

ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2016

Present:

Councillor Mr John Hope Parish Council Chairman
Councillor Mr James Edwards
Councillor Mrs Barbara (Bee) Held
Councillor Mr Allan Payne
Councillor Mr Martin Skyrme

Parish Council Clerk/RFO

Mrs. Marion Scott

Also Present

Ward Councillor Mr Clive Skelton. Lengthsman Mr. Andy Cross and 10 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.30pm

1.0 Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs Elizabeth (Liz) Tucker due to family commitments and Councillor Mr. Barry Hall 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 Declarations of pecuniary interest made by Councillor Martin Skyrme and Councillor James Edwards relating to item 6.1. Declaration of non-pecuniary interest relating to item 6.1 made by Chairman John Hope.
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 was proceeding.
- He had looked with Lara Edwards at the ditches at Woonton and part of the overgrown hedge in the village had been cut back.
- Various large planning developments had been approved: The new super-market at Ledbury and at Penrhos Court.
- A seminar was to be held on Water Pollution at The Baskerville Hotel 20th September 2016.

4.0 Public Question Time

Matters raised:

A letter was read out by the Parish Clerk from Mr. Giles McQuiston – a tenant farmer, expressing his concern at the proposal to sell off the small-holding farms. He stated that he had been given notice to quit next May. He raised the question as to whether the Council had any plans to supply some affordable/local housing that would allow the affected farmers to remain in the Parish and Community that they love. Concern was expressed by the Parish Council at the prospect of the tenant farmers losing their homes and businesses, and the lack of available housing for them. Councillor Clive Skelton commented that Selling Agents have been appointed and a report was to be made to Herefordshire Council. However, it was

“The Cabinet” of the Council who were making the decisions and Councillor Clive Skelton commented that he had not been able to take a vote on the issue. The Parish Council asked the Parish Clerk to write to Herefordshire Council expressing their concerns and to request from them their proposals to help the tenant farmers.

5.0 Minutes

Following a Proposal by Councillor Mrs Bee Held and Seconded by Councillor Allan Payne it was resolved that The Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th July 2016 and the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 14th July 2016 having been previously distributed were unanimously confirmed as true records and signed by the Parish Council’s Chairman.

6.0 Planning Application for Consideration

6.1 Planning application 162312 – Land at Pool Farm, Woonton. Proposed residential development of 6 dwellings, demolition of existing agricultural buildings, provision of orchard strip, foul drainage treatment plant and other associated works.

A resident living next door to the proposed development again raised her concerns, that with 3 houses already agreed at Hopleys Green, there would be too many houses in the hamlet.

A letter from some Woonton residents was read out by the Parish Clerk with their comments and recommendations as follows:

- We do feel that this is a much better thought out plan, with a greater variety of housing units and the feel of it seems to be more in keeping with Woonton than the initial submission.
- Much of the development will be under tarmac/brick/concrete leading to more run-off onto the C1079.
- Broadband speed and reliable internet service is poor in Woonton. According to Fastershire, given our distance from the exchange box in Lyonshall, the laying of fibreoptic cable to Woonton is unlikely to happen within the next couple of years. If permission was to be granted, could the developer be encouraged to provide a central satellite receiver that could provide a better broadband service to all of Woonton?
- There is a dominance of red brick in the proposed houses, especially when viewed from surrounding roads. Greater use of wood and stone would tone the buildings down a bit and blend in with, rather than dominate, Woonton.
- There are concerns about the drainage and possible pollution of the springs.
- We would have preferred a maximum of 4 or 5 units, especially since three have already been approved for the Hopleys Green Road development. This would take it to 9 new homes in a very short space of time - taken together this would be disproportionate for Woonton. These developments, taken together, would further increase traffic on already difficult junctions with the A480.

Councillors Mrs Bee Held and Mr. Allan Payne commented that they felt that there was too much concrete, and it appeared that there was a parking space for each bedroom. They also expressed concerns that there would be drainage problems.

There being no quorum, no voting took place.

7.0 Roads and Footpaths

Report from Mr Andy Cross: Reported that strimming had taken place around the village and clearing of foot-paths where appropriate, however, some of this clearing was the responsibility of land-owners.

Chairman, John Hope stated that several villagers had informed him that the village was looking very tidy and congratulated Mr Andy Cross on his endeavours. The Parish Clerk was asked to investigate the rules with regards to footpaths across farmland: how quickly they should be re-instated and the width that the path should be.

8.0 Neighbourhood Development Plan

A report was read out by Mr. McAndrew on behalf of The Chairwoman, Mrs Liz Tucker. This report shall be attached to the Minutes. It is proposed that the next meeting shall be 2nd November 2016, which shall be open to the public and the first draft of the Plan shall be put on display.

9.0 Financial Information: July 2016

Account balance 28th June 2016
Community account: £8,888.99
Business Savings account: £145.40
Total bank balance: £9,034.39

Cheques to authorise

A. & S. Payne (Mowing Spearmarsh Common)	£800.00
Almeley Cricket Club (Donation)	£200.00
S. Hathaway (Internal Audit)	£50.00
MP Scott PC/RFO (June-July)	£338.40
MP Scott Expenses	£2.84
HMRC (MPS)	£84.60
Public Loans Work Board	£511.24
Hire Hall (July)	£27.00
Hire Hall (NDP)	£18.00
HALC (Web Hosting/Domain)	£36.00 *
Total payments	£2,068.08

Payments received:

Lengthsman Grant	£3,460.68
Bank interest	£0.02
Total received	£3,460.70

* Includes VAT 20%

Debtors

£191.82

Closing balance £10,427.01 (Opening balance £9,034.39 + £1,392.62)

9.2 Payments received. See above.

9.3 Payments to be agreed. Following a Proposal by Councillor Martin Skyrme and Seconded by Councillor Allan Payne it was **resolved** that the above payments are paid from the parish funds.

9.4 Receipt of Parish Council Precept 2017/2018. The Parish Clerk informed the Parish Council that a budget would be submitted to the November meeting to ensure that the application would be submitted before 31 December 2016 dead-line.

10.0 Matters arising from last meeting

10.1 Up-date of BT Kiosk: The Parish Clerk read out correspondence from a group of volunteers giving an up-date on works carried out to date. Proposed by Councillor Martin Skyrme and Seconded by Councillor James Edwards that Almeley Parish Council adopt the BT Kiosks. Chairman, John Hope requested that a letter be sent to Greta Beresford, Clair Price and Sonia Hunt thanking them for the work carried out.

10.2 Up-date of Leader Project. Mr. Andy Cross gave a report of all the benches inspected and the proposed works to be carried out. After discussion, the Parish Clerk and Mr. Andy Cross are to make further investigations and report back to the Parish Council as to how to maximise the repairs and purchases within the budget of £600.

10.3 Up-date on Bank Account transfer. The Parish Clerk reported that a meeting had been arranged with HSBC (Hereford Branch).

10.4 Up-date on signage for dog-fouling on the Common. The Parish Clerk contacted the Council. However, the signs e-mailed across were totally inappropriate, so the Parish Clerk shall look to purchase from the Internet.

10.5 The Parish Clerk sent two letters in March 2016 to the Environment Agency and Herefordshire Council regarding the noise and smell problems at Broadfields Farm, Logaston. A reply was received from the Environment Agency 20 April 2016, but no reply from Mr. Willimont at Herefordshire Council. Several reminders were sent to Mr. Marc Willimont, a reply was eventually received 26th July and read out to the members of the public.

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

11.1 Almeley Village Hall, 9th November 2016, 7.30pm

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm

Councillor Mr John Hope Parish Council Chairman

Signed.....

Date.....