ALMELEY PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 9th March 2022
at Almeley Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Michael Handley (Chair), Andy Cross, Rose Proctor, Martin Skyrme, Colin Powell and John Crippin

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Clerk

Public: 7

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
   None

2. **To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensation**
   None

3. **To consider the co-option of a Councillor for Almeley Parish**
   As another parishioner has expressed the wish to be co-opted but could not attend the meeting tonight, it was AGREED to defer this until the next meeting.

4. **To approve the minutes of the previous meetings – 12th January 2022**
   The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

5. **Open session**
   - **5.1 To receive a report on Herefordshire Council matters from Ward Cllr Graham Jones**
     Not present
   - **5.2 To receive views of local residents on parish matters**
     Several highways issues for reporting were RAISED and are logged under item 15.1 and it was NOTED that the PCC are making contact with Lviv in Ukraine and are discussing ways to support Ukrainian refugees.

6. **Planning**
   - **6.1 To note applications determined by Herefordshire Council**
     The following table was NOTED

Date - minute	Application	Details	Parish Council Decision	Hereford Council Decision
05.05.21	211021	**Bridge Farm, Almeley, Hereford, HR3 6LD** Proposed steel portal framed farm building extensions to create a cattle and sheep handling and welfare unit. (Retrospective)	Object	Approved
08.09.21	212210	**Questmoor Farm, Eardisley, HR3 6LN** Proposed new farm access and track	Object	Deemed withdrawal
06.10.21	213206	**Ferney House, Woonton, Hereford, HR3 6QN** Application of traditional overlapped sawn weatherboard cladding to protect vulnerable west gable Ferney House Woonton	Support	Approved with conditions

- **6.2 To consider the following planning applications for determination by Herefordshire Council**
  - **6.2.1 220167 - St Marys Church, Almeley, HR3 6LB**
    The removal of the existing metal gates and replacement with a set of glazed doors to the south porch.
    It was RESOLVED to support this application and submit the NDP report alongside.

- **6.3 To consider the new access onto the C1079 by Spearmarsh House**
  It was NOTED that access onto a C road does require planning permission. It was RESOLVED to pass this onto planning enforcement for investigation. It was noted that hedges have also been removed from the site – it was AGREED this should be an agenda item at the next meeting.

7. **To consider the following proposals from Almeley Green Group – presented at the January meeting.**
   - **7.1 To consider declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency**
     It was RESOLVED to adopt the Climate Emergency with minor amendments – Appendix 1

7.2 To consider joining the HGN with a view to launching the Great Collaboration portal within Almeley - £50 joining fee.
It was RESOLVED to join this group.

7.3 To consider developing an action plan for the community to reduce carbon emissions and increase biodiversity within the parish, using the Great Collaboration tool and working with the Green Group to do so.
It was RESOLVED to defer this item until a later date.

7.4 To consider forming a "Green Working Party" and making "an update from this group a standing item on agendas.
It was RESOLVED to defer the forming of a working party until a later date but to welcome the submission of an update by way of a written report before each meeting. It was AGREED to set up an informal meeting to discuss issues further.

7.5 To note the Green Groups intention to undertake a litter pick.
NOTED

8. To consider the Queens Jubilee Celebrations
It was RESOLVED to call an extra-ordinary meeting in early April to discuss this in more detail. It was RESOLVED that the clerk could submit a Highway Closure Application if requested.

9. To consider revisiting obtaining ownership of commons from Herefordshire Council
It was RESOLVED that the clerk should contact the Commons Department to determine the timescale on this as it is 5 years now since it was agreed.

10. To consider the water pressure in Almeley Village
It was NOTED that water pressure in Almeley Village is exceptionally high. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should request that Welsh Water investigate the situation as domestic pipes are being damaged.

11. To receive an update on dog fouling
It was REPORTED that Herefordshire Council is responsible for the enforcement of dog fouling on the Common. The clerk has requested "no dog fouling" signs are delivered to the PC. It was RESOLVED that Cllr John Crippin could purchase some metal poles to erect these signs onto.

12. To consider the Parish Council's Remembrance Service Participation and wreath laying.
It was NOTED that the Parish Council has not been involved in this before. It was RESOLVED that the Chair could approach the British Legion and attend on behalf of the Parish Council if he wished.

13. Finance

13.1 To note the March bank balance and finance report and sign both. – Appendix 2
It was REPORTED that finances remained healthy and the reserves fund should be nearing an recommended level by the start of the financial year 2022-23. The report was SIGNED as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation.

13.2 To consider the following invoices for payment

13.2.1 Clerk's March salary
13.2.2 Clerk's March expenses £41.54 previously circulated
13.2.3 Almeley Village Hall Meeting Hire – 12th January 2022 - £15
13.2.4 HMRC PAYE £662.80
13.2.5 Smiths of Derby – Clock Service £307.20
13.2.6 Graeme Keeble – Lengthsman days – Dec, Jan and Feb £390

The above payments were APPROVED for payment by BACS – It was RESOLVED that the HMRC figure would be circulated by email for approval once it was sent by the payroll company. It needs to be paid by 31st March 2022

13.3 To note the following payment made between meetings under clerks delegated authority

13.3.1 Clerks February Salary
NOTED

13.4 To consider making a donation to Almeley Cricket Club towards the upkeep of the Common
The clerk REPORTED that a sum of £562.27 had been emailed by the Cricket Club as the amount spent on grounds maintenance by the club last year. It was RESOLVED that a donation of £300 be made.

14. Parish Maintenance

14.1 To consider any lengthsman or footpaths jobs that need undertaking.
The following items were RAISED for undertaking:
- Pavement in Manor Close is very slippery

- The gully by Motte House has been cleared out – It was AGREED to request that the gullies are cleared by Balfour Beatty but to pass this onto the lengthsman if they were unable to assist. It was AGREED to ask the lengthsman if he is able to add clearing gullies to his general tasks throughout the year.

14.2To receive a report from the Parish Footpaths Officer

None received

14.3To consider the lengthsman tenders received for 2022-23

It was REPORTED that one tender had been received. It was RESOLVED to reappoint Mr. G. Keeble for the year 2022-23 for both lengthsman and mowing positions.

14.4To note the submission of the Lengthsman Expression of Interest and Annual Plan Forms to Balfour Beatty

NOTED

15. Highways and Footpaths

15.1To consider any highways issue that needs reporting

The following items were RAISED for reporting:

- Pavement in Manor Close is very slippery
- The gully by Motte House needs digging out – It was AGREED to pass this onto the lengthsman if Balfour Beatty were unable to assist.
- Could the Rotary Ditcher clear the ditches from Upcott to Gypsy Hall
- Where Hopleys Green Lane meets the A480 has been dangerously flooded recently – all gullies and culverts need clearing.
- The Kinnersley Road became a river recently as the ditches need clearing
- A recent crash on the C1079 near Cherry Tree Farm has left oil and debris on the highway
- Pothole by Coyotes Yield Cottage

15.2To consider a list of drainage tasks to put out for quote, alongside the Annual Plan for Kington Area

It was NOTED that the only task raised for quoting was already on the Annual Plan the Kington Area. This would therefore be undertaken in 2022-23 with no need for a grant application.

15.3To consider purchasing the gates for the footbridge modifications AM15/AM21

It was RESOLVED to defer this item until the new landowner has moved in.

15.4To note the Woonton traffic speed analysis data following the installation of a SID

NOTED. Mr and Mrs Charles were thanked for their efforts in maintaining the SID.

15.5To note the temporary highway closure order – A480 from Glynfield to Stocks Lane, Woonton, outside the Ferney

NOTED

15.6 To consider a response to the Kington Locality Steward Engagement Survey

It was RESOLVED that the clerk should submit a response.

15.7 To consider the verge cutting programme 2022

It was RESOLVED that two cuts were necessary to keep the highways clear.

16. Correspondence –

- Highway closures - NOTED
- HALC Information Corner – including signing up to the LGA supported statement from the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) condemning the multiple attacks and violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. – It was AGREED that the clerk should sign up to this on behalf of the PC.
- Planning Application 220679 – It was AGREED that the Council should request a condition be put on this application stating that it can only be used for the activity mentioned in the application.
- Police update - NOTED

17. To consider agenda items for next meeting – no discussion

Use of over-weight trailers in the villages.

18. To note date of next scheduled meeting – 11th May 2022 at Almeley Village Hall. This will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting

NOTED

The meeting closed at 21.45

Signed: [redacted] Dated: _____