

## ALBURGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Alburgh parish council meeting held on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm in Alburgh Village Hall.

**1. Welcome by the chairman;** Cllr Thompson welcomed Cllr Swanston, Cllr Hall, Cllr Price, Cllr Croucher, Lua Leggett, clerk to Wortwell pc. 4 members of the public  
The clerk was in attendance on line due to illness.

**2. To receive apologies from members unable to attend** – Cllr Newson, Chris Brown District Councillor

**3. To receive any declarations of interest from members on any item to be discussed at this meeting** – None

**4. To approve and sign the minutes of the last parish council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.** The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Thompson as a correct record.

**5. Open Forum for public participation (maximum 10 minutes): an opportunity to hear from members of the public**  
None

**6. To discuss matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting which are not on the agenda**

- Village Hall Lease has finally been sorted.
- Village Questionnaire is in hand.
- Meeting with Gary Overland will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 to discuss grit bins and village gateway signs

**7. To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

Chris Brown, District Councillor emailed the following report in his absence:

- The Council's Leisure Centres have successfully managed to grow their membership, now back to around the pre covid membership
- The Council is continuing to encourage participation in the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

**8. To discuss any correspondence received**

### **Allotments at Wortwell**

Lua Leggett spoke to us about the allotments; she explained about the covenant and gave us background on the allotments. All their allotment plots are taken and they do have a water supply. We have advertised allotment plots many times and do not get any interest in either the plots in Alburgh or our ones at Wortwell. In view of this we feel that it would be good to consider Wortwell pc taking over the land in whatever way works for us both. Discussion on the best way forward. We will get together a list of options to present to Wortwell pc for consideration at their next meeting.

The hedges on Alburgh side need cutting back. We have had a quote from Excite Solutions for £240 plus VAT.

**9. To receive inspection reports on Playing Field and Homersfield Picnic Site**

The playing field was all in good order.

We have had a meeting with Sovereign Playgrounds to discuss our proposals; the monkey bars/horizontal ladder, roundabout and pergola. Wetpour surfacing under the roundabout was recommended, although grassguard matting is more cost effective. They will send a quote for our consideration.

### Homersfield Picnic Site

The litter bin has been ordered from Glasdon along with the timber, wood etc for repairs to the benches, one post and the hand rail. The volunteers are happy to do the repairs and installation.

The clerk will contact South Norfolk about emptying this bin, plus the playing field bins.

We have received an e mail from Ann Bailey outlining concerns the contractor has made to the garden while clearing the pond and how this might be rectified and plans for the improvement of the garden as a public amenity.

The damage to the garden consists of the knocking down of the hedge to gain access, breaking up the concrete path, destruction of the newly created and planted herb garden, breaking some edging on the pathway, and cutting a swathe of lawn with deep ruts caused by the tracks of the digger. (These issues will be taken up with the contractor). This is upsetting as volunteers have spent much time working on the garden.

Proposals for the garden are:

- A new Path and slope for wheelchair access
- Oak tree flower bed
- Decking around the pond and some swing gates with sign saying kids must be supervised by an adult.
- Herb garden to be reinstated
- The schools totem pole needs to be installed.
- Hedges to be cut a little lower than previous

The Garden group is prepared to do some fundraising towards the cost of some of the improvements.

All these proposals were agreed to.

We have had a quotation from Ian Smith for hedge cutting around the millenium garden, playing field and recycling area. Price £325.00 and work will be completed by end of October 2023. All in agreement.

## **10. Village Items**

*Update on Film Nights*

The winter saturday matinee film is being looked in to. The next film will be Openheimer on the 20<sup>th</sup> October.

*To receive update on use of grass area next to allotments for a boules/pétanque pitch*

Work will start on this shortly.

## **11. Other Parish Council Items**

*Update on village hall notice boards*

Wording for the notice board has been agreed. The cost of the notice board is £1,410.00. This will be paid for by £400 from Coronation event, the rest split between us and village hall. The notice board will be put where the map is and the map repositioned.

*Allotment Renewals*

It was agreed that the clerk will send the allotment invoices out for the year to 2024 and to keep them the same as last year.

## **12. To report on planning decisions, applications commented on since last meeting**

Ref: 2023/2644 – Land west of Long Bridge House, Burntoak Lane, Alburgh. Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use and associated building works of an agricultural building to a dwelling house. No member had any issues with this.

Ref: 2022/2233 – Agricultural Buildings South of Beech Farm, Tunbeck Road, Alburgh. Appeal against refusal.

## **13. Finance: To approve payments to be made**

Mrs J Loveday clerk salary £288.27

Moviola Ltd, Film Hire £62.65

Browns Timber for wood, etc for works at Homersfield Picnic Site £279.98

Glasdon, litter bin for Homersfield Picnic Site £249.13

Alburgh Village Hall for contribution to refuse collection £120.00

Ian Smith for grass cutting £245.00

Sprake & Kingsley Solicitors for village hall lease £780.00

Peter Matthewson for pond clearance £420.00 – agreed to pay 50% £210.00.

## **Receipts**

## **14. To receive items for the next Agenda, Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023**

Any other items for the next agenda please contact the clerk.

Cllr Thompson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.39pm.