

ALKBOROUGH AND WALCOT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 19:00 on 2 January 2019

Present

Parish Councillors: J White (Chairman), S Spencer (Vice-Chairman), N Brown, J Ellis, J Gaunt, D Roberts
Parish Clerk: J Mackey
Members of the public: One

1. Apologies for absence

Parish Councillors: S Fell-Bowers and N Harland
Ward Councillors: R Ogg, E Marper and H Rowson

2. Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were declared by S Spencer item 5(b) and J White item 8.

3. To resolve the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018

The minutes were accepted as a true record, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Clerk's updates:-**a) Online Banking with Yorkshire Bank**

The Clerk advised that the application forms for online banking with Yorkshire Bank had been completed, and gave authority for the Chairman and the Clerk to make online payments. The third signatory on the account would not be included in the online arrangement because of his lack of an online facility. It was agreed to progress the online arrangement.

b) Manor House Residential Home

A letter had been sent to the head of Adult and Children's Services at NLC with regard to the concerns expressed; a reply had not yet been received.

c) Walcot Hall- pruning of overgrown trees and ivy

The owner of Walcot Hall had been asked to arrange the pruning of the overhanging trees and ivy on the roadside wall; however the cutting-back had been insufficient to remedy the concerns about the hazards to road users. JW would visit the Hall and discuss the need for further pruning so that it is cut back to an acceptable degree.

d) Felling of trees bordering Low Wells and Orchard House

A planning application had been submitted to NLC. If the application is approved JW would arrange quotes for the felling of the trees.

5. a) **Planning Applications – to be advised of Decision Notice for the applications listed below:-**

- (i) Application No: PA/2018/2008
Notice of intention to fell an Ash tree, within and protected by G6 of the Tree Preservation (Alkborough) Order 1969. **Approved.**
- (ii) Application No: PA/2018/2112
Notice of intention to fell a Hawthorn tree, within the Alkborough Conservation Area. **Approved.**
- (iii) Application No: PA/2018/2028
Notice of intention to fell two Pine trees, within the Alkborough Conservation Area. **Approved.**
- (iv) Application No: PA/2018/2040
Notice of intention to fell two Ash trees, within the Alkborough Conservation Area. **Approved.**
- (v) Application No: PA/2018/2015
Notice of intention to undertake pruning on two Cupressus trees, situated within the Alkborough Conservation Area. **Approved.**
- (vi) Application No: PA/2018/1603
To vary Condition 2 of Planning Application 2016/608 relating to removal of materials and creation of walk-on balcony. **Refused.**

b) **Planning Application – to resolve to support, or otherwise, the application listed below:-**

- (i) Application No: PA/2018/2342
Proposal: Planning permission to remove an existing porch to the side entrance and carry out alterations and extension to provide two new porches.
Location: The Gables, Front Street, Alkborough, DN15 9JD
Applicant: Mrs. M Hawkes and Mr. S Spencer
Decision: No objections.

6. **Verge Cutting**

JW advised that NLC piloted a scheme in 2018 with four parish councils whereby ornamental verge cutting was devolved, in a manner similar to that of the Parish Paths partnership. The results of the pilot scheme had been inconclusive because of the unusually dry weather, and NLC were therefore extending the pilot scheme for a further

year and increasing the number of local councils involved from four to eight; Alkborough and Walcot had been invited to participate.

It was agreed to participate in the scheme and NLC would be asked to provide the appropriate information to facilitate the tendering process.

7. Winter in Bloom Grant

The Clerk advised that he had received information from NLC regarding grants available for the provision of planters, flowers and shrubs for the winter season. The information had not been received in sufficient time to enable the matter to be properly considered, however the grant is likely to be available next year. The location of existing planters and the possible siting of additional ones were discussed, and it was agreed to favourably consider applying for the Winter in Bloom grant next year.

8. To review Parish Paths Partnership 2018 and discuss continuation for 2019

The Clerk advised that he had received confirmation from Grove Groundworks, the contractor responsible for the cutting of the parish paths, that their charge for undertaking this work in 2019 would remain the same as the previous year. The work undertaken by Grove Groundworks had been to a high standard and it was decided to continue with the same contractor.

9. To consider review of honoraria for planting of flower beds

A discussion took place regarding the planting of village flower beds and village-name road signs, and the payment of honoraria to those residents who kindly provide plants and maintain the flower beds. It was decided to leave the honorarium at £15. The contribution of those maintaining the flower beds, thereby providing a pleasant village environment, was greatly appreciated and a letter of thanks would be sent to each person.

10. To set the Precept for 2019-20 (including receiving and agreeing Interim Accounts and Budget information)

The Clerk supplied the following documents:-

- Interim Accounts 1 April 2018 -31 December 2018 (Parish Council account and Cemetery Fund account)
- Forecast Accounts 1 January 2019 – 31 March 2019 (Parish Council account and Cemetery Fund account)
- Budget 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (Parish Council account)

The Clerk presented the Interim and Forecast Accounts and these were agreed.

The Budget document for 2019-20 included the accounts for the previous three years for comparison purposes.

The figure for the Clerk's pay represents 13 hours per month, plus an extra 5 hours projected additional hours each month, based upon the average hours worked in the period September to December.

The honorarium for grass cutting was discussed, and it was agreed that repair costs to the mower should be shared between the Parish Council account, the Cemetery Fund, and the Julian Bower Fund in the same proportion as the honorarium is split. The grass in the old part of the cemetery on Walcot Road is cut using the Parish Council's mower, and whilst payment for the labour is made by St. John the Baptist church, it was considered appropriate to enquire whether the church would be able to make a financial contribution to the repair of the mower.

A Parish Council election is due during 2019, and if one became necessary in Alkborough and Walcot there would be a cost to the Council of approximately £1,000. This cost was included in the budget, however the intention was to spread this cost over the next four years, thereby avoiding a large one-off increase in the precept; this was agreed.

The budget, and precept requirement of £5,227, was approved.

11. Correspondence

a) Trade Watch

Safer Neighbourhoods(NLC), Humberside Police and Trading Standards are launching a new partnership scheme to prevent and deter rogue traders and door-step crime. The scheme aims to protect all members of our communities, especially those who may be more vulnerable to these types of crime. The scheme is being launched rurally throughout North Lincolnshire at an event to be held on Wednesday 30 January at Winterton Rangers club.

b) ERNLLCA – Responsible Financial Officer Training

The Clerk advised that a training course for Responsible Financial Officers is being held on 6 February in Barton upon Humber; the cost of the one-day course is £60 including VAT. It was agreed that the Clerk attend this training course.

12. Residents' Association

There was nothing to report.

13. To receive report from the Neighbourhood Action Team

There was nothing to report.

14. Play Area

a) Update on Play Area Sub-committee

NB presented a questionnaire and covering letter regarding provision of facilities at the Play Area; these would be distributed to all homes in the village.

The field adjacent to the Play Area would be an ideal extension to the existing play area, providing an ideal space for activities that would appeal to an older age group. This field is within the school boundary. In 1984 discussion took place between the school and the Parish Council regarding joint use of the playing field; however, the school did not wish to offer a formal letting agreement to the parish council but had instead suggested an annual donation to help towards the maintenance of the

playing field. The parish council declined to take up this offer due to the limited casual use of the playing field. The school have indicated that they would be willing to make the playing field available as an extension to the existing Play Area.

NB has obtained a copy of the grant application submitted to NLC by West Halton Parish Council for improvements to their play area and this will be useful when preparing a similar application.

It is understood that the playing field was originally given to the school as a gift, but the benefactor is not known; the Clerk would write to the school to see if they had any further information about this.

The membership of the sub-committee is still at a formative stage, and NB was inviting parents of both genders to become involved, thereby hoping to achieve diversity within the sub-committee.

15. To receive and agree accounts for payment

- a) NLC – emptying of dog bins at Play Area. £353.81 Paid
- b) Staff costs (November and December) £328.33, and Expenses £93.25. Approved.
- c) Honorarium for grass cutting at church, maze and cemetery), Alan White. £1,300 Approved.

16. To receive reports from Councillors

Councillor N Brown

– advised that he had recently noticed a white pick-up vehicle in the village and the occupants had appeared to be acting suspiciously. He had managed to obtain a photograph of the vehicle's registration number and had advised the police by dialling 101. He had not yet received any feedback about the incident.

Councillor J Ellis

– advised that she had been approached by a man, whilst she working in her garden, asking about gardening or tree pruning work; he was using a white transit van. The incident had alarmed her because she was unsure whether she was being deliberately distracted to enable a possible second person to enter her house for criminal reasons. She stressed the need for residents to be vigilant, and this was potentially one of those incidents that the Trade Watch initiative was designed to deal with.

17. Date of next meeting

The next meeting is due to be held at 19:00 on Wednesday 6 March 2019.

18. The meeting closed at 21:00