**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD AT THE GUILD HALL, ASTON CANTLOW**

**ON THURSDAY 12th JANUARY 2017 – NO. 85.**

1. **Record of Members Present:**

Cllr. Wallis, Cllr. Berry, Cllr. Fitzgibbon and one member of the public.

Part meeting: County Cllr. Horner

Cllr Berry agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of the Chairman.

**2. Apologies:**

Cllr. Harvey, Chairman due to ill health and District Cllr. Gittus.

**3. Written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests where that interest is not already in the register of members’ interests:**

No requests were received.

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2016.**

These were approved by all Cllrs. and signed by the acting Chairman.

**5. Public Participation:**

Having investigated further Mrs. Flood was of the opinion that the railings adjacent to No. 3 Holyoake Cottages are not breaching planning regulations.

No further items were raised.

**6. County and District Cllrs. reports for information only. (Unless known in advance items raised for a decision will appear on the next agenda.)**

District Cllr. Gittus provided the following report ahead of the meeting:

**Budget**

Planning continues and we are well on target to reach our Target of a **53%** reduction in our expenditure in the period 2015-2020.

The majority of these savings are required by the reduction of our Government Revenue Support Grant from £4m to £0.

Again this year we can budget for a small increase of either 2% or £5. As 2% is equal to about £3 we are likely to consider the lower option.

This of course will be determined by full council.

Overall I would like to think that SDC has been careful with public purse and that many of the services have improved by efficiency brought about by the need to save money.

**Local Interest points**.

Top half of Alcester High Street is to be re-surfaced shortly (at last)

Vanessa Lowe, Parish Clerk at Welford, is to take over Alcester Clerkship in March.

Gt Alne Maudslay Site, Been agreed to take developer contribution of £5m to provide 47 extra care living units off site.

Alcester Green River Corridor due to open a further 14 acres of green open public space at end of January.

County Cllr. Horner reported as follows:

Following the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement the County Council Administration released its draft budget for the next four years after the Cabinet meeting on December 8. The savings target of £67million will be delivered by spending £5 million on changing the way the Council delivers its services. Council tax will increase by 2% to cover general services and an extra 2% to help fund adult social care. Services will be targeted at the vulnerable in our communities.

* invest in 40 additional children’s social workers
* invest in the education system for our most vulnerable learners and maintain school transport for special needs pupils
* protect our elderly by investing in extra care housing
* councillors community grants will still be available
* capital to fund local small road safety schemes will still be available
* combine the fire service control centre with Northamptonshire FRS - the number of fire stations will be unchanged.
* the roads maintenance budget will be maintained

Growth in council tax from new housing development will be used to fund road improvement schemes. Capital will also be invested in priority road safety schemes across the County targeted at reducing the numbers killed or seriously injured on our roads.

Warwick town centre will be given a traffic management makeover designed to reduce the serious levels of air pollution being experienced there and the Warwick University/Stonelieigh junction on the A46 will be upgraded to manage the high volume of traffic going into Jaguar Landrover and the University.

These proposals will go forward to the full Council for approval on February 2.

Cllr. Horner asked whether we have an update on the problems with the E5341 and the Clerk advised that the County Council, together with landowners, had managed to get some water filled barriers at both ends before Christmas. A decision now has to be made on what the longer term solution should be and when it is carried out and Mr. Morris has requested input from the community in determining the next course of action. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact those residents affected for their comments and include this in the agenda for the February meeting.

Cllr. Berry thanked Cllr Horner for the grant towards the purchase of a Defibrillator on behalf of the Parish Council.

**7. Planning matters – update on current planning applications:**

*Planning Application No. 16/02385/FUL Pools Barn Farm, Little Alne:* Conversion and change of use of agricultural barn to agricultural financial business office and Pools Barn Farm office. Permission granted.

*Planning Application No. 16/02539/OUT Pinehurst, Little Alne*: Outline application for erection of local needs Bungalow with all matters reserved. The decision is still technically pending as the applicant is yet to finalise the S106 to secure the Local needs Occupancy restriction.

*Planning Application No. 16/03233/TREE Apple Tree cottage, Bearley Road, Aston Cantlow:* 4 No fruit trees reduce crowns between 15% and 20%. Tree works approved.

**8. Progress Report for information only:**

Speeding traffic through Little Alne: Although the December forum was cancelled the Police still accepted suggested priorities. Little Alne came a very close fourth and the team adopted the top four priorities on this occasion. Random speed checks will be carried out over three months, January to March 2017.

Trees in Conservation Areas: The District Council must be notified of intention to undertake pruning works or tree felling. This is not a formal application as such but six weeks’ notice must be provided. The only exception is if a stem measures less than 75mm diameter when measured 1.5m above ground level.

**9. Correspondence received:**

- Citizens Advice Service Annual Review and request for continued support.

- WALC advisory – Defamation and Social Media.

- WALC - Nominations for Attendance at a Royal Garden Party.

- WALC training information.

The following were received after the agenda had been circulated:

- Tiffin Club Event 27th January at Warwick Castle.

- Warwickshire Fire and Rescue draft Integrated Risk Management Plan.

- Independent Member Vacancy for Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel.

**10. Parish Plan status:**

In the absence of the Chairman an update on this was not available and is deferred to the February meeting.

**11. Precept:**

Cllr Berry had prepared a draft budget for Cllrs. to consider and this met with the approval of all Councillors. Cllr. Berry proposed that our Precept request for 2017/18 should remain as per the current year at £9,400.00. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Wallis and all were in full agreement.

Confirmation had been received from SDC that a Council Tax Reduction Grant will be paid to Town and Parish Councils along with the Precept payment. The grant figure for Aston Cantlow Parish Council is £190.00 thus making the actual Precept request £9,210.00.

Whilst discussing budget figures Cllr. Wallis proposed that a figure of £1,500.00 should be ringfenced to cover any election costs in the future. This was agreed by all Councillors.

Cllr. Wallis did also express his concern that the Parish Council reserves are rather high. The other Councillors agreed and all were aware that the Parish Council had, for various reasons, not been running at full strength for the past two or three years. Councillors are also mindful that due to Government cuts expenditure for some items may need to be covered by Parish Councils. Funds will be re- assessed when considering the Precept for 2018/19. Cllr Berry also made the point that should we decide to take on a larger project for the benefit of the community it would not be able to be funded by our precept and would have to be funded from our reserves.

**12. Millenium Plaque status:**

The Chairman was due to give an update on this item - it has been deferred to the next meeting.

**13. Lengthsman scheme:**

Cllr. Harvey and Cllr. Berry had a meeting with the contractor who had expressed an interest in this scheme. Mr. Koelman has all the necessary public and products liability insurance and is also registered with Warwickshire County Council and would be happy to work for us. Cllr Berry proposed that we proceed with the scheme, seconded by Cllr. Wallis and agreed by all.

Cllr Berry will now progress the matter with the District Council in order to obtain the grant to cover the first year expenses and arrange for training for Mr. Keolman. Once this has been dealt with Cllr. Harvey and Cllr. Berry will show the contractor around the parish and to give him an insight into the area we cover and some of the work which he may be required to undertake.

**14. Defibrillator update:**

We have been awarded £600.00 towards the cost of a defibrillator from the County Cllrs. Grant fund. After some discussion Cllr. Fitzgibbon proposed we should go ahead and purchase one. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Berry and Cllr. Wallis was in full agreement. The Clerk will complete and return the grant acceptance form and once the funds are received Cllr. Berry will place the order.

Whilst the Village Hall Committee is happy for it to be sited on the side of the building this may not be an ideal position as access to electricity is required and ideally the defibrillator should be more visible. Some further consideration needs to be given to this.

**15.** **Parish Council Events:**

Cllr. Wallis produced a very comprehensive list of suggestions for events and it was agreed all members would go through this and email any further suggestions/comments to Cllr. Wallis within the next two weeks.

**16. Payment of outstanding invoices:**

CPRE £ 36.00 (200478)

**16. Councillor’s reports and items for the agenda for the next meeting:**

Cllr. Fitzgibbon said she will email some notes with suggestions for the website to everyone ahead of the meeting.

Items for the next agenda:

E5341

Millenium Plaque

Defibrillator update

Lengthsman Scheme update

Parish Plan status

Parish Council events

Website

**18. Date of next meeting:** 9th February 2017.

No further business – Cllr. Berry closed the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

For information only.

The following payment was made between meetings:

HMRC (PAYE) £200.60 (200477)