

ALDFORD AND SAIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on **THURSDAY 16 MAY 2024 AT 7.15PM at Aldford Village Hall.**

Present: Cllr M Davies, Cllr A Cotton, Cllr B Roscoe, Cllr D Weaver, Cllr H Gornall, Cllr D Walker.

In Attendance: C Taylor (Clerk), S Dawson (Grosvenor Estate).

1.APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Ward Cllr A Waddelove, Cllr L Humphries, Cllr P Cummins, A Farbon, Grosvenor Estate. **Resolved:** Noted.

2.(RE)ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Cllr M Davies – Nominated by Cllr D Walker, Seconded by Cllr A Cotton.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

The Chairman signed the Acceptance of Office.

4. (RE)ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

Cllr B Roscoe – Nominated by Cllr D Weaver, Seconded by Cllr M Davies.

5.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Members were invited to declare any personal, prejudicial, or pecuniary interests they may have in any item on the agenda, subject to the rules regarding disclosure contained in the current Members' Code of Conduct and as defined by regulations made under section 30(3) of the Localism Act 2011.

Resolved: No declarations made.

6.PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. Nothing raised.

7.POLICE UPDATE.

Police report circulated prior to the meeting. **Resolved:** Noted.

8. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT.

Cllr Waddelove was not in attendance. Report circulated prior to meeting.

i)Lea Lane update. **Noted:** Resurfacing had been carried out but not for the complete stretch. Raised with COLAS, the contractor, and a response was awaited.

ii)Bus shelter light Saughton. **Noted:** A response to the request was awaited from CWAC.

iii)Abbey Gate. **Noted:** A positive meeting had taken place (Cllr Waddelove, CWAC, Abbey Gate and local residents). It had been decided that a 20mph zone outside Abbey Gate should be put in place along Chapel Lane in the Smithy Cottage direction to the edge of the village boundary. There would have to be a formal consultation which would take around 12 months to completion. It was also decided that the signage around the village be strengthened with signs such as '30' having a yellow backing put on them to highlight as well as roundels painted on the road to highlight the speed limit. Particular focus of this work would be on Sandy Lane due to the primary school pick up and drop off car park. Sandy Lane did not qualify for a speed reduction due to a lack of space to implement a 50-30-20 speed limit. Double yellow lines in both directions for 10m outside Abbey Gate would also be put in to try and move traffic away from the danger hotspots directly outside the school. Further measures would possibly be considered if this failed to reduce congestion and speeding in the village with SIDs etc suggested if needed.

Members felt that some of these measures would simply push the problem further out with cars still needing to park somewhere. Double yellow lines proposed were opposed by Members. They felt that the potential use of a mini bus shuttle from the park and ride site had not been fully considered and not enough reason had been given for not doing so. They also suggested a staggered collection/drop off be explored.

9. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The minutes of the meeting of 29th February 2024 were approved as a correct record.

Proposed: Cllr B Roscoe **Seconded:** Cllr H Gornall

10. MATTERS ARISING.

i) Commemoration of the wedding of His Grace Duke of Westminster. **Noted:** The estate had advised that the couple had specifically requested no gifts in favour of considering a community or environmental initiative to mark the occasion. **Resolved:** To be considered further at the September meeting.

ii)Saughton project. **Noted:** two fruit trees had been sourced from local nursery Walkers leaving a further £100 of the Parish Council gift to be spent. A lightweight mower/tiny tractor and cutter was needed for the wildflower section.

iii)Hedge on bends to Waverton. **Noted:** Cllr Roscoe advised that the hedge had been sprayed.

iv)Bench on triangle in Saughton. **Resolved:** Clerk to seek clarification regarding the siting of the bench from CWAC.

v) Mill Lane. **Noted:** Thanks to Grosvenor Estate was extended for clearing the overgrown area.

vi)Request for additional waste bin in Saughton. **Resolved:** Clerk to request from CWAC.

vii)Smithy Cottage, road narrowing signs. **Resolved:** Clerk to raise with CWAC.

11. APPROVAL OF STATUTORY DOCUMENTS.

i) Standing Orders ii) Financial Regulations / Appointment of Signatories iii) Risk Assessment

iv) CWAC Code of Conduct

Resolved: To readopt and approve unchanged.

Proposed: Cllr B Roscoe Seconded: Cllr D Walker

12.ACCOUNTS.

Resolved: That the payment of salaries and expenses, the payment of invoices for goods received and services rendered be approved and the receipts and balances (£2762.37 as at 5 April 2024 plus precept of £4000 credited) be noted.

Proposed: Cllr B Roscoe **Seconded:** Cllr D Weaver.

i) **Resolved:** To raise cheques for £25 each for Aldford and Bruera churches.

13.ANNUAL AUDIT/ANNUAL GOVERNANCE and ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR). 2023/2024

i) Noted: Internal Audit concluded by Hacker Young.

- ii) Approved and signed by Chair: Annual Statement of Accounts Part 1.
- iii) Approved and signed by Chair: Annual Statement of Accounts Part 2.
- iv) Resolved: To declare Smaller Authorities Exemption from external audit.
- v) Resolved: To Appoint Hacker Young as Internal Auditor for 2024/2025.

Proposed: Cllr M Davies **Seconded:** Cllr B Roscoe.

14. PLANNING.

Noted that all planning applications were circulated to members between meetings.

24/00008/LBC Village Stocks Chester Road Aldford Replacement of the timber stocks which are placed within stone supports.

New application: **24/00657/FUL** Porter Heath Holdings 2 Ridges Lane Saighton Conversion of 2 no. traditional red brick barns into 3 no. residential dwellings, the demolition of other agricultural buildings and the construction of detached garaging and associated landscaping.

15. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

- i) Invitation to renew insurance: **Resolved:** Insurance schedule to be renewed unchanged with effect from 1 June 2024 at a premium of £583.72.

Proposed: Cllr B Roscoe **Seconded:** Cllr D Weaver

- ii) CWAC Local Plan drop in invitation received (Cuddington 4/6, Tarvin 19/6, Malpas 2/7). **Resolved:** Noted.

16. STANDING CONSIDERATION OF HIGHWAY MATTERS.

- i) Complaint received regarding upkeep of a property on Chapel Lane.
Resolved: Clerk to report to CWAC.

17. RESOLVED: DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL: THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.15PM AT SAIGHTON VILLAGE HALL.