

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on 17th November 2014 at 7.30pm at the Jubilee Hall.**

Present: - Cllrs Alison Peters (AP) (Chairman), Terry Hunt (TH), Mike Webb (MW), Marcus Fry (MF), Steve Blick (SB), James Sumner (JS), Paul Caddick (PC), Maggie Tyrrell (MT) (SGC), PC Tony Blackmore, PC Sean White
Graham Smith (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Shirley Holloway (SH) (SGC), Chris Casey (CC).

2. Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted

3. Declaration of Interests

None

4. Public Participation

None

5. Minutes and matters arising from previous meetings

5.1 Acceptance & signature of minutes for Parish Council Meeting 20th October 2014

14.072 Resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of Monday 20th October 2014 were accepted and signed by the chairman.

5.2 Matters Arising:

5.2.1 (Clerk) confirmed that the hedge at Courville Close had been cut although only away from the pavement. The aesthetics of the hedge remains inadequate as the top had not been cut or shaped.

5.2.2 (MT) confirmed that £6,877 has now been made available for new play equipment at the Cross Hands Play area. (AP) recommended that due to the fact that there is not a Playing Field and Open Spaces meeting scheduled until February that this will be discussed at the next F & GP meeting.

PC141117-1: Clerk to prepare confirmation of equipment and supplier as discussed at previous PF & OS meetings for discussion at F & GP meeting (1st December).

Action to Clerk

5.3.3 (MT) confirmed that SGC will be re-tarmacking a 6 square meter of pavement adjacent to the northbound A38 bus stop at Courville Close to level the trip hazards in the area.

5.3 Outstanding Actions:

None

6. Review and Recommendations from Committees:-

6.1. **Planning** (Meeting 20th October & 3rd November) – Cllr Mike Webb reported as detailed within the Planning meeting minutes.

(PC) presented to the council a newsletter received by local residents from the construction company responsible for the Brindles (Robins Homes).

6.2. **Playing Fields & Open Spaces** (Meeting 3rd November)

(JS) reported that in light of the confirmation of the grant from Merlin Homes action will now be undertaken to progress the delivery of the new equipment to the Cross Hands Play area as discussed.

Landscaping and a new plan as it relates to the planting of trees will be discussed at the next PF & OS meeting along with reviewing the pricing policy at it relates to cemetery plots.

6.3. **Footpaths & Allotments** – (No meeting) – Cllr Marcus Fry

(MF) reported that a discussion relating to dog bins will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting (1st December).

As a result of the footpath calendar initiative a footpath group has come together to inspect and report footpath issues as they arise. Marie-Anne Buckingham has volunteered to steer issues to report with South Gloucestershire council rights of way. (MF) recommended that Marie-Anne be invited to the F & A meeting in December.

A few calendars remain which will be available for sale at the Community Forum Christmas Parade event in December.

(MT) congratulated the Parish Council and all responsible for producing the Footpath Calendar initiative.

(SB) informed the Parish Council that an error had occurred in the Thornbury Gazette editorial where it stated that the calendar was produced in order to raise funds for the council when it was, in fact produced to raise money for community groups.

6.4. **Finance and General Purposes** - (Meeting 3rd November) – (TH) reported as detailed within the Finance & General Purposes meeting minutes.

Approval of 2014/15 Grant Donations:

(PC) expressed concern that the Alveston Allotment Association had not received a Grant Donation from the Parish Council for new equipment. (TH) produced the Grant Application forms which shows that the application was for the access path to the allotments. (MF) informed Cllrs that AAA had recently received grants from both Magnox and SGC for that purpose.

(TH) proposed that the Parish Council approve resolution 14070 of the F & GP committee, (AP) second and all Cllrs agreed unanimously.

- Alveston Youth Centre - £250
- Alveston Litter Busters - £173.40
- St Helens Preschool - £100
- 4 Towns & Vale Link Community Transport - £50
- Helmet - £250
- St Helens PCC - £100
- Marlwood School - £50

Royal British Legion - £75 (previously approved)

2014/15 Grand Aid Total - £1048.40

14.073 Resolved: The Parish Council adopt the Grant aid as recommended by the Finance & General Purpose committee (Resolution 14.070) and that the Grant Application for 2014/15 is now closed.

7. Representatives Reports

7.1. **Police Matters** – Report presented by PC Sean White.

The new Police station located at Patchway is open and running well, the response team to Alveston will now be quicker as previously this team was based in Southmead. For the time being the beat teams' base will remain at the old council offices in Thornbury however, as the building is up for sale this may change immanently. Currently alternative locations are being sought which

include a base at Thornbury Town Hall or Tesco although an issue remains with regard to insurance requirements relating to provision of a secure compound for all Police vehicles. It is possible that the beat team may be required to relocate to the new offices in Patchway which is a cause for concern as the beat team will no longer be local and therefore unable to react instantly to matters as they arise. Should the Parish Council share these concerns then this should be communicated in writing to police commissioner Simon Ellis.

Currently crime is down slightly but according to a new policy set by the "National Crime Recording Standards" everything reported needs to be categorised as a crime which will result in the future that crime will appear to be increasing.

Once again Alveston has been very quiet as it relates to criminal activity. A few garage break ins have occurred where motor bikes and power tools have been stolen and one incident occurred of the theft of a caravan from the Mason Arms in Rudgeway, however this was reported promptly and arrests had been made very soon after the incident was reported.

No calls were made to the Police from Alveston residents during both Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Due to clocks going back in October a number of walk in burglaries had been recorded in Thornbury, this being due to the fact that residents had not set timers or left lights off during the crucial period of sunset and returning home from work. The beat team had undertaken a leaflet drop to highlight these concerns and added this to their Facebook and Twitter pages.

Two road accidents occurred in Alveston recently, both due to cars being shunted from behind. Both accidents occurred on the A38, one opposite St Helens Church, the other at the entrance to the Premier Inn.

Neighbourhood Policing Awards : - Thornbury & Alveston beat team has won The Neighbourhood Beat Team of the Year award 2014.

(AP) extended congratulations on behalf of the Parish Council and residents.

(TH) proposed and (AP) second the resolution that Alveston Parish Council support the presence of beat Police in Thornbury.

14.074 Resolved: Alveston Parish Council support the presence of beat Police in Thornbury.

PC141117-2: To write a letter to Chief Inspector Simon Ellis from Alveston Parish Council providing the argument in favour of retaining the presence of the Police Beat Team in Thornbury

Action to (AP)

7.2. **South Gloucestershire Council** – Report presented by Cllr Maggie Tyrell

There is no new news from South Gloucestershire Council. Concerns remain relating to continued budget cuts planned where further savings of £38 million are required over the next two years, this is over and above savings already made.

The Thornbury composting site has received £10,000 to prolong the life of the composting group for a further year.

SGC are due to launch into a round of public consultation relating to how to continue to house the one stop shop and other services locations which are to be relocated and outsourced. At present there are discussions relating to how far this consultation will reach but a decision is yet to be finalised.

7.3. **St Helens School** – Report presented by (Clerk) in the absence of Chris Casey.

The school has been visited by its HMI Inspector. This was a positive visit and copy of the Inspectors' feedback has been placed on the School Website - *"The school has changed a lot since my previous visit in November 2103..... The school feels very different and there is a strong sense of purpose and desire to improve that permeates all aspects of the school..... The teaching I observed was at least good and leads to the good progress I could see in pupil's work."*

After this visit there was a sense that the school may not receive the awaited Ofsted inspection until January.

On National Poetry Day all the classes had worked on poetry and at the end of the day bought their favourite poems to the hall to share with all the other classes. The Reverend Dave Pole also read one of his favourite poems.

A number of Year 2 children helped with a bulb planting session at the Parade. This was very well organised by the Community Forum and despite the wet and windy conditions the children worked well. A thank you card has been delivered from the children to the Parade workers.

On 11/11/14 the whole school observed the two minute silence in the infants' playground again with Reverend David Pole in attendance.

I have attended two Governor training sessions this term on Exclusions and preparing for Ofsted.

7.4. **Other Representative Reports**

(PC) reported that a meeting of the Safer Stronger Community Groups had taken place and much of what was presented was that of the report from Shaun White as detailed.

Warnings were given of an impersonator from Age Concern knocking door to door in an attempt to gain access to residents' properties.

Health Watch is currently researching access to doctors & surgeries from rural areas and investigating complaints re surgeries and waiting times.

Investigations are underway with regard to regulating the speed limit of the deregulated road which by-passes the Woodland Cemetery en-route to Tytherington with the view to imposing a 30MPH speed limit. (MT) reported that in the interim SGC were looking to install road signs which will deter speeding.

7.5. **Jubilee Hall**

None

7.6. **Youth Centre** - Report presented by Cllr James Sumner

A Youth Centre committee meeting had taken place on the 10th November. Building custodians met with members of the committee and building upgrades / improvements were discussed. Currently the feasibility of a new porch is under discussion and quotations received estimate the cost to be £8,000 plus VAT and replacement fire doors are required estimated at £2,000 plus VAT. Currently these improvements are affordable as £12,500 of funds are available, however the lease of the building from the Jubilee Hall is currently with solicitors.

A vacancy for a booking secretary exists.

7.7. **Alveston Community Forum**

None (Next meeting is on 19th November).

7.8. **Alveston Trust**

None

8. **Correspondence**

8.1. **Correspondence for Information**

A list of correspondence received is available from the Parish office.

8.2. **Correspondence for Discussion / Action**

(Clerk) had received two letters.

The Post Office has written to the Parish Council consulting on thoughts relating to the possibility of making changes to the Post Office located at 1 Greenhill Parade. Such changes include: -

- * Relocating service from a dedicated post office counter to a till located at the retail counter.
- * Changes to open times to coincide with shop opening times.
- * Reduction of available services
- * Closure of branch for seven days in April / May 2015

(TH) raised his concerns relating to the retail counter at 1 Greenhill Parade, which is immediately adjacent to the window and within close proximity to the exit door. Concerns were also expressed relating to queuing, handling of cash and sensitivity relating to confidential information / transactions at the proposed till area. It is recommended that the area for such transactions to remain unchanged.

The layout of the shop as it exists is not fit for proposed purpose.

(MT) stated that the revised procedures as adopted at Charfield Post Office works well

PC1411217-3: Reply to Post Office stating the concerns of the Parish Council

Action to Clerk

(Clerk) had received a letter from residents with concerns relating to the appearance of properties in Alveston, specifically mentioning "The Forecastle" on Down Road stating that the previously well-kept frontage has deteriorated considerable over the past few years.

PC1411217-4: Forward letter and write to Elim Housing expressing the concerns of local residents.

Action to Clerk

9. Authorisation of Payments

9.1. Payments.

9.1.1. Payments authorised at the F&GP meeting 3rd November

NB. Payee removed from lists for confidentiality.

Payments authorised by Cllrs Mike Webb & Marcus Fry

Details	Chq. no	£
Grounds Maintenance Contract - Oct	2485	1176.20
Expenses – Line Paint/Stationery	2486	52.80
Holiday Cover/Bus Shelter Clean	2487	98.71
Total Payments		£1,327.71

9.1.2. Payments authorised by Cllrs James Sumner & Marcus Fry

Details	Chq. no	£
Photocopy & Printing	2488	14.23
Salary – Cemetery Caretaker	2489	92.72
Salary – Daily Inspection / Sweep	2490	173.60
Salary / Mileage / Allowance - Clerk	2491	1219.56
Total Payments		£1,500.11

9.2. **Income Received**

9.2.1. Recent Receipts

Details	Chq. no	£
Gross Interest	T/Fer	2.94
Precept / LCTS	T/fer	28751.83
Line Rental Refund	Inc2422	79.05
TBCFC (Half Season)	Inc2423	164.00
Summers Memorial Masons	Inc2424	80.00
Total Receipts		£29,077.82

14.075 Resolved: That all receipts and payments presented to the PC meeting on 17th November 2014 were accepted.

10. Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 20.38 pm.

**The next Council Meeting is on
Monday December 15th 2014 at the Jubilee Hall**