

ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON 6th JULY 2016

Present:

Councillor Mr John Hope Parish Council Chairman
Councillor Mr Barry Hall Parish Council Vice-Chairman
Councillor Mrs Barbara (Bee) Held
Councillor Mr Allan Payne
Councillor Mrs Elizabeth (Liz) Tucker

Parish Council Clerk/RFO

Mrs. Marion Scott

Also Present

Ward Councillor Mr Clive Skelton. Lengthsman Mr. Andy Cross and 20 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.00pm

1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from Mr. Martin Skyrme due to business commitments and Mr. James Edwards due to family commitments.
Locality Steward for Balfour Beatty Living Places (BBLP), Lara Edwards not present.
No presence for the local police.

2.0 Declaration of Interest & Dispensations

2.1 No declaration of interest made.
2.2 No applications for dispensations received.

3.0 Speakers - Opportunity for visiting speakers to address council

3.1 Ward Councillor Mr. Clive Skelton provided the following up-dates:

- Mr. Clive Skelton gave an up-date on the Link Road/Bypass which he had concerns regarding the method of initial excavation.
- The commencement of the disposal of Small-holdings was in the process of being drawn up by the Auctioneers. A meeting had been arranged with the Tenant Farmers to work out a strategy, and it was envisaged that an extension of six months would be granted to the Tenant Farmers.

4.0 Public Question Time

Matters raised:

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the proposed planning application at the junction A480 and Hopleys Green, which was supported by several members of the public. Transportation issues were raised, and she felt that a survey should be made to investigate road speed issues. The Chairman, Mr. John Hope said that this was an opportunity for a particular dangerous bend to be widened. Another member of the public related an incident whereby an articulated lorry was across the main road and actually forced several cars to take emergency measures to avoid an accident.

In view of the recent applications for housing and Crump Oak road access development, it was decided that an Extra-Ordinary meeting be held to discuss these planning applications.

It was also requested that the Parish Clerk contact Balfour Beatty to conduct a survey of the speed of traffic through the Woonton bend, with a view to extend the current 40mph to beyond the entrance to Sunnybank Farm on the A480. Proposed by John Hope and Seconded by Barry Hall. All present were in favour.

A member of the public asked whether Mr. Clive Skelton had followed the issue of the Road-side Mirror at the end of Hells Lane. Mrs Marion Scott, who had raised the issue (before becoming Parish Clerk) stated that Mr. C. Skelton had been most diligent (Balfour Beatty had missed the appointment), but the follow-up from the Dept. of Transport would suggest that they are very reluctant to erect road-side mirrors and no further action had been taken. Liz Tucker queried perhaps a Concealed Entrance sign, which the Parish Clerk shall investigate.

An enquiry was also made as to whether Clive Skelton would support the Crump Oak Access application. No comments were received from Clive Skelton.

5.0 Minutes

Following a Proposal by Liz Tucker and Seconded by Bee Held it was resolved that The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th May 2016 and the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 25th May 2016 having been previously distributed were unanimously confirmed as true records and signed by the Parish Council's Chairman.

6.0 Planning Applications for Consideration

6.1 Planning application 161357 – Agricultural storage barn. Approved 22 June 2016. Noted.

6.2 Planning application 161268 – Land at Pool Farm. Woonton. Application withdrawn 27 June 2016.

Three Planning applications had been received since the Agenda was posted:

Planning application 161919 – Land at the junction of A480 and Hopleys Green Road. Three detached dwellings with detached double garages.

Planning application 161814 – Crump Oak Wood - New access and close existing access (Lyonshall Parish).

Planning application 162062 – Application for prior notification of agricultural development- proposed building.

Barry Hall stated that the Parish Council should consider all these impending applications at an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting. The Parish Clerk to notify the Parish Council of the date when this meeting would be held.

Liz Tucker had contacted HALC and in view of the bi-monthly Parish Council meetings, it was Proposed by Liz Tucker and Seconded by Barry Hall that Best Practice was: Parish Clerk to notify Parish Councillors of Planning Applications when received and for comments to be submitted to the Parish Clerk within 7 days. Any Parish Councillor could request a Meeting to be called if it was felt necessary.

All planning applications would now be automatically posted on the web-site. However, concerns were raised by members of the public who had no/poor access to the Internet. It was therefore decided that the Parish Clerk would post each Friday on the Parish Notice Board any planning applications received that week, and again comments could either be submitted to the Parish Clerk or direct to Herefordshire Planning Department.

7.0 Roads and Footpaths

Report from Mr Andy Cross: Reported that some residents were dumping grass cuttings on the road-side. Suggested that this be reported in Offa Tee News. Proposed by Liz Tucker and Seconded by John Hope. Liz Tucker and Bee Held were going to investigate the Footpaths and would suggest to Andy Cross any recommendations. John Hope mentioned two hedges that were restricting visibility and the Parish Clerk is to contact the current owners to suggest that this be rectified.

8.0 Financial Information: May 2016

Account balance 28th May 2016
Community account: £7,233.62
Business Savings account: £145.38
Total bank balance: £7,379.00

Cheques to authorise

Andy Cross (to 31.03.2016)	£1,051.50
Aon Insurance	£479.18
MP Scott PC (April/May)	£478.80
MP Scott Expenses	£88.46
HMRC (MPS)	£119.70
MP Scott Currys PC (From NALC Grant)	£399.99
Eyelid Prod. (Website from NALC Grant)	£500.00
Hire Hall (Jan.-May)	£108.00
A. Cross	£119.00
Total payments	£3,344.63

Payments received:

Precept Levy	£5,000.00
Bank interest	£0.02
Total received	£5,000.02

Debtors

Lengthsman Grant £2978.68 received 24 June 2016.

£482.00 due. The Pariah Clerk was able to report that this money was received 28 June 2016.

Closing balance £9,034.39 (Opening balance £7,379.00 + £1,655.39)

8.2 Payments to be agreed. Following a Proposal by Allan Payne and Seconded by Barry Hall it was **resolved** that the above payments are paid from the parish funds.

8.3 Payments received. See above.

8.4 Requests for financial aid: Almeley Cricket Club.

Proposed by Liz Tucker and Seconded by Barry Hall that Almeley Cricket Club be given £400.00, £200.00 for July 2016 and the remaining £200.00 following the September 2016 PC Meeting. All present in favour.

8.5 Banking Mandate

In view of the difficulties with Barclay's Bank adding signatories, it was Proposed by Liz Tucker and Seconded by Barry Hall that the Parish Clerk investigate switching over to HSBC as Barclays's Branch shall be closing in September 2016 and HSBC shall still be operating a branch in Kington.

9.0 Matters arising from last meeting

9.1 Up-date of BT Kiosk: The Parish Clerk stated that following receipt of a letter from BT dated 3rd June 2016, both BT Kiosks had been adopted, but the Internal Auditor stated that the £2.00 cheque made payable to BT had not been cashed. The Parish Clerk was informed by the Insurance Company that the BT Kiosks were covered by Public Liability Insurance - The Parish Clerk was asked to request from the Insurance Company whether work carried out by Volunteers was covered, and also to contact the Volunteer Groups regarding the works that shall be carried out. Proposed by Liz Tucker and Seconded by Allan Payne to be put on the Agenda for the September 2016 and to discuss whether to retain the BT Kiosks or dispose of them.

9.2 NDP – Minutes of the NDP Meeting held on 4th July 2016 were read out by Liz Tucker. Information about the next meeting will be posted on On-line (Almeley Web-site), on Facebook and in the Offa Tree News. In view of the fact that some resident have no/poor access to the Internet, the Parish Council shall also post news of the NDP on the Parish Council Notice-board.

9.3 Leader Project - It is proposed that the Leader Project be put on hold. The Chief Executive of the W/Life Trust is in discussions with Herefordshire Council as to the proposed management of the Commons, and the Parish Council shall await the outcome. Opinion was expressed that the Leader Project money should be spent on one large project rather than several small projects.

Barry Hall then raised a problem with a Parish Council seat – namely the seat opposite Westview, which is in a very poor state of condition. Allan Payne stated that Almeley Parish Council has 10 Parish Council seats. It was Proposed by Bee Held and Seconded by Allan Payne that Andy Cross look at all the seats for assessment and report back to the Parish Council. Liz Tucker then suggested that perhaps a plaque be put on one of the Parish Council seats to commemorate the Queen’s 90th Birthday.

10.0 Confirmation of the next Ordinary Meeting, Venue, Date and Time

10.1 Almeley Village Hall, 14th September 2016, 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Councillor Mr John Hope Parish Council Chairman

Signed.....Dated 14 September 2016