

## ALKBOROUGH AND WALCOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 19:35 on 24 May 2021

### Present

Parish Councillors: J White (Chairman), N Brown, J Ellis, J Gaunt,  
N Harland, D Roberts and S Spencer (Vice Chairman)  
Ward Councillors: Cllr. R Ogg, Cllr. H Rowson  
Parish Clerk: J Mackey  
Members of the Public: 4  
North Lincolnshire Council: Paul Nicholson

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Ward Cllrs: E Marper

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

J White declared an interest in items 6, 7, 11 and 13.

S Spencer declared an interest in item 5.

N Harland declared an interest in item 13.

#### 3. To resolve the adoption of the minutes of the council meetings held on 6 August 2020, 27 August 2020 and 15 December 2020 as a true record

The minutes of the three meetings were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4. Clerk's Updates

a) The Clerk advised that the footpath on Back Street had still not been widened. Mick Johnson, the Highways Operations Manager (Assets and Infrastructure) at NLC had previously advised that this work would be prioritised, hopefully to take place in September 2020. Chaser emails had been sent to Mick Johnson but no reply or acknowledgement had been received; this was similar to the situation in 2020 when this matter was first raised with NLC.

**Action: the Clerk would make further attempts to contact Mick Johnson. Ward Councillor Ogg would also speak with Mick Johnson.**

b) The Clerk advised that resurfacing and kerbing work to West Halton Lane had still not taken place.

**Action: as per 4a) above.**

#### 5. Public Footpath Alk2 – Prospect Lane towards Sandpit Lane

The surface of the public footpath from Prospect Lane towards Sandpit Lane is uneven making it difficult to cut the grass, and the footpath contains various debris; this had been brought to the attention of Colin Wilkinson at NLC. A fence, believed to be the property of NLC, had fallen down three years ago and this matter had been raised with Ward Councillor Ralph Ogg. It was understood that NLC were presently experiencing staffing problems, but the matter would be monitored.

**Action: The Chairman would bring these matters to the attention of Andy Gardener at NLC.**

**6. Parish Paths Partnership 2021**

The Clerk advised that the partnership agreement with NLC was in the second year of a three year arrangement and had been running satisfactorily.

**7. Cemetery**

J Ellis commented that the cemetery gate had been repaired but was in need of painting. D Roberts explained that the weather conditions had not been suitable for exterior painting work, but with the advent of warmer and drier weather the gates would be painted.

The Chairman advised that the John Deere mower that had previously been used for cutting the grass at the cemetery, church and Julian's Bower had come to end of its 'useful life' and had been scrapped on the Council's Asset Register. The cost to replace the mower would be circa £1,200. The Chairman had cut the grass in the last financial year, using his own equipment in view of the condition of the John Deere mower, because the appointed person had stepped down unexpectedly. The Chairman offered to cut the grass again this year and asked that the payment be increased in recognition of the use of his own equipment, any such increase also to be lieu of separate reimbursement of fuel costs, replacement parts and repairs.

The Chairman left the meeting.

The Vice Chairman took the chair.

It was proposed that the Chairman be appointed to cut the grass and that the annual payment be increased from £1,300 to £1,550, this sum to include all consumables, repairs and maintenance.

Proposed: Cllr. S Spencer. Seconded: Cllr. D Roberts

Vote: For 6; Against 0; Abstentions 0.

The Chairman returned to the meeting and took the chair.

**8. To receive and discuss the annual insurance renewal**

The renewal premium through Came & Company had increased to £587.33 from a figure of £358.90 in 2020-21. The following alternative quotations had been received:-

Pen Underwriting Ltd £537.33

Hiscox £755.56

Ecclesiastical £799.49

Zurich Municipal £428.58

It was unanimously agreed to accept the quotation from Zurich Municipal.

***Action: Clerk to arrange the insurance cover.***

**9. Great British Spring Clean**

The Clerk advised that Keep Britain Tidy were promoting a litter-picking campaign to run from 28 May to 14 June and could provide promotional material. It was considered that litter is not a major problem in the area so an organised litter-pick would be unnecessary.

**10. Play Area**

Cllr. N Brown advised that there had been little progress since summer 2020 because of the COVID lockdown situation and many companies furloughing their staff.

The provision of security fencing around the whole perimeter of the Play Area would be investigated as part of the refurbishment project.

The current position on the availability of grants would be investigated.

**Action: Ward Cllr. R Ogg would look into the availability of grants.**

#### 11. Play Area Hedge Cutting

The Clerk advised that the cost of the hedge cutting at the Play Area had been increasing yearly and the charge for 2021-22 had risen to £135; the hedge cutting formed part of an SLA arrangement with NLC. The contractor for the cutting of the grass verges and footpaths in Alkborough had indicated that they would cut the hedge at a cost of £125.

The Clerk, during the period of delegated powers, had approved a change in the contractor from NLC to J White t/a Mill View Fencing and Countryside Maintenance at the rate of £125.

Consideration would be given at a later date to the inclusion of moss treatment for the Play Area safety surfaces.

#### 12. Methodist Chapel

The Methodist Chapel on Front Street would not be reopening for worship, or for hire, once the COVID lockdown measures are eased. It was understood that there was a possibility that the building might become available for purchase. The building has Grade 2 Listed status and has some limitations that could affect alternative use e.g. lack of disabled access and lack of suitable land for parking.

A discussion took place on the possibility of the Parish acquiring the chapel as a community hub.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to all residents seeking their views on the possible acquisition of the chapel by the Parish Council.

**Action: Letter to be sent to all residents by the Chairman.**

#### 13. Julian's Bower

It was reported that Julian's Bower is gradually deteriorating; the centre has dropped, much of the bower needs reurfing and the paths next to the bower are in need of repair.

The bower would be fenced off temporarily and advice sought from Natural England.

#### 14. Review of Financial Regulations

The Clerk advised that there were some changes to the guideline Financial Regulations produced by NALC. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. Roberts would examine these and bring recommendations to a future meeting.

#### 15. Financial Report

The current bank balances are:-

General Account: £24,836.15

Cemetery Account: £14,923.71

Play Area Account: £90.00

The Precept of £5,436 and the North Lincs Council grant of £151 have been received.

Recent invoices paid are:

ERNLLCA membership £362.68

NLC (re cemetery bin emptying) £418.20

There are no outstanding invoices for payment.

**16. Neighbourhood Action Team**

A meetings of the NAT is due to be held on 15 June.

**17. Residents' Association**

A report had not been received from the Resident's Association.

**18. To receive reports from Councillors**

Clr. John White

- JW reported that the bench on Whitton Road is in need of restraining. Men In Sheds in Winterton would be asked to do the work.

**Action: Clerk to contact Men In Sheds**

Clr. John Gaunt

- A tree branch at Walk's End is causing an obstruction to people using the public footpath and has grown between overhead power cables.

The branch would be cut by the power company.

Clr. June Ellis

- Following heavy rainfall the corner of Cross Lane and Front Street (Post Office Corner) develops a lot of standing water.

**Action: Clerk to contact NLC Highways**

Clr. Simon Spencer

- A letter had been received from a resident, Sally Fox, requesting permission to erect a memorial seat, in memory of her late husband John Fox, near to the plaque describing Countess Close. This had been the place that John Fox had always stopped when walking his dogs. The land is owned by Clr. Nick Harland and Mrs. Fox would also be seeking his permission.

**Action: The request would be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.**

Clr. Nigel Brown

- It was noted that the path edge at the footpath opposite the Cricket Club had been cut; this grass was part of the NLC Inter-town cutting programme.

Clr. David Roberts

- Thanks were given to the Clerk for enabling the work of the Parish Council to continue during the recent lockdown, by arranging a delegation of powers, because of the national suspension of face-to-face meetings.

- An update on the pruning of the trees at the church was requested.

**Action: The Chairman would provide an update to the Church warden.**

**19. Date of next meeting**

Following the closure of the Methodist Chapel it was agreed that future meetings would be held at the Cricket Club; this would be at a rate of £15.00 per meeting. The Clerk would liaise with Clr. N Brown regarding suitable dates.

**20. The meeting closed at 21:15**