

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 15th January 2018 at 7.45pm at the Eco Centre, Goldwell Lane, Aldington.

Present Councillors: S Garrard (Chairman), M Boulding, R Boulding, C Fowler, P Kemp, T Ransley, S Thornby and T Wright.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

Also present 9 members of the public.

724. Ashford Borough Councillor's Report:

Councillor Martin submitted apologies by email and that there were no major issues to report on.

725. KCC Community Warden's Report:

The Community Warden reported that the Christmas and New Year period was very quiet and that there continued to be theft from vans in the Ashford area. The warden finished his report advising that he will cease to be a Community Warden at the end of the month and at this stage it is unclear if he will be replaced. Contact details for the service have been made available.

The Chairman thanked the warden on behalf of the Parish Council for his years of assistance and service.

726. To receive and accept apologies for absence:

Councillor W Parkinson, Ashford Borough Council Ward members W Howard and J Martin.

727. To receive any declarations of interest from Members:

Councillor Ransley declared an interest in Rural means Rural who have been invited to have a display at the public exhibition.

728. Public Participation Session:

A resident raised two issues: the first on communication in that the agenda was not on the website. Whilst this had also been noted by a member, the Clerk had not been informed. The matter will be investigated as the Agenda had been posted on the website. Secondly, on the proposed budget, asking what was incorporated into staff costs and stated that the increase was far greater than the 2% National Award. The Chairman responded that staff costs include salary, National Insurance and Pension.

A resident enquired as to the full time equivalent of the Clerk's salary. This information was not to hand.

The Vice-Chairman enquired as to the relevance of this request.

A resident stated that there had been a large increase in staff costs during the current year. The Chairman responded that the Council had sought an independent assessment of the Clerk's position by the Society of Local Council Clerks and National Association of Local Councils whose decision was binding on the Council and the recommended salary was implemented. There had also been an element of backdating for the pension.

A resident enquired as to progress with the dropped kerb on Roman Road by the Fire Station. The Clerk responded that KCC have appointed a contractor and were awaiting a commencement date.

729. Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2017 were submitted, and subject to the wording of the Village Hall report being made clearer agreed and signed by the Chairman.

730. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman reported that, after several months of negotiation with the Borough Council by the Clerk, agreement has been reached that the Borough Council will pay the Parish Council the sum of £900 per annum towards its costs of maintaining the land owned by the Borough Council.

The outcome of the survey for the Wish List last year highlighted the top three priorities as traffic calming, speed indicator device and bus service. As all three of these fall within the remit of the County Council, the Clerk has been in dialogue with Cllr C Bell the Ward Member over these issues. The Chairman was pleased to report that the Clerk has secured funding from Cllr Bell for the full cost of a speed indicator device which the Chairman asked the Council to confirm they wished to proceed with the installation (duly confirmed). The other matters are still in the course of discussion.

The Clerk is to be congratulated on these outcomes.

731. Finance:

Schedule of payments

Cheque No	Payee	Detail	Amount
1271	D Earnshaw		£100.00
1272	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£918.00
1273	Aldington Village Hall	Room Hire	£20.00
1274 & 1275	Staff costs		£1,089.28
1276	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£60.00
1277	Kent Association of Local Councils	Training	£36.00
1278	S Thornby	Reimbursement service Carol	£42.00

RESOLVED:

1. To receive and note the items of expenditure and approve payment.
2. To authorise the transfer of £3,000.00 from deposit account to current account.

732. Finance Quarterly Review:

REPORT ABPC/17/16 brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the third quarter of the financial year. Restated here as the format of the report gave rise to uncertainty.

Payments from general funds

	Budget	Actual to 31/12/17	% of budget	Remaining budget
Allotments	50.00	34.24	68.48	15.76
Audit	550.00	490.00	89.09	60.00
Chairman's expenses	150.00	0	0	150.00
Contingency	1,500.00	343.83	22.92	1,156.17
Donations	450.00	395.00	87.78	55.00
Electricity/telephone	750.00	0	0	750.00
Grounds maintenance	10,000.00	8559.43	85.59	1,440.57
Hire of halls	100.00	49.50	49.50	50.50
Insurance	2,100.00	2,063.57	98.27	36.43
Miscellaneous	1,000.00	872.85	87.29	127.15
Parish Clerk	13,000.00	10,667.92	82.06	2,332.08
Playground reserve	1000.00			1000.00
Stationery	400.00	492.63	123.16	(92.63)
Subscriptions	700.00	617.38	88.2	82.62
Training	200.00	275.00	137.5	(75.00)
Reynolds MUGA sinking fund		1000.00		(1000.00)
Total budgeted payments	31,950.00	25,861.35	80.94	6,088.65

Income to general funds

Precept	28,515.00	28,515.00	100.00	
Concurrent grant	860.00	860.00	100.00	
Council tax support grant	790.00	790.00	100.00	
Interest	25.00	4.50	18.00	20.50
Miscellaneous	200.00	175.00	87.5	25.00
Transfer A/M Maintenance fund	1,560.00	1,170.00	75.00	390.00
Allotments		10.00		(10.00)
Total budgeted receipts	31,950.00	31,524.50	98.67	425.50

Funds analysis

	As at 31/3/17	Receipts	Payments	As at 31/12/17
General funds	15,034.11	31,524.50	25,831.35	20,697.26
Other reserves				
Contingency (by-election)	3,500.00			3,500.00
Play equipment (repairs & renewals)	14,291.40		515.00	13,776.40
Quarry Field (maintenance)	2,545.00			2,545.00
Grants				
Village Hall				
Reynolds Playing Field		4000.00	4000.00	
War memorial	1,779.63	750.00		2,529.63
War memorial maintenance		260.00		260.00
Aldington Meadows Section 106				
Bus shelter	33.50			33.50
Play area & parish council land maintenance	7,101.05		1,170.00	5,931.05
Badgers Close Section 106 funds				
Sport contribution	526.23			526.23
Play area contribution	2,249.80		249.96	1,999.84
MUGA lighting project	(6,000.00)	6,000.00		

VAT	(5,453.84)	6,839.98	2,848.09	(1,461.95)
Total funds	35,606.88	49,374.48	34,644.40	50,336.96

RESOLVED:

1. To receive and note Report ABPB/17/16.
2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the third quarter of the financial year.

733. Budget and Precept 2018/19:

REPORT ABPC/17/17 concludes the budget making process for 2018/19 and makes recommendations to enable the Council to set its precept for 2018/19 and to notify the tax collecting authority in accordance with statutory legislation.

RESOLVED:

1. To receive and note Report ABPC/17/17.
2. To set the Parish Council's budget for 2018/19 as set out below.
3. To confirm the Precept for 2018/19 in accordance with the provisions in Sections 39, 41 and 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
4. To authorise the Parish Clerk to sign the Precept demand on the Borough Council.

Budget for 2018/19:

Expenditure

Allotments	50.00
Audit	550.00
Donations	450.00
Dog Waste Bags	500.00
Electricity / Telephone	750.00
Grounds maintenance	11,500.00
Hire of Halls	100.00
Insurance	2,100.00
Miscellaneous	238.00
Staff Costs	15,000.00
Stationery	400.00
Subscriptions	700.00
Training	400.00
Reynolds Playing Field Charity MUGA sinking fund	1,000.00
Total budgeted payments from general funds	33,738.00

Income

Precept	29,118.00
Concurrent grant	860.00
Council tax support grant	920.00
Interest	5.00
Fordred Charity	175.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
Transfer Aldington Meadows maintenance fund	1,560.00
Grounds maintenance	900.00
Allotments	175.00
Total budgeted receipts to general funds	33,738.00

734. Public Exhibition:

The Parish Council agreed to hold a public exhibition early in 2018 to establish if there was any support from residents in the Parish for the completion of either a Neighbourhood Plan or Village Confines. After debate it was resolved to hold the exhibition in Aldington Village Hall on Saturday 10th February between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm with visual displays on Neighbourhood Plans, Village Confines, the Village Protection Policy as well as an update on the Wish List survey.

735. Allotments:

Councillor Kemp advised that the review of the allotment rules was nearing completion and these would be sent out with renewal notices at the end of January.

736. Aldington Village Hall:

Councillor Boulding reported that the Carol service was very successful and that he had received two quotations for the installation of CCTV and was waiting for a third.

737. Skatepark:

Quotations are still being sought, a further update will be given at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

738. Correspondence:

1. **Rural Vulnerability Service – Fuel Poverty.**
2. **Rural Economy Spotlight.**
3. **Information Commissioners Office newsletter.**
4. **Rural Services Network – weekly news digest 4th December 2017.**
5. **Rural Services Network – weekly news digest 11th December 2017.**
6. **Rural Services Network – weekly news digest 18th December 2017.**
7. **Rural Services Network – weekly news digest 2nd January 2018.**
8. **Rural Services Network – weekly news digest 8th January 2018.**
9. **Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Broadband.**
10. **Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport.**

739. Any Other Business:

Councillor Ransley suggested that an approach be made to the Borough Council for the release of £5,000 from the Section 106 Taylor Wimpey community fund to the

Parish Council. It was agreed that he would speak to the Officer at Ashford Borough Council.

The issue of the installation of a gate between plots 39 and 41 was raised as complaints have been received by the Parish Council. The matter has been raised with the Planning Department at Ashford Borough Council as, although the plan shows a footpath, it does not show a gate. A response has been received from the planning department advising that the Officers' report to the planning committee referred to 'a new path provided through the access serving plots 39-41 to form a direct link to the recreational area that lies to the east of the site'. This was approved by the planning committee.

Councillor Wright advised that the planters have been delivered and are ready for installation on Bonnington Village Green. It was agreed that he would liaise with an interested resident for the exact placement.

Concern was raised about the storage of the Council's equipment with the planned removal of the garage at Ragstone Hollow. A letter has been sent to Ashford Borough Council seeking alternative storage; to date a response has not been received.

Councillor Garrard advised that following research the Parish Clerk had identified that John Bunnett had been appointed to lead the Otterpool Park project at Shepway District Council. As former Chief Executive at Ashford Borough Council he is known to the Chairman and she sought confirmation from the members about writing to him to congratulate him on his appointment and the wish to work together given the proximity of Otterpool Park to the Parish.

Councillor Kemp raised the issue of the working conditions for the Clerk in the Mission Hall as the heating was totally inadequate. The Clerk advised that he has raised the issue with the Mission Hall as the power socket appears to be faulty and at the Annual Assembly assurance was given that the matter would be dealt with.

740. Exclusion of the Public and Press:

RESOLVED: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the Public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be conducted.

741. Grounds Maintenance:

The tenders for the contract have been sent out and will be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting. A discussion took place relating to additional works and the existing arrangements were confirmed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55pm