

MINUTES OF THE AILSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 2024 AT 7PM

at the Cedar Centre, Castor

Present were Councillors: Dr M Ellershaw, Mr S Langston Jones, Mr R Moon, Mrs A Perkins (Chairman), Mrs J Pickett (Vice Chairman) and Mr M Stalley. Clerk Mrs J Rice

Members of the public present: 15 including Ward Councillor Mr N. Boyce and Mr J Hodder for Neighbourhood Plan/JCAP

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| 24/106 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. To receive and record apologies sent to the Clerk. The Clerk received apologies from Cllr A Raven. The Chairman welcomed the members of the public and explained the timings of the public session and meeting agenda, and the Councillors introduced themselves. |
| 24/107 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive all declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda. Reminder to members to update their register if necessary. (Members should disclose any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business). Chairman to remind Councillors of the seven Nolan principles of public life, to be present in all that they do – selflessness, objectivity, leadership, integrity, accountability, openness and honesty. Cllr A Perkins declared a personal interest in item 110.4. There were no other declarations made. The Chairman re-iterated the seven principles of public life, as above. |
| 24/108 | PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Arrangements will be made for the public to join the meeting and a maximum of 30-45 minutes will be permitted for members of the public to address the meeting on any item on the agenda, 3 mins per person. Residents spoke about the planning application 110.5, which everyone who spoke objected to. The reasons and concerns raised were that it is outside of the village envelope, out of character for a historic, conservation village and soft, rural landscape, the land is prone to flooding with the high-water table and this will be worse with buildings and hard landscaping. Further concerns were raised around increased and dangerous levels of traffic diverting through the villages (when the A47 changes go ahead), a significant and detrimental impact on the wildlife, it could open the doors to more unnecessary industrial development, without a local need. There were other possible concerns around it not being farm diversification, contamination into crops, loss of agricultural land for food. The needs assessment was questioned as not taking into account a site permitted at Gt Haddon and capacity in Peterborough and therefore not catering for a local area need, but possibly much further afield. It was felt the footprint is too high for the need stated and that this site is not appropriate – other sites with public transport links should be considered and the numbers made clearer. The Chairman then explained that residents can make their own comments on the planning portal and that the Parish Council will decide their response at the agenda item. |
| 24/109 | MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (previously circulated) and matters arising |
| | 109.1 To confirm as correct the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18 th November 2024, Chairman to sign, previously circulated. The minutes were confirmed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman. |
| 24/110 | PLANNING; TO NOTE LATEST APPLICATIONS AND RESOLVE RESPONSES TO NEW ONES |
| | 110.1 24/01325/FUL Existing dwelling with externally applied wall insulation with render finish similar to existing building at 20 Helpston Road, deadline 5/11/24. Support sent. Permitted 28/11/24. This was noted. |
| | 110.2 24/01276/LBC replacement first floor window, door and door frame to front side elevation at 39 Main St, deadline 23/10/24. Support sent. Permitted 26/11/24. This was noted. |
| | 110.3 24/01130/HHFUL First floor extension to existing dwelling, demolition of rear conservatory and store and erection of S/S rear extension. Extension to front porch with new door, replacement of all existing windows and external doors, widening of front drive at 24 Main St. Response sent. Permitted 20/11/24. This was noted. |
| | 110.4 24/01495/TRE to sympathetically reduce in size by 50% a Sycamore tree at 21 Helpston Road. Deadline 6/12/24, extended. This was discussed and Councillors were advised that the Tree Officer had visited both applicant and owner and would be advising on appropriate works to such a large and protected tree. In these circumstances, it was decided to accept the Tree Officer's recommendations. Action Clerk to send. |

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

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| | 110.5 | 24/01440/FUL change of use of land to cemetery including building, maintenance building, car parking and soft landscaping at land to south of Old Peterborough Road, Sutton. Deadline 13/12/24, extended. This application was discussed and residents' views taken into account. It was agreed to object to the change of use application for reasons such as the size/scale of the development not being in proportion to the need identified/numbers of funerals stated, the issues of increased traffic through the villages with the A47 changes, the farm diversification criteria not being met, the sites at Peterborough and Gt Haddon not being mentioned as having capacity and the concern over flooding in that location. Action Clerk to send. |
| | 110.6 | To receive applications between issuing agenda and date of meeting and decide if can agree response. There were none that needed discussing now. |
| 24/111 | REPORT FROM THE WARD COUNCILLOR NEIL BOYCE. Mr Boyce explained that there is a climate change fund available from the Combined Authority and that expressions of interest (E of I) are needed by 3/1/25. Also, there is a village hall fund that could assist with renovations of the village hall (affects APC budget) and a new Parish Charter is to be approved this week to give a bigger voice to Parishes. It was agreed the E of I will be considered and submitted in due course, with ideas/quotes being put forward soon. Action Cllr Stalley/Climate Change Group. | |
| 24/112 | PARISH LIAISON/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/JOINT MEETINGS/JCAP | |
| | 112.1 | To agree revised agenda for next joint PCs meeting on 16/1/25, as circulated by John Hodder. This was agreed. |
| | 112.2 | To note update on Neighbourhood Plan review for Ailsworth PC, with Castor PC, awaiting feedback from Peterborough City Council/CPC meeting. This was noted as being discussed at the meeting on 16/1/25. |
| | 112.3 | To hear feedback from other recent meetings attended and agree any actions. (Wellbeing Co-ordination, Cllr Stalley). Cllr Stalley gave positive feedback from this Integrated Partnership and how it fits with the Good Neighbours Scheme. |
| | 112.4 | To note feedback from Good Neighbours Scheme awareness and agreement to sign. The Clerk has not had the data on numbers using this scheme, nor how people know about it and access it. This will be requested again and also an article will go in the February newsletter. Action Clerk |
| 24/113 | GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND TRAINING, Clerk and Finance working group (FWG) | |
| | 113.1 | To receive and note training opportunities and feedback from any recent training attended. The Clerk confirmed there is a lot of training available for a new, inexperienced Clerk. |
| | 113.2 | To receive and note financial position report to end of November 2024 and resolve any queries. To follow. The finance report was received and noted. The budget is underspent at 63%, at 67% through the year. There is still 5k projects in earmarked reserves. The bank balance is 36k, including 19.5k CIL monies for community resources, and a forecast of 6k general reserves if all projects realised. |
| | 113.3 | To note final burial grounds invoice received and budget figures amended, herewith. The amended budget was received and noted, meaning the proposed parish precept would decrease to £9625. This was agreed. Action Clerk to send precept forms |
| | 113.4 | To receive and note update on recruitment of Clerk and RFO to vacancy and agree interview date, hand-over and old files centralised plus option to review job level. It was agreed to review the situation after the deadline on 10/1/25. |
| | 113.5 | To note process for purchase of items for Parish Council use/work, herewith, and resolve any issues, circulated. This was noted. |
| 24/114 | PLAY AREA/RECREATION GROUND | |
| | 114.1 | To note PCC have arranged spinner repair in the circumstances. This was noted. |
| | 114.2 | To agree repairs of other pieces of equipment previously reported. It was agreed to go ahead with the quote from Playscape for the other equipment repairs of rope and cap, but not bird spikes. Action Clerk |
| | 114.3 | To note any other issues at recreation ground and agree action. |
| 24/115 | PARISH MAINTENANCE ISSUES | |
| | 115.1 | To receive feedback on defib and allotment checks. To consider other monthly checks tba. It was reported that the defib check has been carried out with no issues and the allotments are quiet. |
| | 115.2 | To note fallen tree reported and PCC to address. To note Maffit Road footpath cut back and others to follow by PCC Footpaths Officer. This was noted. |
| | 115.3 | To note maintenance issues and resolve appropriate action/expenditure. Eg Goals need mending, benches to be checked still. To decide if village sign needs repainting. |

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

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| | | It was agreed that village maintenance will be discussed early on the next agenda. Action Clerk | |
| | 115.4 | To resolve contractor to fell Indian Horse Chestnut, as identified by surveyor. It was agreed that advice on the stump and branches will be first obtained before choosing the best value contractor from the quotes received, to a maximum of £620. Action Cllrs Ellershaw and Stalley, Clerk to then confirm go ahead. | |
| | 115.5 | To resolve hedge cutting contractor, as work previously agreed. It was agreed that a further quote is required for comparison to change the works and this will be arranged. Action Cllr Stalley | |
| | 115.6 | To agree replacement tree costs, as recommended by tree surveyor. It was agreed that further tree species and costs (to come from CIL monies) are needed before a final decision can be made. Action Cllrs Ellershaw/Stalley/Clerk | |
| | 115.7 | To note stone wall completed and invoice paid and positive comments received. To agree if CIL monies should be used for half the payment. This was noted and it was agreed that it should come from the budget reserves. | |
| 24/116 | ALLOTMENTS, PARISH LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP - PLMG (Cllr Ellershaw, Cllr Moon, Cllr Pickett and Cllr Stalley) and NATURE RECOVERY GROUP | | |
| | 116.1 | To agree lease for New Close trees/wildflower field and issue to PECT. It was agreed that this will need to be carried over again due to further and clear information still needed. Action Cllr Ellershaw | |
| | 116.2 | To agree donkey paddock field rent amount/agreement. It was agreed that the rent should increase to £180 and a one year agreement and invoice will be sent to the existing tenant. Action Clerk | |
| | 116.3 | To note any update from PLMG. Cllr Ellershaw advised that an options paper will be needed soon to be sent from Nene Park Trust for the Parish Council to agree. It was confirmed that the existing tenant has an agreement until end of December 2025. Action Cllr Ellershaw | |
| | 116.4 | To receive and note update from Nature Recovery Group and agree any new expenditure. There was no new update. | |
| 24/117 | PROJECTS | | |
| | 117.1 | To receive and note feedback on new and improved signage for village assets etc. Feedback to date was received and noted and options/quotes to be presented at a future meeting. | |
| 24/118 | CLERK REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE: To receive and note correspondence and decide any actions. a) To note correspondence from Neighbourhood Policing inviting requests for a village visit. Mr N Boyce explained that he has been involved in the rural policing groups and has been given a fund for improvements and requested ideas to be sent to him. It was decided that a visit will not be requested at this time. Action all. b) To note email from Cllr Boyce re Climate Change forum form/survey to complete. It was agreed to support this, and the survey will be completed. Action Cllr Stalley | | |
| 24/119 | ORDERS FOR PAYMENT; To note and agree payments/ transfer to be made and already made as follows; Payments were authorised as follows; Action Clerk to arrange payment. | | |
| | 119.1 | Clerk new rate pay 26 hours pm £411.84 less tax/NI £105.20 payable 31/12/24 | £306.64 |
| | 119.2 | Clerk; Reimburse ink shared pm J Rice paid In December. | £4.22 |
| | 119.3 | Clerk; mileage Nov/Dec plus home office expenses £26 for December | £21.60 plus £26 |
| | 119.4 | HMRC employer/ee payment for December. | £105.20 |
| | 119.5 | Nurture invoice for November | £824.74 |
| | 119.6 | Unity Bank monthly charge | £6 |
| | 119.7 | Contractor for play area repairs, tree replacement, tree felling | £ tba |
| | 119.8 | Wave water bill | £18.30 |
| | 119.9 | Parish Online sub | £57.60 TBA |
| | 119.10 | Data protection sub at ICO | £35 by DD |
| | 119.11 | Rebecca Peace Tree survey fee | £100 paid |
| | 119.12 | Community Heartbeat Trust rescue kit | £25.14 |
| | 119.13 | PCC Burial fees, pay in April 2025 | £1692.94 |
| | 119.14 | M Ellershaw for Xmas tree/batteries | £47 |
| | 119.15 | Peterborough Limited for spinner repair | £173 plus vat |
| | 119.16 | Receipts: Rent for Station Road field allotment From VH committee for £100 donation for Xmas tree to be paid to CPC instead | £567 received 26/11/24 £100 |
| 24/120 | DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of the next meeting was noted as on 20 th January 2025 at 7.30pm. | | |

Signed by Chairman _____ Date _____

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