

# ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2020/09/14-176

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held via Zoom on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.00 pm.

*[The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020]*

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Worrall (Chairman), Cypher, Freeman, Helmore, Hornsby, Humphries, Lambert, Lewis, Van der Plank, Wallis and Willetts.

**Also present:** DCllrs: English.  
Mr M Ball, Mrs R Cox, Mr R Peach.

**In attendance:** Mrs J Smailes – Parish Clerk/Minute Taker.

## AGENDA

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and noted from Cllrs; Baxter and DCllr/CCllr Hotham.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3. DISPENSATION REQUESTS

None.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of the Council Meeting Minutes, held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, were proposed by Cllr Worrall.

**Unanimous.**

### 5. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT/CITIZENSHIP

Cllr Worrall advised that he had been in contact with the Middle School; however it had been difficult to speak directly to the Head Teacher and so had not had the opportunity to explain the council's thought process behind the agenda item or to therefore gauge a reaction. Cllr Worrall went on to suggest that rather than the Clerk include on a monthly basis, such should be included quarterly as this would then allow sufficient time for schools/youth groups to be contacted.

Cllr Cypher queried what the Council were actually offering; were the council staging a 'listening platform'? Was it offering to support ideas put forward?

Cllr Worrall felt that it would wholly depend on the reaction received from each particular group; he hoped that representatives from youth groups as well as the schools would want to participate at which point the agenda item could be moulded to encourage further youth engagement.

Cllr Worrall also stated his desire for The Lounge's Youth Groups to participate; Cllr Freeman advised he had already been in contact with the Manger of The Lounge to this end.

### 6. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Worrall reminded Members that they had been provided with a copy of DCllr English/Van der Plank's written report prior to the start of the meeting (*shown in its entirety below*) **Noted.**

**Chairman** .....

**Date** .....

# ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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## **1. Bromsgrove District Council – Full Council resumes**

· We had our first full council meeting, held remotely via Skype, in August. The technology seemed to work satisfactorily. Several elements of the meeting were removed – including not having any motions, which meant there was limited opportunity for discussion and debate but at least it was positive to get the meetings reinstated after so long without one.

· Next full Council is on Wed 16 September. Kate has two written questions on the agenda: Firstly, a request for an update and urgent action on the issue of fly tipping which has increased significantly in our parish over the last few months. Secondly a question over tree cutting and what is being done to track and monitor which trees are being removed and what provisions are being made to replace them. This follows concerns raised by residents in Crown Meadow and The Becks about trees being removed.

· Annette put forward a motion asking the Council to put information on the website regarding the use of the Bromsgrove Hotel to temporarily house asylum seekers during lockdown. There have been incidents of harassment and intimidation of these asylum seekers and factual information may have helped answer many of the queries Bromsgrove District residents have had. This motion, however, is still being discussed by the legal officers.

**2. Alvechurch Cares** - The Friendship Matters Group are still meeting both virtually and in person in the Lounge. Youth at the Lounge will be meeting in person this week for the first time since lockdown but pre booked places only.

**3. The Cleaner Greener Alvechurch group** has re-started over the summer. The group are nearly ready to launch their new website so will need to draw down the funds from BARN currently help by Parish council (£300). The next planned event is a ‘community care and share day’ on Saturday 19 September. Residents are inviting to put a ‘Share Box’ outside their house with any produce they would like to share: it could be fruit or vegetables or even spare plants or seeds they have grown that they don’t need. Other food can be included too – The only requirement is that it’s in sealed packs or tins and still in date. ‘The Care and Share’ day is a great way to help the environment by reducing food waste whilst also saving people money and giving them an opportunity to try fresh produce or different foods.

## **4. Local updates:**

· There have been concerns from residents in Dellow Grove regarding the new house on the old Workshop site. The builder is in breach of the approved plans and the Planning Office is aware and involved. Annette is in liaison with Charlotte Wood, Planning Officer.

· There was a Licensing committee meeting regarding the licence request for 1 Bear Hill on the 12th August. The licence for alcohol and live music was passed. Annette is waiting to hear back from Sharron Williams, Planning Officer regarding a change of use request and progress with reinstatement of the chimneys and metal guttering.

· A Strategic Planning Group meeting was held at the end of August where members and officers discussed the implications of the new Planning White paper. The Green Belt review is continuing until there is further guidance. Initial figures for new District housing allocations seem to indicate a doubling of numbers of new houses needed to be built but these figures do not take into account any reductions for areas of Green Belt within the District. Neighbourhood Plans will continue to play an important role in shaping local decisions regarding housing.

**Chairman** .....

**Date** .....

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· *A homeless man has been rough sleeping by the train station in Alvechurch. This has been discussed widely on the Alvechurch facebook group and a number of residents have provided food and clothes and other forms of assistance.*

*Kate posted a reminder on the group about the correct route to follow if anyone is concerned about a rough sleeper or homeless person they see. The route is to report this to Streetlink at [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk) as they are the outsourced homeless support service for BDC*

· *Hollington road – There have been further residents’ concerns raised about children playing in the street at Hollington road and being in danger from passing cars. We keep urging residents to report this to the police on 101 so they can visit the area regularly and monitor the situation. Although last time the community police team did visit, there weren’t any children playing out.*

· *Annette has arranged for a new dog bin near the entrance to Lions Wood Nature Reserve, Rowney Green after requests from RGA.*

Cllr Cypher spoke on ‘The Local Report’ Element of the report in relation to proposed increase in housing units for the Bromsgrove area.

DCllr English stated that currently the LPAs target was for 365 units per year up until year 2030, however; currently only 337 units per year were being built; looking at the formula DCllr English advised that given the requirement for Affordable Housing the number rose to that of 694 per year which did not appear to take into account the Green Belt surrounding Alvechurch Parish, she therefore gave an undertaking to monitor and report back to the Parish Council when the figures had been confirmed by the LPA.

**7.15pm - At this point Cllr Hornsby tendered his apologies and left the meeting.**

Cllr Cypher requested an update on matters previously referred to in the District Councillors Report; relating to Alvechurch Cares and The Diamond Bus Service.

DCllr English advised that ‘Alvechurch Cares’ was ready to react should the need arise.

DCllr Van der Plank stated that although the Diamond Bus Service had been suspended they were still speaking with the company who were keen to offer some form of ‘off peak’ service if the capacity level was such that the company could run such a service and ‘break even’, however such would not be contemplated if it meant running at a loss.

DCllr Van der Plank also advised that DCllr/CCllr Hotham was similarly seeking support from the County Council for funding to support a form of community bus service.

DCllr English was then invited to make comment on the Planning Application for 1 Bear Hill and advised that the Applicant had been advised they had until the 10<sup>th</sup> September to apply for a ‘Change of Use’, however; to date nothing had been received by the LPA.

Cllr Helmore queried whether there was still an active petition against this Planning Application being ‘tabled’ at The Lounge?

**Chairman** .....

**Date** .....

# ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2020/09/14-179

Cllr Humphries expressed his concern in such much as he felt that the Planning Officers at BDC did not fully understand the issues relating to 1 Bear Hill; that they were not following any form of ‘structured’ approach in dealing with the Planning Application and that furthermore, the portal was not working correctly despite him having advised a Senior Officer of such a number of days prior.

DCllr English gave an undertaking to also follow-up on this Planning Application and report back to APC. **Action: DCllr English**

DCllr English spoke on the Planning Application at Dellow Grove and explained how she strongly objected to the retrospective application submitted; believing that it was apply from the start to circumvent the planning system.

Cllr Worrall also advised he had been approached by a resident complaining about the conversion of the loft which was not part of the original application for approval.

Cllr Worrall expressed thanks to DCllr English for gaining approval from BDC to site a further Dog Waste Bin at Rowney Green; it was noted that this bin would be emptied by BDC.

### 7. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Worrall reminded Members that DCllr/CCllr Hotham had tendered his apologies, however; had provided a written report which had also been circulated prior to the start of the meeting (*shown in its entirety below*) **Noted.**

*Dear All,*

*Please accept my apologies, I am double booked.*

*Please note the following points:*

- 1. I have paid the £1000 from the divisional fund to WCC highways for the 20 MPH zone.*
- 2. Alvechurch library has reopened*
- 3. The bollards outside Alvechurch Village Hall will be repositioned to allow easier access and damaged ones will be replaced.*
- 4. Hopwood village hall has been recommended to be reinstated as the polling station.*
- 5. The bus timetables for 146 bus service have been removed.*
- 6. I have tabled a motion at BDC that the council look to fund local minibus services out of last year's surplus of £1,600,000.*
- 7. Only grit bins that have required refilling over the last 3 years will be inspected by WCC with a view to refilling this year. It is assumed that those that have not been used in the last 3 years will still be full. It could be worth assessing all WCC yellow bins in the area and forwarding a list of those that do need filling to WCC highways to make sure none are inadvertently left empty.*
- 8. The Chief Fire Officer has announced his retirement in the new year. The proposed takeover of the fire service by the PCC has been put on hold until after the May 2021 PCC election.*
- 9. I have again chased the Rowney Green horse signs and all other highway matters.*
- 10. The temporary traffic lights at Bordesley have been poorly managed and WCC are investigating.*

*Members were also advised of a further report which had been received from DCllr/CCllr Hotham in which he stated that he had personally visited the Gravel Pitt ditch approx. 10 days prior and could clearly see the problem, however; legally he advised that WCC were not responsible and neither were APC. DCllr Hotham went on to say that he had since meet with a Water Management Engineer from North Worcestershire Water Management in order to further discussions on the matter, although, short of making sure all WCC drainage was working correctly, DCllr/CCllr Hotham said he could see no solution.*

**Chairman** ..... **Date** .....

# ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2020/09/14-180

Cllr Cypher expressed his exasperation; once again County Highways had chosen not to inform APC about the temporary traffic lights at Bordesley; had they, then APC could have advertised such on its social media sites, thereby assisting visitors and residents alike to avoid the area!

Cllr Humphries suggested that a Zoom Meeting be arranged as soon as possible, with representatives from County Highways; namely Mr R Clewer and Cllr Hotham in attendance in order to further discussions on both the level of communication in relation to the aforementioned item and to gauge County's response to the proposed Car Park at Rowney Green and to ascertain whether any additional information was required to be submitted in support of APC's P&CC Grant Submission.

**Action -Clerk.**

Cllr Worrall explained how APC felt let down by County Highways as an opportunity to facilitate a pedestrian crossing as part of the works had been missed. Cllr Worrall also explained that Cllr Hornsby would have raised this item as part of this discussion had he been present.

### 8. OPEN FORUM

Mrs Cox advised that she had already submitted a letter which had been circulated prior to Councillors and which related to Highway Concerns at Bordesley

Cllr Cypher suggested that a 'three pronged attack' was required and suggested that;

- the VAS at Bordesley be re-sited to the northbound side of the carriage way. **Unanimous.**
- that consideration be given at a future meeting to APC setting up a Community Speed Watch (*as suggested by Mr A Howard*), with Cllr Cypher offering to assist the Clerk in collating information.
- That further discussion with County Highways takes place in relation to a 'pedestrian refuge'.

**Action - Clerk.**

*[The Chairman 'moved' that item 13 be addressed at this point, however; the Minutes reflect the Agenda running order].*

### COMMUNICATIONS BY THE CHAIR

9. Cllr Worrall relayed the 'vote of thanks' which had been received from both, The Grammar School Trust and The Almshouses Trustees and which related to their use of the Council's Zoom Account.

Cllr Worrall also advised Members that the Clerk had spoken to the Contractor who had previously addressed the skirting boards at The Hopwood Community Centre and that the company had since agreed to re-visit site, 'free of charge' to re-affix areas needing attention. **Noted.**

### 10. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk presented her monthly report, outlining the actions undertaken since the last meeting. The Clerk also advised Members of the NJC Pay Award and changes affecting the Annual Leave entitlement. **Noted.**

### 11. MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

- a The monthly Payment Schedule, Reconciled Bank Statements and Budget Overview Report were accepted and confirmed as accurate. **Unanimous.**
- b Cllr Worrall made Members aware of an increase in the associated drainage work costing. **Noted.**
- c Payment of the expenditure shown on Payment Listing, totaling £13,125.95 was proposed by Cllr Worrall. **Unanimous.**
- d Virements and transfers between accounts. **Noted.**

Cllr Van der Plank queried the Council's arrangements for awarding Tenders to Contractors; in particular those addressing Tree Works and the Website; believing that where possible, such work should be offered to 'local' Tradesmen.

**Chairman** ..... **Date** .....

# ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2020/09/14-181

The Clerk advised that ideally Contracts/work in general should be awarded to the person offering the ‘Best Value’ for money; that this did not necessarily mean the cheapest quote, but the one that best met the requirement of the task; that when Tradesmen were required to provide quotes, that a ‘no quote, quote’ still counted as part of the submission number and that if Members wished to change the manner in which to consider/award Tenders this would require an amendment to Standing Orders and the correct process to amend Standing Orders would need to be applied. **Noted.**

The Clerk advised Members that they may wish to consider bestowing Delegated Powers (*LGA 1972 S101*) in order that the Clerk/RFO and two Members could address all payments owed during the month of October for she was away on Annual Leave and as such, payments would need to be made outside of the usual meeting approval process. Proposed by Cllr Worrall **Unanimous.**

Cllr Cypher called for the item of business which related to a claim that had been submitted for damage to a vehicle at Hopwood CC as a result of the recent drainage work, to be discussed at this point.

Cllr Worrall explained that investigations with the Contractor were currently ‘on-going’, and that although the Claimant had requested a sum of £90 to address the minor repairs required to her vehicle, the matter would be considered at the October’s Full Council Meeting once he had spoken to the Contractor to understand the nature of the claim and the Council’s/Contractor’s liability in relation to said matter. **Action Clerk – October Agenda item.**

### 12. FORMAL BUDGET DELIBERATIONS 2021/22

#### **Establishment Costs**

- a Following a short debate the Establishment DRAFT Budget, totaling £27,650 was proposed by Cllr Worrall.

**Unanimous.**

The aforementioned forms the first part of the overall Policy, Budget, Precept (*PBP*) process that is to be applied in respect to the 2021/22 accounting process. **Noted**

- b A discussion then took place concerning the merits of retaining the Parish Office, currently located in George Road, or whether there was a desire by Members to utilize a council owned premise; namely Hopwood Community Centre or the Pavilion at Rowney Green to achieve a saving against the ‘Establishment’ budget.

Cllr Worrall reported that a response had been received from the Landlord which advised that the current Lease Agreement ran until December 2021, and that to extract itself from the current ‘arrangement’ there was a penalty and for this reason Cllr Worrall suggested there was no urgency to make a decision; but that a considered, measured approach would allow Members to consider the costing associated with moving to another site and also the cost to ‘make good’ the current office space which it was felt required slight modifications to make it fully functional in light of Covid, amended working arrangements etc. It was further noted that Cllr Worrall had already submitted a set of drawings to scale, and that prices for the work at both George Road and Hopwood would be further progressed by Cllrs; Worrall, Cypher and the Clerk so the matter could be considered by all Members in an informed manner at either the October or November Full Council Meeting. **Action; Cllr Worrall, Cypher & Clerk.**

Cllr Lambert spoke of the resident’s perception of the Parish Council and her thoughts on such if it were to move premises, fearing that such a decision may not be well received. Cllr Humphries suggested that a ‘virtual presence’ may be the way forward, but that this would only be known if residents views were canvassed ahead of such a decision being taken.

**Chairman** ..... **Date** .....

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Cllr Cypher alluded to possible indicative savings against the Establishment budget, £13k; suggesting that the Parish Council's presence could be met by Councillor Surgeries and Public Engagement Sessions, suggesting that any decision taken should seek to focus on the long-term aims/objectives of the council, taking into account new technology and improved methods of working.

Cllr Wallis stated that a debate as to which way to proceed was required prior to any expenditure being expelled in respect of improvement works at George Road, and that personally he believed introducing surgeries would increase public engagement as very few residents visited the Parish Office in person.

Cllr Worrall suggested the matter be deferred until the October Meeting, however given the Clerk would be on Annual Leave Cllr Cypher suggested it would be prudent to discuss the matter when the Clerk was next in attendance, namely the November Full Council Meeting at which it was hoped costings could be made available.

**Action Clerk – November**

**Agenda item.**

### **12b.i Marketing of APC Facilities, namely Hopwood Community Centre**

Cllr Cypher promoted the necessity to advertise all of the Council's facilities, saying that in the first instance Council may be minded to focus on Hopwood Community Centre with a view to increasing bookings and therefore the Council's income stream given the Centre's prime location.

Cllr Cypher made reference to the promotional material he and the Clerk had recently produced and circulated, suggesting that a page could be added to the current website with a view to it becoming live on 1<sup>st</sup> January and thereby benefiting an on-line calendar and booking facility.

Cllr Worrall proposed that Delegated Powers (*LGA 1972 s101*) be bestowed to the Clerk and Cllrs; Cypher, Humphries and himself so that the matter could be progressed and the web page made 'live'.

**Unanimous.**

To that end Cllr Worrall proposed that the quote received from Alpha Designs to the value of £600 be accepted.

**Vote Carried. Action - Clerk**

Cllr Van der Plank once again questioned the reasons for appointing an 'outside' company rather than utilising 'local' trade's people?

The Clerk explained that Computer maintenance, the Website, the Tree works were all currently contracted out; that each had been the bases of formal discussion/vote by Members and that Council therefore needed to move forward as the decision had already been taken.

Cllr Worrall echoed the aforementioned point, that whilst he agreed in part with trying to provide opportunity to local trades people, in the aforementioned instances due process had been correctly adhered to with Members voting accordingly.

### **ii+iii Members considered the quotes that had been received from TES in respect to an Electrical Condition Test for Hopwood CC and to replace lighting units, changing them out for LED heads.**

Given that Council had been advised that Electrical Conditioning Testing would be mandatory as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and the Council's desire to be able to promote usage of the facility

**Chairman** ..... **Date** .....

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Cllr Worrall proposed that the Electrical Conditioning Report be commissioned and that the cost to replaced the lights with LED ones be included in next year’s DRAFT Budget (*YSR Committee remit*)  
**Voted Carried. Action – Clerk.**

iv Three quotes had been received in respect to cutting/flailing the hedge at Hopwood CC; after a short debate it was proposed by Cllr Humphries that the Council accept the cheapest quote which had been submitted by Mr N Hoskins; Seconded by Cllr Worrall. **Voted Carried. Action – Clerk.**

### 13. WALKING BUS

*[The Chairman ‘moved’ that item 13 be addressed earlier in the meeting, however; the Minutes reflect the Agenda running order].*

Cllr Worrall invited Mr M Ball to speak on his desire for the Parish Council to lend support to a Walking Bus and improvements to encourage cycling and walking to school.

Mr Ball proceeded to give his Presentation.

Cllr Worrall inquired as to how many responses Mr Ball had received from interested parents and whether he had approached the Head Teacher/Governors?

Cllr Lambert reminded her fellow Members that APC had considered a Walking Bus Scheme sometime prior, however; given that many parents were not interested in participating that it had been a ‘non-stater’.

Mr Ball advised that whilst he was disappointed with the interest shown to date by parents he did feel that the School Governors were interest; when asked by Councillors how Mr Ball envisaged the scheme being administered, Mr Ball stated whilst he was willing to participate he hoped other parents/volunteers would take it in turns to set out the cones.

Cllr Helmore expressed concern in relation to the road width restriction the placing of such cones would result in; speaking of the issues already evident in the side roads whilst pupils were being dropped off/collected from school; Mr Ball discounted this concern believing it could in fact improve traffic flow.

Cllr Van der Plank stated that she was in support of such a scheme and that during Covid restrictions felt that it was pertinent to encourage socially distancing measurers.

Cllr Lewis spoke of her experience in relation to such schemes; advising that the placing of cones by parents/volunteers invariably results in the individual facing verbal abuse and that in her experience the scheme works for a week or two and then fails through lack of commitment by parents.

Cllr Cypher reminded those present that Cllr Humphries had been instrumental in the pavement improvements currently in use by pupils attending the school. Cllr Cypher also suggested that the school were obliged to have in place a strategy for the safe ingress/egress of their pupils and suggested Mr Ball query this point with the school.

Cllr Van der Plank queried whether someone could be employed via County road Safety funding?

DCllr English felt that there were two angles to the proposed scheme; one was Covid/social distance related which she felt APC should support and encourage, the other, the on-going safety of pupils.

**Chairman** ..... **Date** .....

# ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2020/09/14-184

Cllr Humphries spoke of the proposed Zoom meeting that was to be arranged with County Highways and suggested that the Walking Bus could be added as an agenda item.

Cllr Worrall thanked Mr Ball for attending and for giving an informative presentation and asked that dialogue be kept open; he also gave an undertaking to advise Mr Ball as to when the Highway Zoom Meeting would be convened so that he could attend and participate. **Action - Clerk**

### 14. ALLOTMENTS

Cllr Worrall proceeded to give an overview of the current position; advising that an extension of 5 years had been agreed with the landowner and that currently the council solicitor was drawing up a revised Lease Agreement which it was hoped could be engrossed within the week; the cost to produce the document being £750 plus VAT.

### 15. LENGTHSMAN DUTIES

#### i **Litter Bins**

Following a short debate it was resolved to terminate current arrangements and to place the emptying of the waste and dog bins with BDC Lengthsman. **Action – Clerk.**

#### ii. **VAS**

It was noted that the movement/re-siting of the VAS fell to the Lengthsman and that whilst in prior months this duty had not been addressed it had since been deployed to another officer, who was keen to ensure a rota was in place. It was further noted that whilst issues with battery life had been experienced it was hoped that this had since been eradicated by use of new supplier.

It was proposed by Cllr Cypher that the VAS be relocated as per the prior agenda item, to the Northbound side of the Birmingham Road through Bordesley. **Unanimous. Action – Clerk.**

#### iii **General Duties**

Members were asked to notify the Clerk as/when they identified any tasks that could readily be undertaken by the Lengthsman.

### 16. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TENDER

Cllr Worrall advised Members that the Contract Tender Documents had been duly advertised and that submissions from interested parties were awaited prior to the closing date of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Cllr Worrall went on to suggest that the Tender could be tidied up and items such as the hedge flailing at Hopwood included once interest had been gauged.

Cllr Cypher queried why Rowney Green had been included in the Tender when discussions were on-going with RGVH Trustees?

The Clerk advised that the Tender was sectional with each element being costed for, and that if a discussion was taken to allow RGVH Trustees to assume responsibility for the Playing Fields/Pavilion at Rowney Green then the relevant section could easily be removed from the Tender document.

Cllr Worrall suggested that the two lowest tenders be invited to compete on the additional elements, however; the Clerk advised against accepting the lowest quote based solely on price, suggesting that whilst ‘Best Value For Money’ was important such did not necessarily equate to the ‘cheapest’ quote and that recommendations from neighbouring parishes should also factor.

Cllr Humphries suggested BDC may be able to offer advice on the ‘Tendering Process’, the Clerk advised such was immaterial as council should be adhering to its own Standing Orders.

*Chairman* ..... *Date* .....

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Cllr Van der Plank suggested once more that the ‘Tender Process’ needed to be re-accessed; the Clerk advised again of the require to amend Standing Orders in such an event and the necessity to adhere to the correct method to amend such. **Noted.**

17. **THE WIGGIN** (*Otherwise known as The Wiggin Memorial Playing Field*)

Cllr Worrall advised Members of a meeting that had been arranged via Zoom, with Mr Roger Taylor in order that he could provide advice to Council on matters relating to The Wiggin, Lease Agreements and Partnership arrangements – the cost for Mr Taylor’s attendance at the Zoom Meeting amounted to £500.

Cllr Worrall then proceed to give an overview of the site meeting attended by Cllr Humphries and himself with representatives from BAM.

It appears that the ditch on The Wiggin falls outside of the Boundary Plan held by Bam and for this reason Cllr Cypher mooted the necessity for County Council as landowner, to be approached.

Cllr Worrall stated that he was in discussion still with a representative from NWWM to ascertain if they could shed any light on riparian ownership. Cllr Worrall gave an undertaking to keep Members informed of the outcome as it was also possibly the land was still registered with a third party.

- **Action – Cllr Worrall.**

18. **NEW HOMES BONUS GRANT SUBMISSION**

Cllr Humphries provided an update in relation to the recent grant submission; advising that whilst £12k had been requested, BDC had awarded £6k and that now APC needed to consider the best use of said funds.

Cllr Cypher reminded Members that the Application had stated that the priority focus, should all monies not be awarded, would remain on the proposed Car Park at Rowney Green and that what warranted further discussion was the Car Park capacity for it was evident from the responses received in relation to the Rowney Green Questionnaire, that more Rowney Green residents were in favour of car Parking provision than those opposed to such an idea.

Cllr Worrall spoke of the exchange of emails had with a BDC Officer concerning the increase in costing for ‘root friendly’ grass matting that it had been proposed would be used to create the Car Parking area.

Cllr Humphries advised Members of the Working Party Meeting with Trustees from RGVH Trust that was to take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> September; either via Zoom or ‘face to face’, dependent upon Covid restrictions. **Noted.**

19. **P&CC ROAD SAFETY FUND re. A441 Hopwood Road improvement scheme**

Cllr Humphries confirmed that a response was still awaited from the P&CC, and whilst APC had submitted all of the paperwork it had been asked for, that it would be relevant to raise the matter at the proposed Zoom Highway Meeting that was to be convened.

20. **FORMAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Formal correspondence had been distributed throughout the course of the month, the following items requiring Members attention:

***Email from Mr Allen – CSW.***

Cllr Cypher requested that the Community Speed Watch agenda item be deferred to the November Full Council Meeting; that Mr Allen be invited to attend and during the interim period information be collated.

**Action – Cllr Cypher/the Clerk**

*Chairman* .....

*Date* .....



# ALVECHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 2020/09/14-187

c.viii **Open Space Planting** - *Pending the appointment of a Maintenance Person.*

21. d ❖ **H/R COMMITTEE** – *Cllr Willets*

Approved Meeting Minutes, available via the Website/Hard copy in Minute books (*publicly accessible*).

Members noted that the advertisement for a Caretaker/Maintenance Person had been placed on the Website/Facebook page; SLCC Website and the Notice Board.

The Clerk advised that she would be liaising with the HR Chairman/HR Committee concerning interview dates.

**Action - Clerk**

21.e **EXTERNAL BODIES**

e.i **Alvechurch Village Hall Trust/Community Lounge.**

No reports were received from Cllrs; Helmore or Freeman in relation to the Alvechurch Village Hall or The Lounge.

e.ii. **Picnic In The Park**

*Deferred*

e.iii **CALC**

*Deferred*

e.iv **REMEMBRANCE**

It was noted that this event would take place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and would be administered by the Church; with APC applying for the Road Closure, Marshalls and providing use of the Village Green with Cllr Humphries acting as council liaison. **Noted.**

e. v **CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON**

Cllr Lambert gave an undertaking to keep abreast of Covid restrictions, with it being mooted that the Christmas Light Switch-on may need to be held ‘virtually’ to ensure public safety/social distancing measures remained in force. October Agenda item. **Action - Clerk.**

22. **COUNCILLOR REPORTS** (*around the Parish*)

None

23. **MEETING DATES**

As per meeting schedule.

24. **PRESS RELEASE.**

None at this time.

**CLOSE**

Meeting closed @ 10.26pm.

**Chairman** .....

**Date** .....