

MINUTES OF THE COLN ST ALDWYNS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN VICARAGE COTTAGES BARN ON 21 JANUARY at 7.00 pm

Present: David Hicks-Beach (Chair), Will Perkins, Helen Forbes, John Reeves, Anthony Van Oss, Cllr. David Fowles (District Councillor), Clare Brignall (Parish Clerk), Sarah Walker (Rural Housing Enabler)

AGENDA

1. Council received apologies from Dom Morris.
2. There were no declarations of interest.
3. The Council approved and signed the minutes of the last meeting, held on 17 September 2024.
4. The Council to heard the report from the District Councillor and the report from the County Councillor. The County Councillor, Dom Morris, sent in his report, which included information about changing the speed limit to 20 mph, which could cost the village £10,000. Council to ask Dom to clarify the cost, because if there is a cost Council would not be interested. The CDC report included information about the staff now working for CDC instead of Publica. There are potential changes to the way that district councillors are elected, potentially becoming a unitary authority. Some planning officers have now come back to CDC because the wages have increased after leaving Publica. There is an issue with the Trinity Road building being underused because a lot of people are working from home, and it is proving difficult to rent out space in the building. Council asked Cllr Fowles to find out if there any money in CDC to repair our pavements.
5. The Council approved the documents that have been adapted: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and the Risk Assessment Policy. For the Risk Assessment policy Council agreed the system that will be used for invoices to be agreed, paid and a copy to go to Steve Fletcher, the RFO. We still do not need a Grants policy.
6. The Council approved the budget vs spend for the period of September to December. Grass cutting has been paid, but Mr Robinson has moved house, so we will need to find someone else to do the mowing.
7. The Council reviewed the bank reconciliation for the period of October to 31 December, and agreed that it reconciled.
8. The Council approved the internal checks for the period of October to December. The process is fine and is being followed.
9. The Council appointed David Hicks-Beach to be the data protection officer. It was explained that the job is to know what data you hold about the committee, why you keep it and what you use it for – i.e. to ensure that local democracy is administered correctly.
10. Sarah Walker, the Rural Housing Enabler, spoke about the process of finding out the housing needs in the parish, and ultimately the need to find land to build affordable housing. Sarah Walker will start by sending out a housing needs survey to every household in the village, after letting the householders know that they should expect the survey. Subsequently Ms Walker will meet with people from the village and walk around the area. The survey will be fed back to the parish council and the local authority. There are significant demands on the Cotswold area to provide more housing. After the survey the plan would be to meet with the

council, identify sites, walk around and discuss possibilities. There is a potential product of two bedroom bungalows for over 70s who buy 75% of the house and do not pay the other 25%, or rent, but it is a leasehold rather than a freehold house. McCarthy Stone specialise in that model. It could be part of a mix. The next challenge is to find land, and the owner would not necessarily get the full market price for the land. Houses would be managed by housing associations. There has to be consultation with water, waste disposal and highways, etc.

11. The Council decided that as we have not used CPRE in the last five years we will not continue the subscription.
12. The Council discussed progress on speed watch. The clerk will contact Peter Burton to see what is happening as we have not had report for some time. There is an issue with volume rather than with speed.
13. The Council confirm the date for the litter pick on 29 March, rather than the 22 March as originally planned.
14. The Council reviewed planning applications. We need to get the chestnut in the middle of the village surveyed to make sure that it is not about to fall. DHB to send the details for Nicholsons to WP for him to contact them about a survey.
15. The Council agree the precept for 2025/26, but with a £1000 increase to pay for a new parish clerk. Thank you to Steve Fletcher for preparing the proposed precept and to Will for helping him and summarising it. It does not include the £1000 for repairing the wall if we have to pay it. Without those two things it would be an increase 5.21% per household. CMB to contact Quenington and Hatherop clerks about sharing the cost of bottles to go in the fridge with details. Council happy to pay for one third of it.
16. The Council discussed an Accessibility policy for the website. Council approved putting an accessibility notice on our website – CMB to look at it.
17. The Council discussed a plan for the management of ivy in the village. AVO is going to start on the cemetery and encourage others to help him, and WP said that he would make a start on another site in the village.
18. The Council discussed the rebuilding of the wall around the chestnut tree. We need to draw a list of what we are responsible for in the village, with a map if possible. We could check on the land registry about who owns the wall on the triangle opposite number 21. At the same time we should ask Dom Morris about the post that was hit by a fuel lorry that belongs to highways. David Fowles will see if there is a land registry map of Coln, including the bridge.
19. The Council agreed 18 March for the next meeting and 8 May for the AGM. Helen Forbes would like to resign and would be very grateful if anybody would like to take over.

We should have minuted the approval of the insurance cover in this meeting. It was discussed and had been reviewed in detail by Councillor Will Perkins.