

ALDCLIFFE – WITH – STODDAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September 2017 at 7pm in the

Moved from Counting Room – Toll House Inn, Lancaster

To Education Centre, Ashton Road

Present: Councillor **Chris Norman** (Chairman)
Councillor **Nicholas Webster**
Councillor **Emma Wolstencroft**
Councillor **Colin Rogers**

1. Apologies: None

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made. All paperwork for Councillors regarding Interests are up to date.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with minor correction noted.

4. Clerking

Unfortunately no further forward in securing a Clerk for the Parish. Cllr Webster offered to move this forward.

Action Point:

Cllr Webster to contact neighbouring Parishes and Mr John Regan for advice.

5. Setting up of a Bank account for Aldcliffe-with-Stodday Parish

The Chairman and Vice Chairman have set up a Parish account with The Skipton Building Society.

Resolved:

- Statements to be forwarded to Cllrs as they are issued until a Clerk is appointed.

6. Parish Notice Boards

Quotes for notice boards are slow to be submitted. Suitable sites for noticeboards have been found in both Aldcliffe and Stodday. "Award for all" grants look achievable.

Action Points:

- Once quotes have been received the Parish council will choose the most appropriate. Grant applications will then follow.

7. Conservation Status

The drumlin that defines the riverside topography within the Parish has been highlighted by residents, visitors and experts alike as being special. Residents have raised the question of whether the area deserved conservation status and what effect that would have on the parish.

Councillors could see potential benefits and risks to the proposal, including potential planning permission complications for residents. Further information and community engagement would be required.

Little progress has been made over summer.

Action Point:

- Chairman to liaise with City Council officers for further details.

8. Neighbourhood Plan

It was agreed unanimously at the Parish Council meeting of 11th July that consulting Parishioners about the production of a Neighbourhood Plan should commence. It was agreed that a newsletter should be produced to be delivered to all Parishioners. This newsletter would include details of where the Parish is up to now, current sub-committee details plus Conservation Status and Neighbourhood Plan Projects.

Action Points:

- Chairman to forward resources to fellow councillors.
- Chairman to initiate, in conjunction with Cllr's, a Newsletter for distribution.
- Councillors to consider how to engage with Parishioners and consider the wider communities view.

9. Fibre Broadband for Parish – Sub-committee (S.C.) report

S.C. report passed on to Chairman to present.

- a) Broadband speeds throughout the Parish vary greatly. This is due to which junction box supplies the property and the distance between.
- b) Openreach investment locally is unlikely as cost to return is poor.
- c) S.C. to contact B4rn to pursue other options and to register interest in future developments.
- d) S.C. recommend assessing Parishioners desire for improved bandspeed and their willingness to contribute to the cost.

Action Point:

- S.C. to continue scoping options.
- Parish council to contact Parishioners via Newsletter to improve community involvement with the task and to assess support for it.

Members of S.C. remain as,

- Councillor Kevan Walton (Stodday)
- Peter Wilson (Arna Wood)
- Phil Leedal (Aldcliffe)

10. Public Right of Way (PROW) – S.C. report

Local resident contact over the Public Right of Way status of Aldcliffe Hall Drive (The Drive).

The Drive has long been considered the safe foot and cycle path through Aldcliffe. This has been commented upon in recent planning applications by residents and visitors alike. Parishioners were concerned that as the Drive did not hold PROW status that the application for this designation should be sought. Councillors felt that this should be considered and a S.C. was created to scope out the support for this and highlight the matter to Parishioners.

Cllr Rogers reported back to the Parish Council with progress.

- a) Information had been sought from locals to explore if the Drive could legally be defined as a PROW and be entered onto the County Councils official records as such.
- b) Approx. 40 responses from locals were broadly in favour of PROW status and provided documentary evidence to support the process.
- c) Further evidence would be collected including potentially more responses from those who could be against submission.
- d) The SC believed that a target date of the end of September to start formally putting together a submission for the Parish council would be reasonable. The final submission to be complete and presented at a Parish Meeting by mid-November as a provisional time frame.

Cllr Webster commented that the Drive had not been gated since 1965 when the original gates had been removed and destroyed. He also raised concerns about increased traffic by horses may be detrimental to wider public use due to horse manure and its potential as a trip hazard. Other parishioners had also raised this as a concern. There had also been episodes in the past with horse riders using the Drive inconsiderately in the past and intimidating other road users.

A resident of the Drive, Mr Bellamy, informed the Parish Council that the owners of the Drive had given rights to a local developer for the installation of a raising bollard in place of the permanent bollard currently in situ. He was addressing the matter through the developer via his solicitor. The introduction of a rising bollard were seen as having implications for continued safe use by vulnerable road users, the PROW submission and what role the Parish council had in such matters.

Action Point

- The SC will continue its work until reporting to the Parish by December.
- Cllr Rogers to include the matter of the rising bollard as part of the ongoing PROW SC group.
- Chairman to contact Lancaster City Council legal department to clarify the Parish's role in disputes that impact on Parishioners.

Members of S.C. remain as,

- Councillor Colin Rogers (Stodday)
- Dr Stephen Dickinson (Aldcliffe)
- Ms Mollie Foxall (Aldcliffe)
- Mr Tim Dant (Aldcliffe)

11. Standing Operational Procedures

Councillors had reviewed and passed comment upon the proposed Standing Operational Procedures.

Resolved

The Standing Operational Procedures were adopted.

12. Litter – Cllr C. Rogers

Litter continues to be strewn along the roadsides within the Parish. This is both unsightly and unhygienic. The City council are aware of the issues, including the rising number of Fly tipping incidents within the Parish. The idea of organising a community litter pick was raised as a good way to reduce the impact and involve the community.

Action Point

- Council to organise a litter pick and advertise it in the proposed newsletter.

Previous Matters Arising

A. United Utilities Pump-works concerns - Cllr E. Wolstencroft

A parishioner had raised concerns over the ongoing maintenance by United Utilities of pump-works and a sump located on Craiglands Court, Aldcliffe.

Resolved

- Chairman contacted United Utilities who confirmed an ongoing maintenance programme.

B. Field access off Stodday Lane near junction with Snuff Mill Lane – Cllr K. Walton

Concerns from Parishioners and Councillors have been raised about the safety of a newly created access onto agricultural land in Stodday. This is located on Stodday lane close to the junctions with Snuff Mill Lane and within 60m of the Lunecliffe Road junction. The access point has very poor visibility for oncoming traffic and has caused severe delays during the time the landowner has moved livestock onto the public highway for transportation. Highways were contacted who passed the matter on to Lancaster City Council Planning enforcement. Enforcement are currently investigating and will inform the Parish Council of progress.

Action Point

Await outcome of Enforcement decision.

Any Other Business

A. Access between Lune Estuary Path and Stodday – Cllr C. Norman

The track between Stodday and the Lune estuary path need improvement and funding has been sourced to do so. There is a complication with identifying the individual responsible for said track. County Councillor Gina Dowding asked the PC if any locals would be able to identify the individuals.

Action Point

- Cllrs to make enquiries locally to try and aid the much needed improvement to the track.

B. Hedges overdue pruning causing damage to vehicles – Cllr N. Webster

Hedges within the Parish, notably those running along Stodday Road, are overgrown and causing damage to vehicles and making visibility poor for road users. The Chair had contacted Highways to address the issue but was informed that the legal process to inform landowners and enforce pruning if required was a lengthy one. Parishioners were advised that within nesting season pruning was complicated and avoided if possible. Out of season requests for pruning should be made using the online system (Lancashire County Highways – Report It).

This would start the required process at it's soonest opportunity. Alternate options for the Parish Council to try and streamline the process were seen as overly costly and time consuming for minimal time reduction.

Action Point

Chair to report hedge trimming requirement for Stodday road and Lunecliffe on the online system.

C. East Lodge in disrepair – Cllr N. Webster

Concern over the poor repair of East Lodge on Aldcliffe Hall Drive have been raised to Cllr. Webster by residents and visitors to the Parish. Cllr Webster happened to meet Lancaster City

Council's Empty Homes Officer who informs him that they are actively pursuing the owner to maintain the Lodge.

Action Point

Chair to contact Empty Home Officer to monitor process.

13. Date and venue for next meeting

7pm on 3rd October 2017 at the Counting Room – Toll House Inn, Lancaster.

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.