

# ALDFORD AND SAIGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the above Council held at Aldford Village Hall on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 7.15pm**

**1.Present:** Cllr P. Cummins - Chairman (Aldford), Cllr M. Davies - Vice Chairman (Saughton), Cllr D. Weaver (Aldford), Cllr A. Cotton (Lea Newbold), Cllr J. Roscoe (Aldford), Cllr S. Cummins (Aldford), Cllr Barry Roscoe (Buerton), Cllr. N. Goodwin (Saughton)

**In Attendance:** Mr. T. Birtles – (Eaton Estate)  
Cllr H. Greenwood (CWAC)  
Mrs C. Taylor - (Clerk to ASPC)  
Mr M Whiteside (Broxton Barn Owl Group)

**2.Apologies:** None received

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### **3.Chairmans Annual Review:**

The past year had been an active one with the Parish Council working alongside Cllr Howard Greenwood, Cheshire West and Chester, the Grosvenor Estate and Cheshire Police on a number of initiatives for the benefit of the residents of Aldford and Saughton. Operation Shield had recently been rolled out through the two villages with gratefully received funding from the Estate, Cllr Greenwood and the two Village Hall Committees. Funding had also been forthcoming to help towards the new car park at Saughton which was now a step nearer realisation. At the request of the Parish Council speed limit assessments had been undertaken in the Parish by Highways with a further assessment scheduled for June before the results were analysed and any actions agreed. A precept of £2000 had been requested for 2017/18 which was a £200 increase on the previous year. The loss of the New Homes Bonus payment had impacted greatly on Parish Council finances in general and would result in an increased precept in many cases. There had been the usual level of planning applications with one in particular of much interest to the community ... the approval of a shop/café at Green Lake Barns.

Thanks was extended to all Councillors, Parish and Borough and to PCS Ged Gigg and Jon Hurst.

<b>Election of Officials</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
<b>4. Election of Chairman</b> (P. Cummins)	Mr. J. Roscoe	Mr. A. Cotton
<b>5. Election of Vice Chairman</b> (M. Davies)	Mr D. Weaver	Mrs. S. Cummins

**6.Adoption of Code of Conduct:** Agreed

7. **Adoption of Standing Orders:** Agreed.

8. **Adoption of Financial Regulations:** Agreed

9. **Appointment of Internal Auditor:** Agreed to reappoint Hacker Young.

10. **Appointment of Signatories:** Agreed to remain as previous year (P. Cummins, S. Cummins, D. Weaver).

11. **Review of Insurance:** Agreed to renew with last years' provider AON.

12. **Review of Risk Assessment:** Agreed no change.

13. **Pension provision:** Noted that all employers were now required by law to auto enrol any eligible employee into a pension scheme. The clerk was not eligible but the Parish Council still had a duty to write explaining how auto enrolment applied and to declare compliance within 5 months of the staging date of 1 May 2017.

#### 14. **Public participation**

A short presentation was given by Mr Mike Whiteside on behalf of the Broxton Barn Owl Group. The talk was very informative and Cllrs had the opportunity to ask questions. The group was formed in 1995 and is run by volunteers.

#### 15. **Police Update**

Noted:

(i) There had been an overnight theft in Saughton.

(ii) There had been incidents of equestrian theft in Malpas.

**16. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of the above council held on 1st March 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

#### **17. Matters Arising**

(i) Potholes; Noted that the pothole outside/before Churton Heath Farm had not been repaired and was dangerous. Clerk to raise with Highways again.

(ii) Grant from Huntington PC towards Saughton car park; Noted: Approved subject to "the condition that it is used towards a new drop off zone in order to ease congestion".

(iii) Street lighting Aldford: Max Woodcock had advised that he had not historically serviced the lights but had only responded to requests to attend to faults. Agreed: Clerk to ask Max to clean the lights.

iv) Speed assessments:

- a) Noted: Highways had agreed to add the length of the B5130 Chester Road between the exiting 30 mph speed limit south of Grange Farm, Churton and the existing 40 mph speed limit north of Lower Lane, Aldford to their list of speed limit assessments.

- b) Noted: Re the request made for the 40 mph terminal signs to be moved to the other side of Lower Lane: Graham Lowes response had been that this was considered when the speed limit was introduced and it was decided the existing terminal point to the south of Green Lake Lane to be the most suitable commencement point for the speed limit. Moving it further away from the main area of development was likely to reduce its impact, and starting it to the south of Lower Lane would also present practical problems due to insufficient verge width to accommodate the required speed limit signs. Given the above he was unable to support this request. Agreed: Cllr Greenwood to pursue further with Graham Lowe.
- c) Noted: Cllr Greenwood advised that the request for a 20mph zone around all 3 schools could be met but that it would not be this year.
- v) Saighton: Cllr Goodwin to investigate possible path running under grass verge at triangle.
- vi) Best Kept Village Competition: Noted: Not running this year.

### **18. Correspondence**

- i) CwAC Neighbourhood Planning Team had written to advise that the revised Central Goway (South) Neighbourhood Area was designated on 3 April 2017 by Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- ii) Electoral Review of Cheshire West and Chester; Warding Arrangements.  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England had written to advise that they had formally commenced an electoral review of Cheshire West and Chester. It would recommend new electoral arrangements and propose numbers and names of wards, number of Councillors representing each ward, boundaries and total number of Councillors elected to the council in future. The consultation would close on 5 June 2017. Noted: It was likely that with effect from 2019 Aldford and Saighton would join Dodleston, Huntington and Christleton under the new warding arrangements. Agreed: Aldford and Saighton Parish Council object to larger wards and a reduction in Councillors and would wish to retain Cllr Greenwood as ward Councillor if possible.  
(iii) Structural Maintenance Rolling Programme 2018-19: Highways had written to ask for up to 4 schemes to be included on a survey list. No guarantee that the schemes suggested would be funded as that would depend upon their survey score compared to other schemes surveyed in the Borough. Agreed: Clerk to inform re the 4 schemes agreed.

### **19. Accounts**

- Payment to CHALC for annual membership was approved for payment (£132.30)
- The Chairman signed the Accounts Book, Reserve bank book, both copies of the final Current and Reserve statements, Stage 1 and 2 of the audit commission paperwork and the bank reconciliation to confirm it had been done.
- The Vat Return was completed and sent to HMRC requesting a refund of £61.00 □ The Current Bank Acct opened at £5188.95 and closed at £7655.01 The Reserve Bank Acct opened at £502.73 and closed at £502.90.
- Clerks expenses of £32.80 were agreed.
- Clerks salary £240.52 paid.
- First quarter payroll implementation fee paid £15.00
- Internal Auditor (Hacker Young) paid £ 150.00.
- Insurance renewal (due 1 June 2017) paid £438.84 to AON UK Ltd.
- Cheque raised for £5.00 for hire of Aldford Village Hall

- Grant received from Transparency Fund £222.00
- Precept received

## **20. Planning Matters**

### **Applications**

16/04898/COU1 Factory Cottages, Chapel lane, Aldford. Change of use of land to create residential access with associated driveway and parking. Decision still awaited.

7/00164/FUL Abbey Gate College, Saughton. Refurbishment and extension of the existing VI Form building and single storey extension to science block. Decision still awaited.

17/01640/CAT The Rectory Green Lake Lane Aldford: Tree works; Prunus sp. (Decei1-545) - Fell and replant with suitable species in close proximity Prunus sp. (Decei1-549) - Reduce throughout

17/01634/CAT Saughton House Saughton Lane Saughton: Tree works; Walnut (D2-382) - fell and replant with suitable species

17/01295/CAT Land to South of Thatched Cottage School Lane Aldford: Tree works; Ash (T1) - fell due to specimen being of poor quality. Area will be replanted with 2-4 light standards of suitable species. Ash (T2) - fell due to specimen being of poor quality. Area will be replanted with 2-4 light standards of suitable species. Ash (T3) - fell due to specimen being of poor quality. Area will be replanted with 2-4 light standards of suitable species. Ash (T4) - fell due to specimen being of poor quality. Area will be replanted with 2-4 light standards of suitable species. Ash (T5) - fell due to specimen being of poor quality. Area will be replanted with 2-4 light standards of suitable species.

### **Approvals**

16/05718/S73 Abbey gate College, Saughton. Addition of 8 floodlight columns to approved multi use games pitch. 31 March 2017.

### **Withdrawn**

17/00154/LBC St Mary the Virgin Church, Bruera. Erection of 2 lights adjacent to the boundary wall of the churchyard. 28 March 2017.

## **21. Any other business**

- (i) Cllr Cummins presented a plaque for each of the new noticeboards in the bus shelters to acknowledge that the boards had been funded by the marathon organisers.
- (ii) Cllr Davies advised that she had had a complaint from a Saughton resident regarding HGVs using the road as a cut through from the A41 to local housing/building sites which posed both speed and weight related issues and was felt to be “an accident waiting to happen”. Agreed: Cllr Davies to forward details to clerk to pursue.
- (iii) Dog bin: Additional bin requested for Aldford on footpath to the river at Nursery cottage. Clerk to request.
- (iv) Defibrillator at Aldford: Noted that the defibrillator had been removed from the external cabinet and was currently stored inside the hall. Agreed: Clerk to ask VHC why it had been moved and whether it was registered with the NWAS.

## **22. Date for next meeting – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Saughton Village Hall (venue tbc).**