

ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Almeley Parish Council held on Thursday, 6th March 2014 in Almeley Village Hall.

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

1. APOLOGIES for absence were received from Mr Plummer and Mr Skyrme
2. MINUTES of the meeting held on 4 December 2013 were approved and signed subject to the following amendment: Item 5 to read: 'A grant of £4,500 had been received for printing, distribution and analysis of the questionnaire (not £5,000 as stated).
3. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES:
 - a. Lengths man Scheme. Four enquiries had been received. Mr Watts has experience of working as a lengths man locally. It was proposed and agreed that he should be offered the contract, subject to agreement of the District Council. Mr Hope agreed to orientate him on requirements for the work.
 - b. Tender for mowing Spearmarsh Common and maintenance of the War Memorial. One tender had been submitted; Mr Allan Payne. It was proposed and agreed that he should be offered the contract. The work to be the same as in previous years.
4. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATES. It was noted that questionnaires had been circulated to those whose names appear on the electoral role. Extension to the date for return of questionnaires was agreed.
5. NOTES letter of thanks from Herefordshire Citizens Advice for donation received.
6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
BUDGET. Figures outlining the scale of reductions that the District Council has to find over the next four years were presented. In addition to previous reductions over the last three years, the Council's draft medium plan indicates a need to make £32.3 million worth of savings in the next four years as indicated below:
In 2013/14 £12.9 million; 2014/15 £14.7 million; 2015/16 £8.2 million and 2016/17 £9.4 million.
These figures assume a 1.9% Council tax interest each year, 1% pay rises and will mean the Councils total budget will fall from £150 million in 2013/14 absorb all additional social care costs and be £140 million in 2016/17

To achieve these reductions the following will be necessary:
 - Reductions of opening hours of museum and Old House transfer of Ross Market Hall to the Town Council, Ledbury Heritage Centre in a community asset transfer.

- Museum resources centre and all collections will be placed into an independent charitable trust.
- Wigmore Leisure Centre is to have its subsidy reduced from 22K to 15K.
- Negotiations will commence with Kington Town Council and the school to asset transfer Lady Hawkins Leisure Centre. In the meantime, a reduced service, opening hours and staff reductions may occur.
- Grants to Herefordshire Association of Local Councils will be lost completely.

Transport reductions

- The annual spend on passenger transport is £7.76 million with the largest share of £3.54 million spend on home to school transport, special educational needs and subsidy of post 16 transport.
- Supported local bus services and community transport £1.8 million.
- Concessionary ravel for older people £21.4 million and transport for adult day care 440 K. The original changes proposed to school transport have been amended to support existing pupils and individual school budgets.

Planning

When planning proposals are being considered, advice should first be sought from planners. This will attract a fee, but the planners offering advice will be those involved in subsequent decisions.

The Core Strategy Document and three local Neighbourhood plans are awaited. This means that any future house building will be expected to contribute funding to community priorities.

The local planner is Mr Philip Mullineux. pmullineux@herefordshire.gov.uk

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. Noted that £565.54 had been received from the LEADER Project, which is now complete.
- b. It was proposed by Mrs Price, seconded by Mr Glyn-Jones and agreed unanimously that the following accounts should be paid:

NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXPENDITURE. It was noted that a grant had been receive through the District Council from Central Government. There has been no increase in residents' council tax to meet the costs of producing the questionnaire and the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

	£
Printing of questionnaire 600 copies (75p each)	450.00

Computer ink, stationery, envelopes and labels, website and stamps for distribution and return of questionnaire	641.46
Refreshments for public meeting held on 16 January 2014.	14.02
Hire of Hall for public meeting held on 16 January 2014	18.00

8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a. Dairy Cottage, Stocks Court, Woonton. Single storey rear extension. Planning consent REFUSED by Herefordshire District Council Planning Department
- b. Demolition and removal of existing fuel tank and storage building and siting of a new fuel tank, St. Mary's Church, Almeley. Planning consent APPROVED by Herefordshire District Council Planning Department.
- c. Sycamore Place, Woonton. General purpose timber frame agricultural building for storage of farm equipment and animal shelter. Planning consent APPROVED by Herefordshire District Council Planning Department, subject to conditions
- d. The Stables, Stocks Court, Woonton. Installation of wood burning stove and flue. Planning consent APPROVED Herefordshire District Council Planning Department.
- e. Land at the Old Shop, Almeley. Outline Planning for proposed cottage on the site. No objections were raised.
- f. Lower Woonton Farm. Proposed agricultural workers dwelling an alteration to highway access (To include hedgerow removal and replanting). Application withdrawn.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.15pm