

Minutes of a meeting of Aldington and Bonnington Parish Council held on Monday 11th January 2021 online at 7.30 pm.

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 (arrived at 7.45pm), and S Wagstaff.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk. And 1 member of the public.

847. Apologies for absence:

Cllr R Boulding (IT issues) and Cllr R Spicer (Unwell)

848. Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

849. Public Participation Session:

There were no questions from the public.

850. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th December 2020 were submitted, approved as a true record to be signed by the Chairman at a time when current meeting restrictions permit,

Cllr Parkinson joined the meeting.

851. Request for financial assistance:

Minute 842 of the 14th December refers, the Charity's Secretary joined the meeting to answer members questions. Councillors requested that the decision be made in private at the end of the meeting.

852. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Chq no	Payee	Purpose	Amount
1563	Harmer & Sons	Grounds maintenance	£981.90
1564	KALC	Training	£114.00
1565 1566 & 1567	Staff costs		£2,063.92

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

853. St Rumwold's Church, Bonnington:

It has been observed that a number of the trees in the churchyard at St Rumwold's have been fenced off. Enquiries have been made as to the situation which has come about due to Ash Dieback. One tree has been felled for health and safety and a number of others require pollarding to ensure they remain safe.

Cllr Boulden has liaised with the Churchwarden and is arranging for the necessary works to be undertaken.

854. Aldington Meadows:

An email has been received from a resident recently moved in enquiring about the tennis court situated at the rear of the allotments at Aldington Meadows and is keen to help clear it so it can be used again.

The area was last cleared some 4 years ago and is heavily overgrown at present. The Parish Council is asked if it wishes to consider taking this forward as a project subject to sufficient funding being obtained.

Resolved: To request the Parish Clerk to make enquiries to ascertain a cost for the installation of a suitable court and potential funding for consideration at a future meeting of the Parish Council.

855. Neighbourhood Plan:

The team has now drawn up the Vision for the plan and are currently working on the objectives that will underpin this. The vision has been compiled from the results of Questionnaire 1 and the objectives will be based on how to protect the rural characteristics of the area which need evidencing, such as the photographic competition.

The Vision: In 2035, Aldington & Bonnington will be a better version of the place it is today; the distinctive ridge line landscape, ancient woodlands and open, rural farming character will still yield dramatic views. Nature and the dark skies will be protected and the area made safely accessible for all to enjoy. Any future development will prioritise homes for all ages that are affordable on local wages and people will live happily for generations in a thriving, healthy, active and connected community. We will have built with care, made a feature of our heritage and embraced more sustainable ways of living, along with modern technology to facilitate local enterprise. We will be proud to call this parish our home.

A Councillor expressed concern that the last sentence did not reflect the input and pride of people who have lived in the Parish for decades.

Cllr Harman explained that the Vision aims to encapsulate the feelings and priorities of the responses to Questionnaire 1. It is the first step towards drafting policies that will be specific to the Parish that will help protect and enhance the features we love and is not in any way intended to suggest that the villages have not been loved in the past. This is about how the Parish develops in the future. It was suggested that the last sentence is revised to, "We will continue to be proud to call this parish our home".

856. Quarry Field, woodland and pond:

The new gate at the entrance through Ragstone Hollow needs extending, Cllr Parkinson is dealing with the matter and trying to source suitable materials.

857. Other items for information:

Cllr Baldwin raised the issue of the condition of Church Lane in the vicinity of the converter station where the bushes are overgrown and the drainage ditch overflows in heavy rain. The Parish Clerk will report this to Kent Highways

858. 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.

859. Request for Financial Assistance:

Minute 851 refers.

Resolved: The Parish Council is unable to assist at the present time.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.