

# ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk – Yvonne Goode

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2006, 7.30pm

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, REDDITCH ROAD, HOPWOOD

06/181 Present:

Cllrs J Puckering, S Caddick, D Matthews, F Molloy, P Sanders, T Thurrell, T Wallis,

In attendance: Clerk - Y Goode

06/182 Apologies: were received and accepted from Cllrs D Farlow, M Garrett, A Willetts and District Cllr J Luck.

06/183 Reports from Ward/ District Councillors:

None present. A report was provided by District Councillor J Luck as follows:

- Consultation groups Alvechurch / Rubery. A copy of an article from a Bromsgrove newspaper had been faxed to her advising of groups to be formed to consult local residents. Cllr Luck wondered whether this had been bought to APC's attention
- Slip road Hopwood. It had previously been agreed following a meeting with the police and HPU that the slip road at Hopwood would have additional signage pointing out access for residents only. As the signs still had not been installed Cllr Luck recommended that we chase HPU.

06/184 Declarations of Interest: None.

06/185 Minutes of the previous meeting: An amendment to point 06/175 of the minutes of the previous meeting held 13/11/06 was noted then they were agreed and signed.

06/186 Clerk's report:

- 1 Longbridge regeneration. A follow up meeting was held with Phil Street Corporate Director BDC to discuss the future of Longbridge. The consultation period has now expired and the preferred option document is awaited. There will be a six week period in which objections may be raised after production of the document. The date of production is hoped to be prior to 19/02/07 if not it is likely to be June 2007.
- 2 Remembrance Service. A letter of thanks has been received from Alvechurch Ex Services Association for the road closure.
- 3 DEFRA Bursary Scheme – Social & Community Programme. Details of a DEFRA bursary have been received. It should be noted that only Parish Councils who have signed up to the Councils Charter are eligible for application.
- 4 Letter received from the Countryside Alliance re rural Post Offices asking for representation to be made. A letter is to be sent to the minister concerned and copied to Julie Kirkbride MP.
- 5 Grant - St Laurence Churchyard. Representation has been made from the Churchyard Committee following the reduction in grant for 2006/2007, stating that the agreement is for a matched grant between the Church and APC. The Clerk had requested a copy of the accounts from 2002 onwards as the last on file are for 2001. This will then be brought to a future meeting for discussion about the agreement which possibly relates back to 1963.

Appendix A

6. Complaints received about drainage of the new school site. The Clerk has spoken to the WCC Architect in charge of the project regarding increased flooding in Birmingham Road and the fields adjacent to the site, which includes the Wiggins Memorial Playing Field. He has raised them with the site manager and will keep us informed.
7. Carol Concert. The meeting was reminded of the BDC Carol Concert being held on 13/12/06 at 6.45pm
8. Bordesley traffic calming meeting. Most invitees have replied that they are available 18/01/07 so the meeting will be arranged for that date and confirmed to all.
9. West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. The meeting was advised of an invite from WCC for Councillors to attend a workshop to be held on Tuesday 23/01/07 at 6.30pm at the Ark, St Laurence Church.
10. Parish Council forum. It was noted that the neighbourhood / area committee pilot in Alvechurch / Rubery is an agenda item for discussion.
11. Barnet Green Scouts. A letter of thanks has been received in respect of the grant
12. BDC response re @15, 15 the Square. A copy of the response from BDC planning department was read out.
13. Outstanding items include:
  1. Disconnection certificate for street lamp, St Laurence Churchyard. Cllrs Ellis and Matthews attended a meeting of the Churchyard committee when the disconnection certificate was discussed. The Committee intend contacting the original electrician before completing the letter of indemnity, it was suggested that we recommended to them that they excavate the ground to check that it has been safely capped.
  2. Christmas lights. These were fitted Friday. There needs to be adjustment as they have not been set to timer and the tree lights have not yet been fitted.
  3. Street lighting maintenance contract management. Prysman have been chased regarding the initial survey. They are currently working with another Council and will contact APC shortly.
  4. Bus shelter. An estimate for replacing the floor and seat of the bus shelter has been received. The design of the seating is to be considered.
  5. Bus Shelter at Bordesley. No update has been received.
  6. Monies arising in connection with the development of the Mill, Radford Road. No update has been received.
  7. Play equipment in George Road Playing field. No update has been received

**06/187 Finance Report:**

1. A list of bills for payment was circulated and agreed.
2. The draft Budget as agreed at the Financial & General Purposes Committee held 27/11/06, was presented and subject to agreement of confidential agenda item 15, will be accepted in full.

**06/188 Confidential Agenda items**

It was agreed to close the meeting to members of the press and public to discuss the confidential agenda items at this stage to complete Budget discussions.

**06/189 Staffing**

The recommendations proposed by the Staffing Committee and agreed by the Finance & General Purposes Committee were considered:

1. To increase the hours of the Clerk to 35 from 30, agreed
2. To increase the hours of the Clerical Assistant to 20 from 15, agreed.

The above will facilitate office opening times to be increased to 10am to 1pm Monday to Thursday inclusive, with effect from 04/12/06.

3. To increase the SCP point for the Clerk from to 27 from 26, agreed
4. To benchmark the salaries of the Clerical Assistant and Caretaker against similar roles with other neighbouring authorities, agreed. The benchmarked salaries will then rise in line with the agreed NALC increase for Clerks, agreed.
5. To accept the NALC National salary agreed awards for 2007/2008, when available, agreed.



.6 To complete new standing order mandates in line with recommendations arising from items .1 to .4 inclusive, agreed.  
Thanks were given to the Staffing Committee for the work done on the item

**06/190 To agree to reconvene meeting**  
Agreed

**06/191 Draft Budget 2007/2008**

In view of points 06/187.02 and 06/189 above, it was agreed to adopt the draft Budget as presented.

**06/192 Committee reports:**

The following minutes were considered:

- .1 Rowney Green Playing Field Committee held 20/11/06. It is hoped that the building inspector can be instructed to visit shortly. It was noted that the Clerk has written to Julie Kirkbride MP regarding the official opening of the Pavilion. It is hoped that APC will be able to instruct the Building Inspector to visit the building next week.
- .2 Financial & General Purposes Committee held 27/11/06
- .3 Planning Committee held 04/12/06.

**06/193 Representatives to other bodies:**

- .1 Alvechurch Village Hall Committee. It was reported that the current hall manager will be continuing with the bookings therefore the Committee had thanked APC for trying to help but their services would not be required.
- .2 St Laurence Churchyard Committee. In addition to point 13.1 it was noted that the issue of disabled access had been discussed and a quotation is being obtained for a disabled ramp.
- .3 Highways Maintenance Consultation group. This had been attended by Cllrs Caddick and Thurrell and the Clerk. It had taken the form of a brainstorming group highlighting main issues. The report is awaited to see how the scrutiny group intend taking the issues forward.

**06/194 To consider request from John Lawson's circus.**

It was agreed to obtain further information regarding the circus' requirements.

**06/195 Projects update**

- .1 Roney Green Pavilion. An update was given in 06/190.1 above.

**06/196 Councilors Questions**

- .1 Office opening hours. Can we advertise the change in next edition of The Village?
- .2 Budget/ Precept. When finalised, can we place an article explaining the rationale in The Village?
- .3 Traffic Calming, Radford Road. Can we please chase the traffic calming / additional lighting.
- .4 New School site. There is a lot of mud on the road outside the site can we speak to the site manager / WCC regarding the traffic leaving the site. In addition the new road layout is poorly lit can we chase the additional lighting.
- .5 Councillor folders. It was enquired how the folders would be used.

**06/197 Information exchange and items for next meeting**  
None

**06/198 Date and time of next meeting**

The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 7.30pm.

This meeting ended at 21.20pm.

Signed .....

Chairman, Alvechurch Parish Council

Date .....

08/01/07

Chairman's initials.....