives for housing that were previously in existence. We have been informed that the increase in housing is 12%, which we were not anticipating and means that the number of houses to be built by 2031 totals 21. There are extenuating circumstances, which will not exclude development in Woonton. Sites for development have to be found. Two houses have already been built, and three more are committed, which means that sites for the remaining 28 must be identified. This is a significant increase in what has been planned and may mean that houses will be built in clusters of 5-6, rather than the groups of 2-3 outlined in the draft NDP. Some areas where development may be possible have already been identified; two of which belong to the District Council in Almeley and Almeley Wootton and over which it will have some control. It is not known whether additional houses would be accepted, but if not, additional sites for houses have to be found in order to fulfil requirement of the District Council's Core Strategy Policies. A suggestion was made that an approach should be made to local farmers to release land for development, but an approach had already been made to some land owners.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. It was proposed by Mrs Price, seconded by Mr Payne and agreed unanimously that the annual subscription to the Herefordshire Association Local Councils should be paid: £384.62.
- b. It was proposed by Mr Skyrme, seconded by Mrs Price and agreed unanimously that the following account should be paid: Hire of Village Hall £54,00

c. It was proposed by Mr Skyrme, seconded by Mr Edwards and agreed unanimously that the Clerk's salary £1,000 and expenses £40.48 should be paid.

d. It was proposed by Mrs Price, seconded by Mr Edwards and agreed unanimously that a contribution towards mowing and general tidying of the area around the telephone box in Woonton should be paid to Mr John Smith: £25.00

e. It was proposed by Mrs Price, seconded by Mr Skyrme and agreed unanimously that the first half-yearly payment for mowing Spearmarsh Common should be paid £750.00

f. AON Insurance. It was proposed by Mrs Price, seconded by Mr Skyrme and agreed unanimously that the account should be paid £484.64

AUDIT – details of expenditure and the bank reconciliation were presented for approval.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.20pm.