

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 9th November 2020 online at 7.30pm.

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

Present: Councillors: L Harman (Chairman), A Baldwin, M Boulden, A Bowman, P Kemp, W Parkinson, R Spicer, and S Wagstaff. Cllr R Boulding arrived after minute had been considered

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk.

822. Public participation:

A resident from Wheatfields asked about the potential opening up of the footpath through to the Village Green from the development. The Chairman responded that at the present time there was no intention of opening up the path, though the connection should have been made by Taylor Wimpey and that, if this were to be considered, residents would be notified in advance.

823. Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

824. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

825. Minutes:

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th October 2020 were submitted, approved as a true record to be signed by the Chairman at a time when current meeting restrictions permit.

826. Planning Committee:

The draft minutes of the planning committee meeting held on 2nd November 2020 were presented and adopted by the full council.

827. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Chq No	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1536	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£1,029.90
1537, 1538 & 1539	Staff costs		£2,233.37
1540	Ashford Conservatories	Village Hall	£7,500.00
1541	D Godden	Pond	£84.00
1542	PKF Littlejohn	Audit	£360.00
1543	Luminance Pro	MUGA lighting	£2,160.00
1544	Aldington & Bonnington Gardening Society	Village hall planters	£31.22
1545	JRB Enterprise	Dog Poo bags	£297.00
1546	M Gibbs	War memorial planting	£46.57
1547	C Older	War memorial planting	£51.80

1548	D Godden	Pond clearance	£600.00
1549	Jati Ltd	Memorial bench	£472.49
1550	Kent Assoc Local Councils	Training	£180.00
1551	SLCC Enterprises	Training	£36.00
1552	R Boulding	Reimbursement	£21.11
1553	P Kemp	Fordred distribution	£560.00

Resolved: To authorise payment of the cheques listed in the schedule of payments.

828. Finance Quarterly review:

Report ABPC/20/10 brings to the Parish Council an update on its financial standing against its budget at the end of the second quarter of the financial year.

Resolved:

- 1. To receive and note Report ABPC/20/10.**
- 2. To receive and note the financial position at the end of the second quarter of the financial year.**

829. Notification of conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2020:

Report: The Parish Council's external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP, have issued their report for the 2019/2020 accounts which states:

"On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met".

There were no other matters drawn to the attention of the Parish Council.

Councillor R Boulding arrived

830. Action Plan:

Following the meeting of 12th October, minute 815 refers, an Action Plan has been drawn up for adoption by the Council. This is a working document and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

ACTION: Clerk & Chair

Councillor P Kemp left the meeting due to failed internet connection

831. Neighbourhood Plan:

The team are now collecting the required supporting evidence as well as analysing the data from the first questionnaire. The information will be posted onto the website as and when completed.

One of the first tasks is to identify the landscape character in order to do this a photographic competition will be held, details will be advertised on the website, facebook and by way of posters on the noticeboards.

ACTION: LH

832. Quarry Field, woodland and pond:

The initial clearance of silt and vegetation from the pond has been completed and the water is recovering. The area around the pond is very muddy and fenced off temporarily to prevent accidents. The fencing is to be removed after a week or so, pending review of ground conditions. ACTION: WP & SW

Ecologist Martin Newcombe is building a Report on the area which is anticipated to become available early 2021.

833. COVID infection control:

The Parish Council is following the Government guidelines with respect to COVID, the play areas will remain open in the second lockdown and will continue to be sanitised on a daily basis.

834. Advertising on the Parish Council website:

Questionnaire 1 of the Neighbourhood Plan has highlighted that there are a number of homeworkers and self employed in our parishes. The Parish Council is asked to consider if it wishes to allow them to place an advertisement on our website, with suitable disclaimer, for their business and to consider the appropriate cost for the service.

After discussion it was agreed that this would not be taken forward at the present time.

835. Other items for information:

Cllr Parkinson raised the fact that the hedge outside the bungalow at the Corner is effectively blocking half of the path. The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with Ashford Borough Council as they are in contact with the property owner.

Cllr Wagstaff raised the fact that the footpath that runs behind the garages in Longsfield through to Calleywell Lane is blocked as it appears that boundary fences have been moved. Cllrs Parkinson and Wagstaff will check and advise the Parish Clerk of the outcome in order that the relevant enquiries can be made.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:15 pm.