

ALDCLIFFE – WITH – STODDAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March 2018 at 7pm

The Friends Meeting House, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster.

Present: Councillor Chris Norman (Chairman)
Councillors Colin Rogers, Kevan Walton, Nicholas Webster and Emma Wolstencroft (items 1-8)
Derek Whiteway, Parish Clerk
Five parishioners also attended the meeting

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th December 2017 were approved without further amendment.

4. Appointment of Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

The nature of the deliberations relating to the appointment of a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer being confidential, the Committee resolved that press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item only.

Resolved: That Derek Whiteway be appointed as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Parish Council. The full details of the resolution are recorded in a minute exempt from publication under Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. Accounts and Statutory Requirements

The Chairman presented a statement setting out the following payments made by the Parish Council during the year to date:

			£
29/09/17	Friends Meeting House	Hire of room (03/10/17)	22.50
29/09/17	LALC	Annual subscription	49.74
12/12/17	Friends Meeting House	Hire of room (12/12/17)	30.00
06/03/18	Friends Meeting House	Hire of room (06/03/18)	30.00

The current balance on the bank account is £3,326.76 following the receipt of the £3,459.00 annual precept from Lancaster City Council on 14/09/17.

Resolved: That the above expenditure be authorised

The Clerk advised the Council of a number of areas of financial and statutory responsibilities that would require consideration in the immediate future, these including:

- Completion of the annual return for 2017/18 and its submission for external audit;
- Appointment of an Internal Auditor for the purposes of the annual return;
- Adoption of Financial Regulations;
- A review of risk relating to the Council's operations; and
- Data Protection responsibilities and the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), coming into force on 25th May 2018

Resolved: That the Clerk reports to the next meeting of the Council on each of these matters.

6. Public Right of Way, Aldcliffe Hall Drive

Councillor Colin Rogers provided a verbal update on developments regarding the submission to Lancashire County Council of a case for the creation of a Public Right of Way (PROW) along Aldcliffe Hall Drive.

Councillor Rogers advised that the application had now been submitted to, and accepted as a valid case by the County Council. It was understood that the County Council would aim to make a decision as soon as practicable. It was not possible, however, to forecast what that decision might be, how long it would take, or any further steps that might prove necessary.

A number of questions and observations, raised by both Councillors and parishioners, concerning the proposed PROW were then discussed by the meeting.

The Council confirmed that it regarded this matter as a priority and that it was committed to taking all steps within its powers to reach a positive outcome for the parish.

The meeting recorded its gratitude to Councillor Rogers and parishioners involved in developing the application.

Action: That Councillor Rogers maintains contact with Lancashire County Council to monitor and report back on progress with the application.

7. Access between Lune Estuary Path and Stodday

The Chairman provided a verbal update regarding the short section of path (approx. 20m) connecting the Lune Estuary Path and the lane adjacent to the Water Treatment Works leading to the road by Snuff Mill. The path is regularly prone to flooding. Ownership of this land has not been established although some maintenance has been carried out by an unknown person or body.

Lancashire County Council has suggested that the Parish Council might be minded to seek adoption of the land with a view to agreeing with United Utilities that they maintain the site. It has been confirmed that monies have been set aside by United Utilities for such a purpose.

Adoption of the site would entail an application by the Parish Council to the Land Registry.

Following discussion of issues surrounding the possible adoption, it was agreed that, prior to proceeding, further clarification was required regarding any associated risks and potential liabilities and regarding the position of United Utilities.

Action: The Chairman is to continue to seek clarification on the site including legal advice through services provided by LALC, and will feed back to future meetings.

8. Highways Issues

The Chairman reported concerns about recent surfacing repairs made to Aldcliffe Road between the Haverbreaks bridge and Aldcliffe Cottages. The Chairman had discussed these concerns with Lancashire County Council for consideration by the Highways Development Control Officer.

The Chairman also reported on ongoing attempts to establish appropriate signage from the A588 through Stodday and also at the junction of Walnut Bank Lane and Stodday Road, with a view to avoiding further damage from heavy/oversized vehicles. All known issues have been reported to Lancashire County Council and the Chairman is continuing to lobby for these signs. The Chairman has requested that the County Council nominates an officer as contact person for the Parish.

It was reported that Stodday residents had commented on significantly increased levels of traffic to and from the Water Treatment Works and some associated damage to the roads as a direct result of installation of the filter plant.

(Councillor Emma Wolstencroft left the meeting at this point, at 8:35pm)

Action: The Chairman will continue to liaise with Lancashire County Council to seek a resolution to both the condition of Aldcliffe Road and the installation of signage to Stodday.

9. Any Other Business

Councillor Kevan Walton provided a verbal update on action taken regarding noise levels from the Water Treatment Works. Discussions held with representatives from United Utilities had so far failed to identify any specific causes of increased noise levels or a potential remedy. Councillor Walton is to personally take formal readings and the matter has been reported to Lancaster City Council Environmental Health service who are prepared to investigate the matter if personal representations are unproductive.

Parishioners reported chronic littering problems along the Aldcliffe roadsides. Offers of organising a community litter-pick were welcomed by all.

The Clerk advised councillors of a consultation invitation received from the Committee on Standards in Public Life in connection with a review into local government ethical standards. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not respond in this particular instance.

10. Date and venue for next meeting

The date for the next Parish Council meeting was set for Tuesday 15th May 2018 at the Friends Meeting House, Lancaster.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Minutes approved by Council: 24th April 2018 (minute 3 refers)