

ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Almeley Parish Council held on 11th February 2015 in Almeley Village Hall.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE- None was received.
2. MINUTES of the meeting held on 26 November 2014 were approved and signed.
3. MATTERS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.
 - a. Rubbish collection bins in Almeley and Woonton. It was noted that although the bins are being emptied on a more regular basis, at least two of the bins should be replaced. It was agreed that the cost of replacement bins should be explored before purchase is considered.
 - b. Adopt a telephone kiosk plan. No further information had been received.
4. CORRESPONDENCE – Thursday May 7th 2015 elections.
 - a. Letter from John Jones, Electoral Services Office inviting parish clerks and anyone interested in standing as a candidate for a Parish Council to attend a briefing meeting at the Shire Hall on 16 February 2015 at 6.00pm
It was noted that Parish and District Councils will be in purdah from 28th March until after the election results are known. No business will be conducted during this time.
 - b. Letter from Lynn Hare regarding responsibilities of the Parish Council when considering planning applications. It was explained that planners seek the view of the Parish Council when planning applications are submitted to the District Council and there is a limited time scale for a response. The Parish Council has no decision-making powers.
5. NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE
Mr Glyn-Jones reported that the consultation process for review of the draft NDP is in progress. Responses will be collated and the final draft presented at a public meeting before submission to the District Council. A grant has been approved to engage a technical writer to prepare the final NDP to be presented to residents at the referendum stage.
6. FINANCIAL MATTERS
It was proposed by Mr Glyn Jones, seconded by Mr Skyrme and agreed unanimously that the following accounts should be paid.
 - a. Lengths man scheme - £418.00
 - b. Website annual fee - £174.07

- c. Hire of Village Hall -£18.00
- d. NDP expenditure - £85.99
- e. Herefordshire Council distribution of paper planning applications £16.00
- f. Purchase of display boards (NDP) £403.00.

It was noted that payment for printing the draft NDP has been made. A cheque was issued on 12.1.2015 - £312.00

It was noted that £511.24 has been deducted from the Parish Council account by the Public works Loans Board (refurbishment of Village Hall).

An invoice had been submitted by HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils). Questions were raised about the degree of support the Parish Council receives from HALC, and whether the subscription should continue. Some useful information is received on a regular basis, but support when there are problems external to the work of the Parish Council has not been provided. It was agreed that information from HALC should be sought on how work supporting Parish Councils is regarded, before the subscription is paid. It was also noted that in the event of legal action being instigated against Councillors, the legal fees are met by the insurance company engaged by the Parish Council, which is a requirement for all Parish Councils.

7. PLANNING MATTERS.

Noted the following planning application to which no objections were raised:

- (i) Land at Stable Lodge, Almeley. Proposed erection of two detached dwellings.
- (ii) The Meadows, Almeley. Proposed erection of two new purpose-built buildings for the housing and rearing of pigs. No objections were raised and the application has since been withdrawn.

8. Mrs Jones, who represents the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee of Management, raised two items for discussion:

- (i) Donation for purchase and a contribution towards maintenance costs of a defibrillator for the parish. The cost of purchase averages £800.00, an annual service plan is £175.00 and batteries need to be renewed on a regular basis. Training costs for operators also needs to be considered. Councillors agreed that the revenue consequences of purchase and maintenance need to be explored further before any commitment is made.
- (ii) A request had been made for provision of a bus shelter in Almeley; possibly on a corner plot at the entrance to West View. It was agreed that as ownership of the plot is unknown, information should be sought from the Highways Authority.