

ALPHETON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 6 APRIL AT 7PM (REMOTELY BY WAY OF VIDEO CONFERENCING)

1. Present: Cllrs M Gray (Chair), G Baker, K Jacobs, J Moore, T Rix. Also present: Mary Luton-Woodburn, Parish Clerk. *A warm welcome was given to the new Parish Clerk, with an introduction from each member of the Council giving a brief outline of both their personal and local government experience.*
2. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllrs R Kemp, L Malevsi, and Nunn.
3. Declarations of Interest: None were declared.
4. To consider and approve the draft Minutes of the meetings held on:
 - 4.(i) 2 February 2021. The Minutes were approved, as amended at Item 13(e), to delete 'Suffolk Highways' and replace with 'Swift Landscaping' as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposer Cllr Moore, Seconder Cllr Rix.
 - 4.(ii) Additional Meeting: 18 February 2021. The Minutes, as amended, at Item 9(i) to delete 'third' and replace with 'second'; at Item 9(iv) to read 'Cllr Moore agreed to write the consultee response on behalf of the Parish Council...' and at Item 11(i) to delete 'SCC Highways' and replace with 'Swift Holdings', were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Proposer Cllr Jacobs, Seconder Cllr Baker.
5. Matters Arising:

Subject	Next steps
(1) Broken Grit Bin – On Old Bury Road Request has been outstanding for 18 months	Grit bin has not been replaced. - <i>Ongoing</i>
(2) SIDS x 2 – equipment received and located with Cllr Rix.	6 poles needed for SIDS, with an order placed on 8 Feb. Cllr Rix sought an update from SCC. Contractor to complete within 14 weeks. Cllr Kemp sent a reminder on 18 March 2021. <i>Update - Chair to check when the works will take place. Cllr Moore to investigate types, sizes and cost of High Vis jackets (to consider using own platform and tools until exact requirements are known.)</i>

Signed

Dated.....

<p>(3) Defibrillators x 1 – equipment received.</p> <p>2nd Defibrillator waiting delivery - instructions for installation to follow.</p>	<p><i>Update 060421 - Defibrillator installed, registered and available for use. Parishioners notified via Alpheton WhatsApp Group and email.</i></p> <p><i>Details of online Training sessions will be provided free by Gryphon have been circulated via Alpheton WhatsApp Group and email.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Rix confirmed there is still a delay for the second defibrillator from the distributor which should be remedied shortly.</i></p>
<p>(4) Additional Insurance cover for new assets.</p>	<p>Insurance provider CAS has yet to confirm cover and the additional costs involved.</p> <p><i>Chair to chase</i></p>
<p>(5) Flooding in Bridge Street.</p> <p>Ian Parker from EA visited residents on 23 and 24 Dec to investigate flooding.</p> <p>Cllr Kemp contacted Suffolk Highways and Flooding and EA in Feb 2021.</p> <p>Residents of Bridge Street affected, were asked to send details and photos to the EA.</p>	<p>Response from EA to the homeowners and James Cartlidge MP.</p> <p><i>“We discussed the fact that we have experienced exceptional weather events recently; with East Anglia receiving up to triple the usual average rainfall for this period.</i></p> <p><i>This has led to exceptionally high flows in rivers and subsequent flooding of floodplains and other low lying areas. I attach a flood map which indicates that Meadow View lies in Flood Zones 2&3 which is the natural floodplain of the river”.</i></p> <p><i>“We are liaising with our professional partners in Suffolk County Council, who are already carrying out a Section 19 investigation. The investigation team visited residents on 10 March 2021 and are collating flood data to understand and identify lessons and improvements”.</i></p> <p>A joint response from residents was sent to James Cartlidge MP on 23 March 2021 saying;</p> <p><i>“The river should be able to flow freely but it cannot and this does inevitably reduce the flow of water and does increase the level at our properties to the benefit of other properties downstream.</i></p> <p><i>- Ongoing Issue</i></p>
<p>(6) Condition of old building near the Village Hall in Old Bury Road. Cllr Kemp to contact owner.</p>	<p><i>Chair to follow up with Cllr Kemp</i></p>

6. Public Forum: No members of the were public present.

7. District and County Cllrs Reports: Cllr Kemp's March and April reports, Cllrs Malvesi and Nunn reports were circulated with the meeting papers and so they are in the public domain.

Signed

Dated.....

Due to the pre-election/purdah period prior to the May elections, there will be no further reports until after the elections.

8. Correspondence: all correspondence was circulated before the meeting.
9. To consider and approve a proposal to apply for Digital Banking with Yorkshire Bank Plc: Cllrs T Rix and M Gray expressed their support for a move to digital banking. This would facilitate up-to-date knowledge of the Council's financial position. In the past, using cheques as the only form of payment has created difficulties and moving to on-line banking would help. Cllr Rix agreed to complete the documentation, with Cllrs Rix, Nunn and Gray as signatories. Proposed by Cllr Jacobs, Seconded by Cllr Moore; the Council approved the move to digital banking.
10. To consider the purchase of a Laptop for the use of the Clerk for Parish Council work only: Cllr Baker proposed and Cllr Jacobs seconded that a proposal to purchase a laptop for the Clerk's use for Parish Council work only, subject to a maximum expenditure limit of £500, including the purchase of Microsoft Office/365. The Council approved this purchase.
11. Clerk's report:
 - (i) Schedule of items waiting approval: The Council approved the payment of all items on the schedule of items.
 - (ii) SALC salary payroll service for the new Parish Clerk: The Chair provided details of the SALC Salary Payment Service, in order that Council adhere to HMRC requirements. The Council approved this proposal.
12. Planning: No new planning matters
 - (i) To consider Judicial Review instruction to Babergh District Council from Spartan Group: A general discussion about the Judicial Review took place. There had been a call for Cllr Moore to step down by a member of the public; it was agreed that this should not take place and that the Council supported his work on planning matters.
13. Parish Councillors reports:
 - (i) The Chair confirmed that physical Parish Council meetings are back on the Agenda commencing 17th May. Due to meeting dates, this will not affect the Parish Council until August 2021. It was noted that a Risk Assessment of the Village Hall will be needed before the meeting.
 - (ii) To consider the ANPR proposal from SCC and to request for ANPR locations in Alpheton: There is a waiting list of parishes wanting an ANPR. Cllr Moore agreed to apply on behalf of the Council.
 - (iii) Cllr Moore, the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee, reported on the condition of the Village Hall and its refurbishment. Cllr Moore will continue to try to contact the Secretary and Treasurer to progress matters. Cllr Rix to provide Cllr Moore with point of contact for advice about improvements to the village hall electric heating.
14. Date and time of next Parish Council meeting: The next meeting which will be the AGM and the AGPM will be held on Tuesday 4 May at 7pm. This meeting will be held via video conferencing.

Meeting closed: 9pm

Signed

Dated.....