

IDRIDGEHAY & ALTON AND ASHLEYHAY PARISH COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
Wednesday 9th November 2022 / 7:00 PM

Members Present:

- Cllr Jane Smith [Vice Chair]	- Cllr Eric Matkin
- Cllr Dudley Ibbett	- Cllr Carl Hempshall
- Cllr Mike Westbrooke	- Matthew Evans [Clerk]

Note* **The meeting Chair exercised the right to consider items in an alternate order as displayed on the circulated agenda. The below minutes are ordered as re-arranged for the purpose of clarity.*

IAAP - 43/22 To receive apologies of absence:

Apologies for absence were received by the Clerk from Cllr Tatler. In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Smith, as Vice Chairman assumed the chair for the meeting.

IAAP – 44/22 To receive any Declarations of Interest.

No declarations of interest were received from members.

IAAP – 45/22 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2022.

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Westbrooke and seconded by Cllr Hempshall, and they were agreed upon unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes accordingly.

IAAP – 48/22 Reports from Borough & County Councillors

There were no reports given by Borough & County Councillors.

IAAP – 50/22 Questions from members of the public:

Cllr Smith raised the recent e-mail from DALC regarding which Councillors would be seeking re-election, and the potential cost of a contested election for the Parish. The Clerk expressed that other Districts do not charge Parish Councils to hold their elections when they coincide with the normal election for the Borough/District Council; however it was confirmed that the practice of charging is legal, although unfortunate.

Councillors discussed the struggle to get members of the public to put themselves forward to be Parish Councillors. The Clerk advised that the Council could co-opt a new member to fill any current vacancies at any time up until the next election.

It was agreed that the matter of advertising formally advertising for co-option be discussed at the next meeting.

IAAP – 51/22 To consider any planning matters:

AVA-2022-0884

Councillors discussed the planning application and agreed unanimously that no comment would be made.

AVA-2022-0836:

Councillors discussed the planning application and agreed unanimously that no comment would be made.

22/01011/FUL:

Cllr Smith asked that the Council consider putting forward comment on the application currently be considered at the Knockerdown Inn site.

Councillors discussed the planning application and the impact its approval would have on the Parish.

Cllr Smith proposed that the Parish Council submit objections to the proposal to the planning authority on the grounds of; noise pollution, light pollution, and the view that the development would be inappropriate in the rural setting. Additionally, that Council would back the County Council's request for a "Travel Plan" With a clear division among Councillors over the matter, the Chair put the proposal to the vote. The result of the vote is as follows:

Aye: 3

No: 2

The proposal was agreed. Cllr Westbrook asked that his objections to the Council commenting against the application be noted.

IAAP – 47/22 To receive updates about progress on resolutions:

a) Parish Council Website

Cllr Ibbett update Council that he had no update to present to Council at this time, however advised that he should be able to present to Council in the forthcoming meeting in the new year.

b) Noticeboard

Council agreed to await the return of Cllr Tatler to give an update on the matter of the notice boards.

c) Newsletter

It was agreed that the Council would postpone publication of the Parish Newsletter until January. Councillors should forward on content to Cllr Ibbett for consideration within the Parish Newsletter for 2023 publication.

d) SIDS

Cllr Smith informed Council that a complaint had been received by Derbyshire County Council [DCC] as part of their consultation for the SIDs, Cllr Smith advised that an agreement has been reached with the complainant to allow for the implementation of the SIDs in a new location.

Cllr Westbrooke provided the background as to what discussion had taken place to allow for the scheme to progress.

e) Snow Warden Scheme

Council instructed the Clerk to contact DCC regarding the winter Snow Warden Scheme and the prospect of having grit delivered to the Parish in order to replenish the winter stock.

IAAP – 49/22 Finances:

a) Statement of Accounts

As of 9th November 2022, the following represents the amounts held by the Parish Council in its respective accounts:

Current Account: £ 1,869.76

Business Reserve Account: £14,481.41

b) Approval of Payments

The approval of payments was agreed upon unanimously, and Cllr Smith signed off the schedule of payments as Chair.

c) Current Account Debit Card Application

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council should apply for a debit card from the Council's banker (NatWest) so that the Clerk could authorise payments online and streamline the process of VAT reclaim within the scope of the Parish Council rebate process.

This was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Hempshall and agreed unanimously.

d) Budget Review 2022-2023

The Clerk went through the budget of the current fiscal year to date. Council discussed previous expenditures. The Clerk highlighted the possibility of being able to claim a large amount of VAT back from HMRC on previous items of expenditure over the course of the current and previous financial periods due to new rules on VAT reclaim. The Clerk will report on this investigation to Council at the next meeting.

e) Budget 2023/2024

The Clerk introduced the draft budget for 2023/2024 to Council based on current and previous spending by the Council. The Clerk highlighted that given the current wider economic situation with rising inflation that the draft budget has been adjusted to compensate for higher prices.

f) Precept 2023/2024

The Clerk advised the Council that based on current expenditure and rising inflation of base costs, the Parish Council would likely either have to cut expenditure or raise the level of the Parish Precept.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a final decision regarding the allocation of budgets and the rate of the Parish Precept at the next meeting in January 2023.

IAAP – 52/22 Correspondence:

a) Parish Defibrillators

The Clerk informed Council that the batteries for the Parish defibrillators had now been replaced with new non defective batteries by the manufacturer.

The defibrillators should now be considered safe again for public use. It was agreed this would be communicated in the next Parish newsletter.

b) Allotment Requests

The Clerk informed Council that a written request was received by the Chairman from two residents within the Parish asking if the Idridgehay Playing Field could be converted into allotments.

The Clerk advised Council that under the Parish Council has a legal duty under the 'Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908' to provide sufficient allotments if there is demand. As it currently stands, the Parish Council can undertake to explore this voluntarily. However, it was advised that should the Council receive representations from six local electors; this would force the Parish Council to undertake a formal consultation and review of existing provisions.

Cllr Smith proposed that the Clerk write to the residents to thank them for their interest, but to advise that under the agreement of which the Parish Council rents the land prevents its conversion to an allotment. This was seconded by Cllr Ibbett and agreed.

IAAP – 53/22 Items to be added (or carried forward) to the Agenda for the next meeting.

The following items will be added or carried forward to the next meetings agenda:

- Website
- Co-option
- Newsletter
- SIDS
- Snow Warden Scheme
- Meeting Timetable 2023/2024

IAAP – 54/22 To approve the date and time of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be 11th January 2023 at 7:00PM

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:46PM

Chairman:

Signature: _____

DRAFT