



ALDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL** using video conferencing at 2.30pm on 22nd February 2021.

Present: Councillors J Lefton (Chairman), E Samuelson, M Cherry, D Lambert, C Kilhams, A Rubinson, H Jones, D Wickham & S. Khawaja.

Officer: P Evans (Parish Council Manager).

Also present were M Duong (Assistant Manager) & six members of the public.

209. Apologies for absence.

All members were present.

210. Declarations of interest on any item on the Agenda – None.

a) Disclosable pecuniary – none

b) Other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

Cllr A Rubinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as she is involved with a local action group formed to oppose the application.

Cllr D Lambert declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as he could be asked to act as substitute Hertsmere Borough Councillor on their planning committee.

Cllr E Samuelson declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 16 as she has had no prior involvement in this project so is unable to form a decision.

211. To adjourn the meeting for members of the public to address the Council (in accordance with Standing Order 3e)

Cllr J Lefton suspended standing orders and asked the members of the public if they wished to make any comment. One member of the public spoke regarding agenda item 16 and asked if further dialogue with the neighbours could be carried out before any final decision is made. Cllr J Lefton stated that the Council will consider this.

There being no further discussion, the members of the public were thanked for their attendance and standing orders were then resumed.

212. To approve and adopt the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 25th January 2021.

These minutes were signed as a true record by Cllr J Lefton, and adopted by the council.

213. To receive the Manager's report (for information only).



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This had been previously circulated and is attached for reference purposes.

214. Chairman's announcements. – none.

215. The Full Council is asked to receive and adopt the minutes and approve publication on the Council website of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17th February 2021 (In accordance with Standing Order 6.4.8).

These minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. These were adopted alongside the following recommendations;

Re: Executive Action – To employ a planning consultant to help with drafting a response to HertsmereBC regarding planning application number 21/0050/FULEI from the professional fees budget (admin).

a) *To endorse the executive action taken by the PCM and Chairman and allocate a budget of £3,000 from admin – professional fees for employment of David Lane Assoc.*

Re: Staff review.

b) *That APC adopt items (i), (ii), (iii as amended) (iv), (v) and (vi), which, as they affect specific staff members will not be recorded.*

Re: Council Budget

c) *That the Full Council informs HertsmereBC that it requires a precept of £636,934 for 2021/22.*

216. To set and inform Hertsmere Borough Council of the Council's precept demand for 2021/22.

The report discussed at the F&GP Committee meeting previous week had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that APC was the only council within Hertsmere that had reduced its budget by such an amount. Both HertsCC, HertsmereBC and the Police Commissioners budgets were increasing. The residents should be made aware of this. The PCM and Asst Manager were thanked for their work on reducing the precept for the local community by over £45,000. It was then:

Resolved that the PCM informs HertsmereBC that the APC precept demand for 2021/22 will be £636,934.

217. To decide on the format of the Annual Parish meeting.

Members agreed that it may still be difficult to have this meeting in a face to face way, and they were also unsure as to whether there would be a demand for a virtual meeting, it was agreed to postpone the meeting this year, although there will be issues which may necessitate a one-off



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meeting on particular topics such as the HertsmereBC Local Plan. Members then discussed how they would inform the residents of the council's work in 2020 so it was then;

Resolved that the annual reports are collated from each committee and made initially available on the APC website and then incorporated into the next edition of 'Around Radlett'.

218. To declare a casual vacancy for the Aldenham West ward.

This vacancy occurred as the result of Cllr P De Skuba resigning from APC. The PCM stated that no formal election had been requested, so this creates a casual vacancy which the council is able to fill themselves.

Resolved that APC declare a casual vacancy for the Aldenham West Ward which it will advertise and look to fill at the next meeting in March.

Before this item was discussed Cllrs D Lambert and A Rubinson removed themselves from the meeting because of their declarations of interest.

219. To consider the next steps regarding the planning application for a solar farm within the parish.

Cllr M Cherry stated that the planning committee had lodged their objections with HertsmereBC alongside the planning consultant's report. APC had also made the planning consultant's report available on their website which was being used as a reference point for other groups objections within the parish.

Members agreed that if any groups approach the Council for assistance this would be considered.

Cllrs D Lambert and A Rubinson then returned to the meeting.

220. To authorise the payment of accounts for February.

A list of payments had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was then;

Resolved that all payments appended to these minutes are approved, and that the BACS list is signed by Cllrs M Cherry & J Lefton to authorise the PCM to complete these transactions.

221. The Full Council is asked to receive and adopt the minutes and approve publication on the Council website of the following Committees (In accordance with Standing Order 6.4.8).

Resolved to adopt the following minutes and recommendations;



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a) Planning Committee meetings of 18th January & 1st February 2021.

b) Open Spaces Committee meeting 8th February 2021.

Re: — Allotment Policy

- (i) *To amend the allotment policy to allow the planting of dwarf root stock fruit trees on 25% of the plot. Trees should be positioned so that they do not encroach on neighbouring plots. Allotment tenants are to be requested to send details of any trees to be planted to the Open Spaces Officer.*
- (ii) *To amend the allotment procedure when a plot is vacated. They will now be tidied and strimmed by the Open Spaces Team and the new tenant will be asked if they would like to retain the trees (if any) on the plot.*
- (ii) *To adopt the Allotment Code of Conduct.*

Re: Proposed extension to Radlett Bowls Club pavilion

- (vi) *That the request be approved in principle, subject to amendments to the lease incorporating separate meters for the utilities which Radlett Bowls Club would pay direct to the companies and an increase in rent to reflect the increase in insurance charges made for the extra buildings.*

222. Items of interest from Minutes of other authorities (for information only).

Cllr E Samuelson reported that the RNP steering group had also objected to the solar farm application. Cllr D Wickham reported on the recent RCT Board meeting. He stated that the RCT would be advertising for three new members shortly.

223. To consider candidates for co-option to the council for the Aldenham East casual vacancy.

Cllr J Lefton stated that there had been six residents who had put themselves forward for consideration by the council. She proposed that the council heard from each candidate individually in a closed session as there may be data protection matters discussed, and that as there were now two vacancies, that the council does not make a decision this month but looks to fulfil both vacancies in March. However, it would not be necessary for those candidates present to speak again in March. This proposal was seconded by Cllr E Samuelson and it was then

Resolved that each candidate presents their reasons for applying to join APC in a closed session, but that the Council do not make a decision until March.

Five candidates then addressed the council individually whilst the remaining persons were placed in the waiting room. Some questions were asked by



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members for clarification purposes, before they were all invited back to the open session. Cllr J Lefton thanked them for their interest in the vacancy and invited them to return for the March meeting. At this meeting the council will hear any other nominees in a closed session before a vote which will be in public.

**The Chairman will then move the following resolution;
That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s 1(2), the press and public is excluded from the meeting whilst pertaining to employees of the council or tenders are discussed.**

Before this item was discussed Cllr E Samuelson offered to remove herself from the meeting because of her declaration of interest. However, she was asked to remain to hear the proposal from Cllr J Lefton

224. To receive the plans for the allotment drive project and confirm submission to HertsmereBC planning department.

Cllr J Lefton stated that these plans had recently been circulated to the neighbours of the road. She then proposed that in order for them to be given time to consider these proposals and the joint meeting between APC and the residents as suggested in the public session to take place that this matter is postponed until the March meeting, and that the subject is discussed in the open part of the meeting.

This proposal was agreed although Cllr E Samuelson abstained from the vote.

225. To receive an update from the Phillimore Rec Improvement Project and formally appoint new architects.

A report from the PCM had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr C Kilhams presented a power point updating members on what had been discussed in the two meetings with the new architects. The architects had produced some initial concept drawing but that there were concerns that APC may be trying to solve too many of the requests from the consultations that had been carried out with the public to get initial ideas. There was a long discussion regarding this before it was

Resolved;

- a) That Initiatives in Design (IID) are appointed as architects for the Phillimore Rec Improvements Project (replacing Milligan Knight).***
- b) That the budget is amended to show the increase in fees for IID from £10,000 up to RIBA 3 stage to £11,370, which will be paid in four instalments depending on progress of the project.***



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Date of next meeting 22nd March 2021 – 2.30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.40pm

Chairman Date